



APPROVED AS SUBMITTED

10-15-2024

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

ALPINE COUNTY

Board Chambers

County Administration Building

Markleeville, CA 96120

Telephone (530) 694-2281

MINUTES

October 1, 2024

1. CALL TO ORDER REGULAR MEETING

Chair Woodrow called the Regular Meeting to order at 9:00 AM with Supervisors Ron Hames, Terry Woodrow, Charles Dobson, and David Griffith present. Irvin Jim was absent.

2. OPEN SESSION - PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

3. ORAL COMMUNICATION - GENERAL PUBLIC COMMENT

Director of Human Resources & Administrative Operations for Alpine County Unified Schools Lia Story reported that the ribbon-cutting ceremony for the school-based Wellness Center was scheduled for Friday, October 4, 2024 at 11 AM; subscribe to newsletter for more information. Story distributed business cards and flyers. CAO Nichole Williamson commented that County staff would be collaborating with the Wellness Center.

Superintendent of Alpine County Schools Ken Burkhart thanked school staff; welcomed Sierra Child and Family Services as a new partner; thanked the County for good hires in Human Services and Behavioral Services departments.

Markleeville resident Kris Hartnett discussed the importance of County Supervisors being present for Board meetings and being accountable to constituents; suggested a possible financial penalty for Supervisors that failed to attend meetings.

4. DEPARTMENT ANNOUNCEMENTS

County Clerk Teola Tremayne provided an election update; ballots would be mailed on October 7, 2024; satellite offices would be provided for voter registration and ballot issuance, replacement, and collection at the Hung-a-lai-ti Firehouse (October 16, 2024), Kirkwood Meadows Public Utility District (October 23, 2024) 10/23, and Bear Valley Library (October 30, 2024).

Director of Budget and Procurement Matt McSorley reported having submitted a notice of interest to Cal-OES regarding a new cybersecurity grant program; \$130,000 requested for funding new County cyber-infrastructure projects.

Public Health Official Dr. Rick Johnson provided a final update on the Lost Lakes incident; CDC confirmed tick-borne relapsing fever in at least one of the cases. Regarding COVID, plenty of COVID tests were available throughout the County; COVID vaccines were not available from the County but were available at pharmacies. Johnson continued that flu vaccines would be available at the Employee Health and Wellness Fair on October 9, 2024 at Turtle Rock Park and at a drive-thru clinic at the Health Department parking lot in Woodfords on October 10, 2024; other dates were to be scheduled. Responding to Supervisor Dobson, Johnson reported that ticks were present throughout the eastern Sierra.

Community Development Director Sam Booth reported that the Community Transportation Plan open house was scheduled for Thursday, October 3, 2024 from 4:30-6:30 PM in the Board chambers; funding was granted by CalTrans to study accessibility and connectivity for public transit in Markleeville. Booth distributed event flyers. In response to Supervisor Hames, Booth commented that the event would not be streamed online but that individuals would be able to submit comments online in advance. At Supervisor Dobson's request, Booth updated the Board on the Hot Springs Road reconstruction project

Library/Museum/Archives Director Rita Lovell reported that the season's final Music in the Park event was scheduled for Saturday, October 5, 2024 at 4:30PM; the Archives Open House was scheduled for October 10, 2024 from Noon-2 PM.

5. ADMINISTRATIVE ANNOUNCEMENTS

5.1. Administrative Announcements - Update on Alpine County Museum

CAO Nichole Williamson provided an update on the Historical Society litigation; both sides met at a court-prescribed conference settlement on September 4, 2024 with no agreement reached; County remained open to negotiations and preferred a resolution outside of court. The Museum would be kept open through October 2024 with regular hours of operation.

6. BOARD MEMBER ANNOUNCEMENTS OR REPORTS

Supervisor District 1 Charles Dobson gave an update regarding county business, meetings attended related to appointed commissions and committees and upcoming events; wished a Happy 100th Birthday to former President Jimmy Carter.

Supervisor District 2 Ron Hames gave an update regarding county business, meetings attended related to appointed commissions and committees and upcoming events.

