



BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

ALPINE COUNTY
Board Chambers County
Administration Building
Markleeville, CA 96120
Telephone (530) 694-2281

MINUTES December 3, 2024

1. CALL TO ORDER REGULAR MEETING

Chair Woodrow called the Regular Meeting to order at 9:00 AM with Supervisors Hames, Dobson, Jim, Griffith, and Woodrow present.

2. OPEN SESSION - PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

3. ORAL COMMUNICATION - GENERAL PUBLIC COMMENT

Child Abuse Prevention Council Chair Sara Daniel announced that the 2024 Alpine County Holiday Food and Gift Program was underway; event fliers were distributed. Responding to Supervisor Woodrow, Daniel clarified that gifts would be accepted through December 11, 2024 utilizing the QR code on the event flier; monetary donations would be accepted through December 31, 2024.

Alpine County Chamber of Commerce ("Chamber") Executive Director Meghan Wolff updated the Board on upcoming Chamber activities and events. Wolff reported that Christmas tree permits were in high-demand and were available for sale at Desolation Wilderness, the Markleeville General Store, and the Chamber.

Wildfire Projects Coordinator Clint Celio reported that burn season had begun. Pile burning was on hold until air quality improved with the exception of the biomass pile at Turtle Rock Park where burning operations were ongoing. Celio continued that the Bureau of Land Management opened up firewood cutting along Airport Road; permits were available online.

Executive Director of Arts and Culture Alpine County January Riddle announced that the Student Art Show: Gratitude and Thanksgiving would take place on Saturday, December 7, 2024 from 1-2PM at the Markleeville Library. Riddle subsequently requested an agenda item at an upcoming Board meeting to consider a resolution designating Arts and Culture Alpine County as the official arts organization for the County, which would help with grant procurement.

Alpine County resident Beverly Crawford commented that a peaceful resolution to the dispute between the County and the Historical Society would be best.

3.1. Student Art Show: Gratitude and Thanksgiving

4. DEPARTMENT ANNOUNCEMENTS

Director of Finance Klaus Leitenbauer announced that an online property tax payment system had been launched for the County, with credit given to Assistant Treasurer/Tax Collector Susan Lapin. Leitenbauer distributed handouts to the Board reflecting the online interface and clarified that the system was set up only for secured property tax payments, which comprised about 95% of the tax base. Leitenbauer continued that collections were ongoing; first apportionment to entities would take place in late December 2024/early January 2025. Leitenbauer announced that County auditors would give a remote presentation to the Board at the December 17, 2024 meeting regarding the County's 2022-23 financial statements; work continued on the 2023-24 financial statements with an anticipated issuance date of March 31, 2025.

Responding to Supervisor Griffith, Leitenbauer indicated that the County's credit card processing was often used. CAO Nichole Williamson commented that the Federal Government couldn't write a check; if the County wanted to continue receiving federal funds, credit card processing was required.

5. ADMINISTRATIVE ANNOUNCEMENTS

5.1. Update on Alpine County Museum

CAO Nichole Williamson reported that the ad hoc committee had been meeting with the Historical Society to resolve the dispute.

Supervisor Griffith commented that there was good faith on both sides; the process was moving forward and a settlement proposal was being considered.

Alpine County resident Angela Franklin commented in support of an amicable resolution to the ongoing dispute and cited the economic and cultural value of the Museum.

Markleeville resident Brenda Hernandez commented in support of an amicable resolution.

6. BOARD MEMBER ANNOUNCEMENTS OR REPORTS

Supervisor District 1 Charles Dobson deferred any report in the interest of time.

Supervisor District 2 Ron Hames commented about approaching the Sierra Nevada Conservancy regarding the Park Ranch proposal; suggested that SNC provide a grant for 10 years to offset the loss of property tax revenue. CAO Nichole Williamson responded that the County had received a new offer regarding the Park Ranch. County Counsel Charles McKee explained the offer was to pay for the loss of tax revenues in exchange for a letter of support for the Park Ranch to become a conservancy before being assumed by the State.

Supervisor District 3 Irvin Jim deferred any report in the interest of time.

Supervisor District 4 Terry Woodrow deferred any report in the interest of time.

Supervisor District 5 David Griffith reported that Eastern Alpine Fire and Rescue was supposed to present the Board with quarterly reports but that such had not occurred since May 2024. CAO Nichole Williamson recommended asking the County Clerk to make the update a recurring agenda item. Responding to County Clerk Teola Tremayne, Supervisor Griffith advised that the item should appear on the 2nd meeting of the final month of each quarter, beginning with December 17, 2024.

7. CONSENT AGENDA

Supervisor Woodrow pulled Item 7.11 for separate action.

Supervisor Woodrow asked for clarification on Item 7.4. County Counsel Charles McKee commented that the title needed the following editing: "Receive a Notice of Change in Board of Supervisors' compensation and approve an amendment of the County salary schedule to implement that change in compensation."

Regarding Item 7.12, Supervisor Griffith commented that the Board approved \$60,000 for the purchase of a new truck, but the total cost had ballooned to more than \$90,000. Supervisor Griffith asserted that all costs should've been approved concurrently.

Regarding Item 7.13, Supervisor Griffith lauded the County employees responsible for bringing the item back to the Board for approval, as such was required by the County's purchasing policy. County Counsel Charles McKee thanked the Finance Department for identifying the issue and noted that there had been confusion about how to handle such County purchases. McKee also noted that, regarding Item 7.13, staff was obligated to bring this item to the Board for approval even though insurance was paying the cost.

Finance Director Klaus Leitenbauer announced that County Counsel Charles McKee was reviewing the County's purchasing code because the \$50,000 threshold was outdated; implementing a \$75,000 threshold would save County staff time and effort.

CAO Nichole Williamson commented that purchasing vehicles was the problem; suggested that the purchase threshold should be increased for vehicle purchases but not anything else. The County needed to find a method to purchase vehicles more expeditiously.

MOTION David Griffith / SECOND Irvin Jim approving, as amended, the Consent Agenda as follows:

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

7.1. Special meeting minutes of November 5, 2024. - County Clerk

7.2. Regular meeting minutes of November 5, 2024. - County Clerk

7.3. County Claims. - Director of Finance

7.4. AMENDED: Notice of Change in Board of Supervisors' compensation and an amendment of the County salary schedule to implement that change in compensation. - Asst. CAO to Personnel and Risk

- 7.5. Contract No. CC2024-56** Amendment #1 to Standard Form Personal Services Contract CC2022-43, approved August 16, 2022 between County of Alpine and California Waste Recovery Systems. - Community Development Director
- 7.6. Contract No. CC2024-57** between the County and Bear Valley Mountain Resort, LLC for the shared use of multiple parking lots in the Bear Valley Village through June 30th, 2025. - Community Development Deputy Director
- 7.7. Resolution No. R2024-73** adopting the proposed amendments to Chapter VI, Secretary, Sections 1 and 3 of the Alpine County Fish & Game Commission Bylaws as recommended by the Commission. - Economic Development Director
- 7.8. Resolution No. R2024-74** authorizing the Sheriff to apply for and receive grant funding in the amount of \$29,343.00 from the Off-Highway Vehicle Grant for Fiscal Year 2024/2025 State funding cycle and authorize Sheriff to be the County's Authorized Agent and execute grant documents. - Sheriff
- 7.9.** Receipt and filing of the Certificate of County Clerk of Result of the Canvass of Vote for the November 5, 2024 General Election, per the Statement of Votes Cast, to which the certificate is attached, and declaring elected or nominated to each office voted on under the Board's jurisdiction the person having the highest number of votes for that office. - County Clerk
- 7.10.** Transfer in the amount of \$15,611 from the Forfeiture Trust Account 800- 821-259340 to Armory Account 149-149-528120, and a corresponding increase in appropriations of \$15,611, to help fund the purchase of new Rifles for the Sheriff's Department and authorize the Finance Department to make the necessary Budget changes (requires 4/5 vote). – Sheriff
- 7.11.** This item was pulled for separate action.
- 7.12.** Post-purchase waiver of the public bidding process for the purchase of a truck and various asset additions for the aggregate amount of \$90,478.78. - Community Development Director
- 7.13.** Post-purchase waiver of the public bidding process and authorize the purchase of a Sheriff patrol truck for an aggregate amount not to exceed \$64,000. - Sheriff
- 7.14.** Letter of support for Calaveras Healthy Impact Product Solutions' (CHIPS) grant application to Sierra Jobs First Catalyst program. - District 5 Supervisor
- 7.15.** Letter of support for Alpine Biomass Collaborative's grant application to Sierra Jobs First Catalyst program for a Feasibility Study on a Tree and Native Plant Facility in Alpine County. - Economic Development Director