Supervisor District 3 Irvin Jim was absent.

Supervisor District 4 Terry Woodrow gave an update regarding county business, meetings attended related to appointed commissions and committees and upcoming events.

Supervisor District 5 David Griffith gave an update regarding county business, meetings attended related to appointed commissions and committees and upcoming events; advised that it was important for the Board to reach out to constituents to discuss the importance of Measure G passing.

7. CONSENT AGENDA

Director of Finance Klaus Leitenbauer requested to continue Item 7.8 to the next Board meeting; the Board agreed by consensus.

Supervisor Griffith pulled Items 7.4 and 7.7 for separate action.

Regarding Item 7.6, Supervisor Griffith commented that 60% of victims supported by the Victim Witness Program were not from Alpine County. CAO Nichole Williamson added that several other Alpine County services were being provided to non-Alpine County residents.

MOTION Ron Hames / SECOND David Griffith approving the Consent Agenda as follows:
AYES: Charles Dobson, Ron Hames, Terry Woodrow, David Griffith;
ABSENT: Irvin Jim;
MOTION PASSED.

- 7.1. Regular meeting minutes of September 17, 2024. - County Clerk
- 7.2. County Claims. - Director of Finance
- 7.3. Amended Alpine County Salary Schedule as required by California Code of Regulations (CCR) section 570.5. - Asst. CAO to Personnel and Risk
- 7.4. This item was pulled for separate action.
- 7.5. **Contract No. CC2024-52** Renewal and Amendment #1 to Contract No. CC2022-10 with Consor Engineering for Construction Management for the Hot Springs Road Bridge Replacement Project to extend the term of the agreement to June 30, 2026 and approve an additional appropriation of \$102,732.3 to the Hot Springs Bridge Fund 221-221-563350. - Community Development Director
- 7.6. 2024 – 2025 Victim Witness Grant Application to the California Office of Emergency Services for the period of 10/1/2024 to 9/30/2025 and adopting **Resolution No. R2024-57** authorizing the District Attorney or a designee by the District Attorney to execute in the name of the County of Alpine any necessary applications, contracts, agreements, payment requests, amendments and extensions for the purposes of securing grant funds and to implement and carry out the purposes specified in the grant applications to Cal-OES for the Victim Witness Program from October 2023 - September 2026. - District Attorney
- 7.7. This item was pulled for separate action.
- 7.8. This item was continued.

ITEMS PULLED FOR SEPARATE ACTION:

- 7.4. **Approve contract with Kings View Corporation for Electronic Health Records Systems for the term July 1, 2024 - June 30, 2026 in the amount of \$203,153.00. - Deputy Director of Behavioral Health**

Supervisor Griffith commented that the contents for this item did not contain any statement approving the reduction in County insurance requirements. CAO Nichole Williamson responded that the insurance requirements had likely been waived for prior agreements but would confirm. Williamson asked whether it was the Board's direction to include a waiver on each contract and amendment that provided for reduced insurance; Williamson and the Board agreed that an explicit waiver should be included on the agenda transmittal as appropriate.

Responding to Supervisor Griffith, Williamson conveyed being comfortable with the insurance requirements for the contract.

MOTION David Griffith / SECOND Charles Dobson approving Contract No. CC2024-51 with Kings View Corporation for Electronic Health Records Systems for the term July 1, 2024 - June 30, 2026 in the amount of \$203,153.00.

AYES: Charles Dobson, Ron Hames, Terry Woodrow, David Griffith;

ABSENT: Irvin Jim;

MOTION PASSED.

- 7.7. Adopt a Resolution to rescind and replace Resolution R2024-51, to accept State Funds for Road Rehabilitation and designate the Community Development Director to sign master agreements. - Community Development Director**

Supervisor Griffith explained that an amended version of the resolution had been distributed that included the necessary language regarding rescission of the prior associated resolution. County Counsel Charles McKee explained that the resolution could be taken as a rescission or as an amendment and that such action did not require a waiver of Governance Manual policies.