ITEMS PULLED FOR SEPARATE ACTION:

- 7.11. Approve fee waiver for the use of the Perry Walther Community Center in the amount of \$7890 by the Bear Valley Music Festival July 13th, 2025 through August 8th, 2025 requiring execution of Indemnification Agreement, evidence of insurance and a \$500 deposit. - District 4 Supervisor**

Supervisor Woodrow commented that the transmittal summary incorrectly stated the value of the fee waiver. The fee waiver was worth \$7,890, not \$5,250.

Supervisor Woodrow suggested that the Board entertain an amended motion to approve the item, one which required the Bear Valley Music Festival to feature Alpine County's generosity of the fee waiver more prominently in the festival's program.

Supervisor Griffith commented that the County had not received adequate recognition after waiving similar fees in the past; the value of the waiver should translate into an appropriate amount of ad space in the program, which hadn't been occurring.

CAO Nichole Williamson suggested that a Memorandum of Understanding between the County and the Bear Valley Music Festival was appropriate.

In response to Supervisor Hames' comment regarding an MOU for all fee waivers, Williamson stated that the Bear Valley Music Festival was different from other events where fees were waived due to the size and scale of the festival. Williamson suggested that the County prepare an "Are You Alpine?" advertisement that could be given to event organizers in the future.

MOTION David Griffith / SECOND Ron Hames approving, as amended, a fee waiver for the use of the Perry Walther Community Center in the amount of \$7890 by the Bear Valley Music Festival July 13th, 2025 through August 8th, 2025 requiring execution of Indemnification Agreement, evidence of insurance and a \$500 deposit, contingent upon the Bear Valley Music Festival providing sufficient recognition to Alpine County in the Festival program in a manner reflecting the value of the waiver.

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

8. PUBLIC HEARINGS

8.1. **Public hearing and first reading of an ordinance amending Alpine County Code Chapter 8.20 to adopt the 2023 Fire Hazard Severity Zone Map and designating certain areas within Alpine County as moderate, high, or very high wildfire hazard severity zones. - Economic Development Director**

Economic Development Director JT Chevallier introduced Wildfire Projects Coordinator Clint Celio.

Supervisor Woodrow opened the public hearing, then closed the public hearing without comment.

Responding to Supervisor Dobson, Celio stated that the map was updated by Cal-Fire based on complex modeling involving land use, remote-sensed data, wildfire behavior data, fuels data, etc. Celio confirmed that the map was updated post-Tamarack Fire. Celio further confirmed that adopting the map would not impact insurance rates across the County.

Responding to Supervisor Hames, Celio stated that adopting the map wouldn't substantially affect fire-mitigation operations; the map would not be used to identify County-level needs and projects. Celio stated that adopting the map would function as an acknowledgment to Cal-Fire and that doing so would not increase the County's liability. Celio stated that adopting the map was necessary for Alpine County to be designated as a Fire Risk Reduction Community.

MOTION David Griffith / SECOND Charles Dobson approving first reading of an ordinance amending Alpine County Code Chapter 8.20 to adopt the 2023 Fire Hazard Severity Zone Map and designating certain areas within Alpine County as moderate, high, or very high wildfire hazard severity zones.

Responding to public comment from Markleeville resident Bill Young about what the map left out, Supervisor Griffith clarified that the map did not consider federally-owned land.

County Counsel Charles McKee clarified that the motion should properly read as follows:

MOTION David Griffith / SECOND Charles Dobson waiving reading of an ordinance amending Alpine County Code Chapter 8.20 to adopt the 2023 Fire Hazard Severity Zone Map and designating certain areas within Alpine County as moderate, high, or very high wildfire hazard severity zones and setting December 17, 2024 at 9:00 AM or thereafter for possible adoption.

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

9. REGULAR AGENDA - UNFINISHED BUSINESS

9.1. Continued update and presentation by Human Services regarding fentanyl issues affecting Alpine County. (Ref. 10/15/2024 and continuing the first meeting of each month). - Human Services Director

Human Services Director Suzanne Garcia updated the Board on actions being taken to deal with the fentanyl emergency in Alpine County. Garcia reported that the My Two Aunties program was developing and that monthly meetings of the Community Response Network were being held.

Supervisor Griffith asked whether Garcia's monthly report to the Board could include certain metrics to measure progress, such as the number of fentanyl incidents that required a response from law enforcement. CAO Nichole Williamson mentioned different metrics which could be considered, including number of deaths and number of overdoses. Garcia commented that there was no way to know how often Narcan was being used to treat overdose cases. Responding to Supervisor Griffith, Garcia commented that County staff would get together to ascertain what elements might be quantifiable and thus reportable to the Board.

Responding to Supervisor Hames, Garcia confirmed that activities were not limited in scope to fentanyl but included all types of substance abuse.

Public Health Officer Dr. Rick Johnson commented that this issue was multifactorial and thus difficult to quantify. Johnson reported that fentanyl deaths were down across the country because the fentanyl was being diluted so as not to kill the user. Johnson commented that assessing success must comprise more than measuring EMS calls.

Responding to Supervisor Jim about the Washoe Tribe's willingness to participate in County efforts, Garcia reported that the Washoe Tribe was an engaged member of the team and that conversations were being had about avoiding duplication of services.

9.2. Request adoption of a resolution ratifying the Sheriff's declaration of a local emergency related to the current fentanyl overdose crisis. - Sheriff

County Counsel Charles McKee commented that a conversation was held during Agenda Review to identify the merits of continuing to ratify each of the two emergency declarations regarding fentanyl. McKee clarified that the County Code required that each declaration return to the Board for ratification every fourteen days to remain active.

CAO Nichole Williamson commented that, from the perspective of CAL-OES, the Sheriff's declaration was more powerful than the Public Health Officer's. Williamson questioned whether the declarations were still needed, especially given that Behavioral Health Sciences was not sufficiently staffed to address the problem.

Alpine County Undersheriff Chris Harootunian commented that the Sheriff's Office saw no reason to continue with the declarations. Public Health Officer Dr. Rick Johnson said the same.

CAO Nichole Williamson suggested that the Board ratify the two emergency declarations, after which staff would determine whether there was any benefit to continuing them in the future.

Responding to Supervisor Griffith about the intent behind the emergency declarations, Williamson responded that the State didn't seem to know how to handle them. Williamson proposed an alternative declaration which would focus specifically on child welfare and the County's lack of resources.

Supervisor Griffith suggested the Board ratify the declarations once more and wait to hear from staff about how best to proceed going forward. Williamson indicated that the Sheriff and Public Health officer were amenable to doing so.

MOTION David Griffith / SECOND Irvin Jim adopting Resolution No. R2024-75 ratifying the Sheriff's declaration of a local emergency related to the current fentanyl overdose crisis and adopting Resolution No. R2024-76 ratifying the Alpine County Public Health Officer's declaration of a local health emergency related to the current fentanyl overdose crisis.

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

9.3. Request adoption of a resolution ratifying the Alpine County Public Health Officer's declaration of a local health emergency related to the current fentanyl overdose crisis. - Deputy Health and Human Services Director, Public Health

The Board approved Items 9.2 and 9.3 with a single motion.

MOTION David Griffith / SECOND Irvin Jim adopting Resolution No. R2024-76 ratifying the Alpine County Public Health Officer's declaration of a local health emergency related to the current fentanyl overdose crisis.