MOTION David Griffith / SECOND Ron Hames adopting Resolution No. R2024-58, as amended, to rescind and replace Resolution R2024-51, to accept State Funds for Road Rehabilitation and designate the Community Development Director to sign master agreements.

AYES: Charles Dobson, Ron Hames, Terry Woodrow, David Griffith;

ABSENT: Irvin Jim;

MOTION PASSED.

8. PUBLIC HEARINGS

None

9. REGULAR AGENDA - UNFINISHED BUSINESS

- 9.1. (9:30 AM) Continued presentation by Western Rivers Conservancy Vice President Nelson Mathews and California Project Manager Susanna Danner and David Park, owner of the 1,690-acre Park Ranch, regarding conservation of the Park Ranch in Markleeville and request approval of a letter of support from the Board of Supervisors for grant funding applications for the project. - Community Development Director**

Community Development Director Sam Booth reintroduced Nelson Matthews, Interim President of Western Rivers Conservancy (WRC).

Mathews reported on the community meeting that took place at Turtle Rock Park; indicated that a letter of support from the Board was crucial for securing funds to make the project viable. WRC was aware of issues associated with reduced property tax collection for the County.

WRC Project Manager Susanna Danner reported that 30 people attended the community meeting at Turtle Rock Park. Responding to questions and comments from that meeting, Danner commented that fire management would begin as soon as the California Department of Fish and Wildlife acquired the property; broad public access, however, would not occur until after the Management Plan was prepared. Danner continued that CDFW manages properties across the state that combine grazing and public access; the concept wasn't novel. Regarding the potential loss of property tax revenues, Danner explained that no foundations seemed willing to provide off-setting grant funds for an impacted County; other economic benefits, e.g., increased tourism, would partially off-set that loss; conservancy would also be helpful for fire mitigation/establishing a fuel break.

Supervisor Hames suggested that current property owners would pay a premium due to the loss of Park Ranch property taxes; the County would lose approximately \$36,000 in annual revenues. At the request of Supervisor Hames, Director of Finance Klaus Leitenbauer gave an update on the County's financial situation: County was spending reserves at a rate of about \$1 million/year; FY24-25 budget presumes reserves will be empty at year's end. Leitenbauer continued that property tax revenues were critical to the County in providing public safety, community development, social services, and roads and infrastructure. Supervisor Hames commented that the County had put off other projects for years due to lack of funding resources.

Supervisor Griffith cited the loss of property tax revenue, the lack of any guarantee that the meadows would be properly cared for and be able to act as a fire break, and unrestricted public access as three important considerations of the proposal. Supervisor Griffith suggested three ways the proposal could become more appealing by off-setting loss of property tax revenue, including 1) Donation of land zoned for residential to the County; 2) 100 acre-feet of water; and 3) The creation of an easement through the property for emergency use in cases of evacuation. Supervisor Griffith referenced zoning maps of Markleeville when discussing possible residential development.

Responding to CAO Nichole Williamson, Danner confirmed having had conversations with Washoe tribal governance as well as Supervisor Jim about this proposal.

Supervisor Griffith commented that the proposal should be continued until a later date; Supervisor Woodrow agreed.

In response to Supervisor Dobson, Mathews commented that grazing would go out to bid; grazing fees would be collected. Danner added that the County needn't select highest bid; would be able to select most suitable bid for the project. Alpine County Assessor/Recorder Donald O'Connor confirmed that the County collected tax revenues from grazing fees but were negligible versus property taxes.

Markleeville resident David Peets commented that skipping even one year of proper irrigation would cause major problems; public use would be bad for land, irrigation ditches; County couldn't afford more tax losses.

Real estate broker Morgan Nevin commented that the County wouldn't have a say in the property if it were sold to a private party. Supervisor Hames commented that adjudicated water rights wouldn't change; Supervisor Griffith commented that the

County would retain a voice in the matter given the General Plan's zoning rules.

Alpine County resident Jim Lamb commented that the owner could gift some land to the County for residential development; the County could also rezone certain land for residential development, helping to offset property tax losses.

Markleeville resident Amy Skewes-Cox commented that the County was rushing the process; needed to identify sources of revenue to offset property tax losses before continuing.

Markleeville resident Angela Franklin commented that there should be more public input and discussion before making a decision.

Markleeville resident Rich Harvey commented that the top priority should be protecting the property's irrigation ditches and maintaining its grazing in order to reduce wildfire risk to Markleeville.

Supervisor Griffith recommended that the Board continue the item; the Board agreed by consensus.

10. REGULAR AGENDA - NEW BUSINESS

10.1. (9:20 AM) Request Approval of a Resolution recognizing County Assessor/ Recorder Donald O'Connor for 30 years of dedicated service to Alpine County. - CAO

CAO Nichole Williamson reported that Assessor/Recorder Donald O'Connor had worked for Alpine County for 30 years and that the County had prepared a resolution in recognition of O'Connor's service.

Supervisor Woodrow read the resolution aloud.

MOTION David Griffith / SECOND Ron Hames adopting Resolution No. R2024-59 recognizing County Assessor/ Recorder Donald O'Connor for 30 years of dedicated service to Alpine County.

AYES: Charles Dobson, Ron Hames, Terry Woodrow, David Griffith;

ABSENT: Irvin Jim;

MOTION PASSED.

10.2. (9:25 AM) Request Adoption of a Resolution recognizing October 2024 as Archives Month in Alpine County. - Library, Museum & Archives Director

Library/Museum/Archives Director Rita Lovell reported that October was National Archives Month and that a resolution had been prepared to recognize October 2024 as Archives Month in Alpine County.

Assistant Archivist Corona McAfee read the resolution aloud.

MOTION David Griffith / SECOND Ron Hames adopting Resolution No. R2024-60 recognizing October 2024 as Archives Month in Alpine County.

AYES: Charles Dobson, Ron Hames, Terry Woodrow, David Griffith;
ABSENT: Irvin Jim;
MOTION PASSED.

- 10.3. (10:00 AM) Consider waiving Governance Manual Sections H(1) and H(2) regarding reconsideration and rescission. If the Board waives sections H(1) and H(2), then consider rescinding the Notice of Termination of Agreement CC90-71 between the County of Alpine and the Historical Society of Alpine County for Museum Services. The Board may consider other options, take related actions and provide direction to staff regarding the Museum, the notice of termination, the Historical Society, and/or the Historical Society lawsuit filed against Alpine County. - CAO**

CAO Nichole Williamson reported that, at the previous Board meeting, staff was directed to bring this item back for consideration and possible action. Williamson explained that there were two potential motions for the Board to make: the first motion would waive the necessary Governance Manual policies to allow for the possible rescission of the Notice of Termination sent to the Historical Society; the second motion would consider said rescission.

County Counsel Charles McKee clarified that, if the Board desired to rescind the termination notice, it would be best practice to waive both corresponding sections in the Governance Manual.

Supervisor Griffith moved to suspend the Governance Manual policies for this item to allow for consideration of rescinding the termination notice; there was no second to the motion.

McKee explained that, without a seconded motion to waive the related Governance Manual policies, the Board would be advised not to consider rescinding the termination notice.

Alpine County resident Jim Lamb commented that the Board had seemingly reversed its prior willingness to consider rescinding the termination notice.

Alpine County resident Angela Franklin agreed with Lamb's statements; cited the citizen petition as evidence that the community wanted the Board to rescind the termination notice.

- 10.4. Request to Approve amendment #1 to county contract CC2023-39 "Bear Valley Snow Removal Contract" with Schimke Snow Services, LLC. - Community Development Deputy Director**

Community Development Deputy Director Ethan Gray reported that this item addressed requests from residents in March 2024 regarding snowplow operations on the east leg of Station House Road. Gray continued that the main area of contention was securing a suitable zone for use by Care Flight helicopters; with the Sheriff's assistance, a new location was identified and was being developed for that purpose, allowing for normal snowplowing operations on Station House Road. The contract amendment sought would provide for that change and eliminate inefficiencies in the existing contract.

Supervisor Woodrow addressed a needed correction to the snowplow-area map; the existing map mistakenly included 2/3 of the parking lot which was designated for snowmobile parking. Gray responded that the map would be amended to accommodate the parking area. In response to Supervisor Woodrow's comments about Tier 3 leaving out certain other parking lots, Gray commented that conversations were taking place regarding a possible agreement to utilize those parking areas. In response to Supervisor Woodrow, Gray commented that the language about insurance covering volunteers in the area was likely rolled-over from previous contracts; the proposed amendment did not contemplate that specific language. County Counsel Charles McKee clarified that volunteers for non-snow removal activities might be present in the area and could potentially suffer injury through negligence, etc., thus the clause.

MOTION Ron Hames / SECOND David Griffith approving, as amended, Contract No. CC2024-53 Amendment #1 to county contract CC2023-39 "Bear Valley Snow Removal Contract" with Schimke Snow Services, LLC.

AYES: Charles Dobson, Ron Hames, Terry Woodrow, David Griffith;

ABSENT: Irvin Jim;

MOTION PASSED.

10.5. Adopt a resolution proclaiming a local emergency by the Director of Emergency Services Sheriff Tom Minder. - CAO

CAO Nichole Williamson commented that this emergency declaration was brought at the request of the Board; that Dr. Johnson would soon be asked to issue a public health emergency as well.

County Counsel Charles McKee clarified that the Board's possible action was to adopt a resolution ratifying the Sheriff's declaration, wherein that declaration would be transcribed onto the standard resolution template used by the County Clerk for Board matters.

Undersheriff Chris Harootunian read the Sheriff's declaration aloud.

MOTION David Griffith / SECOND Ron Hames adopting Resolution No. R2024-61 ratifying a local emergency by the Director of Emergency Services Sheriff Tom Minder.

Public Health Officer Dr. Rick Johnson commented in support of ratifying the Sheriff's declaration; reported that Narcan was available in the County for suspected overdoses; that Alpine County probably had the highest per-capita rate of fentanyl overdoses in the State though overdose deaths had decreased by 20% nationwide. Johnson indicated an intent to declare a public health emergency on the heels of the Sheriff's declaration.

Human Services Director Suzanne Garcia reported conducting monthly meetings with relevant stakeholders to determine how best to work together; that the Tribal Law and Policy Institute distributed robust surveys to service providers to collect input and feedback.

Supervisor Hames commented that fentanyl was only part of the issue; other, similarly harmful drugs were out there.

AYES: Charles Dobson, Ron Hames, Terry Woodrow, David Griffith;
ABSENT: Irvin Jim;
MOTION PASSED.

11. CLOSED SESSION

- 11.1. CLOSED SESSION: CONFERENCE WITH LEGAL COUNSEL—EXISTING LITIGATION (Paragraph (1) of subdivision (d) of Section 54956.9) Name of case: Alpine County Superior Court Case No. C-24-0589 The Historical Society of Alpine County v Alpine County. - County Counsel**

No reportable action was taken.

- 11.2. CLOSED SESSION: Conference With Labor Negotiator- (GC§ § 54954. 5 And 54957. 6) Agency Designated Representatives: Jack Hughes Alpine County Lead Negotiator; Employee Organization Miscellaneous Unit OE3, Unrepresented Unit. - Assistant CAO to Personnel and Risk Management**

No reportable action was taken.

- 11.3. CLOSED SESSION: Public Employee Discipline/Dismissal/ Release. (GC§ 54957)- Assistant CAO to Personnel and Risk Management**

No reportable action was taken.

12. ADJOURNMENT

The Board adjourned to the next regular meeting of October 15, 2024 at 9:00 AM at Alpine County Government Center, 99 Water Street, Markleeville, California.

Terry Woodrow

Terry Woodrow (Oct 15, 2024 13:14 PDT)

Terry Woodrow, Chair, Board of Supervisors
County of Alpine, State of California

ATTEST:

Daniel Honchariw

Teola L. Tremayne, County Clerk & ex officio Clerk of
the Board of Supervisors

By: Daniel Honchariw, Deputy County Clerk

A complete audio/video recording of this meeting is available on the County website
www.alpinecountycalifornia.gov