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

10. REGULAR AGENDA - NEW BUSINESS

10.1. Request approval of Addendum to the Initial Study/Mitigated Negative Declaration for the Markleeville Creek Floodplain Restoration Project. - Community Development Director

Community Development Director Sam Booth reported on the need for the addendum. Booth stated that the original CEQA documents approved in 2014 included the Markleeville Public Utility District's sewer replacement project but that the two projects were later split from each other, as the addendum reflected. Booth continued that the Floodplain Restoration project also added the removal of the bridge abutments and the adjacent floodwall section. Booth thanked Alpine Watershed Group's Kimra McAfee for helping with the project.

Responding to Supervisor Griffith, Booth commented that the CEQA analysis was necessary because of the project's new additions.

MOTION Ron Hames / SECOND Irvin Jim approving addendum to the Initial Study/Mitigated Negative Declaration for the Markleeville Creek Floodplain Restoration Project.

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

10.2. Presentation by Alpine County California Fire Safe Council County Coordinator, Clint Celio, regarding the status and progress of the California Fire Safe Council Grant Administration. - Economic Development Director

Economic Development Director JT Chevallier introduced Wildfire Projects Coordinator Clint Celio.

Celio stated that the upcoming presentation was required as part of the California Fire Safe Council Coordinator grant, which Alpine County accepted. Celio then gave a PowerPoint presentation entitled "Coordinating Wildfire Mitigation in Alpine County."

10.3. Presentation on the Title III funding allocations by Wildfire Projects Coordinator Clint Celio. - Economic Development Director

Economic Development Director JT Chevallier introduced Wildfire Projects Coordinator Clint Celio.

Celio gave a PowerPoint presentation on the status of Title III funding.

Supervisor Woodrow commented that the available funding for Bear Valley and other areas seemed to be lumped together; was incomprehensible in such a form. Supervisor Woodrow commented that there was no way of knowing whether each entity received what was allocated; wanted confirmation that Bear Valley would be adequately funded for projects.

Celio advised that the County should continue with the existing spending plan to allow proponents to spend the funds that they were granted under the original projects. Celio continued that the status of future Title III allocations was unclear as legislation was stalled in Congress.

Responding to Supervisor Woodrow, Celio clarified that the existing spending plan was approved based on an April 2023 estimate of what funds would be available, which understated funds ultimately received. Celio asked the Board for direction regarding how to manage unspent funds.

Supervisor Hames commented on the importance of appropriately compartmentalizing Title III funds.

Responding to Supervisor Griffith's question about unallocated funding, Celio stated that all the \$79,795 had been allocated; uncommitted funds comprised \$28,326 of that total. Supervisor Griffith asked whether other entities should be given the

opportunity to utilize those funds for similar purposes; Celio responded that was a decision for the Board to make.

CAO Nichole Williamson commented that the conversation wasn't progressing and suggested that County staff get together to discuss the unspent Title III funds and return to the Board at a future meeting with recommendations.

Supervisor Griffith stated that other entities should have the opportunity to apply for the uncommitted funds. Celio responded that an application process could be opened.

The Board decided by consensus to bring the item back at a future meeting.

10.4. Request approval of Memorandum of Understanding between County of Alpine, CA and Golden State Financing Authority for a revolving line of credit in the amount of \$500,000.00. - Director of Finance

Director of Finance Klaus Leitenbauer reported that this item was similar to the one approved in June 2022 for the Hot Springs Bridge replacement; same program under the Federal Highways Act and supported by CalTrans through the State Transportation Improvement Program. Leitenbauer explained that funds were reimbursable grants which would allow the County to undertake significant infrastructure projects; Golden State Financing Authority provided a mechanism for the County to get cash upfront for such projects. Leitenbauer noted that the interest rate had increased relative to the County's past participation in the program (1.39% versus 5.71% for the proposal) but the additional expense would be minimal given all factors. Leitenbauer noted that the Board was considering a two-year commitment.

Responding to Supervisor Griffith, Community Development Director Sam Booth clarified that Phase One of the project would only extend to Pleasant Valley Road.

Responding to Supervisor Dobson, Booth confirmed that there was considerable lag time for reimbursements of past projects largely due to federal involvement. In this case, with no federal involvement, Booth expected reimbursement to arrive sooner.

Supervisor Griffith mentioned the possibility of the County borrowing money from other internal funds, with interest, because \$500,000 wouldn't always suffice. Leitenbauer responded that a significant amount of County funds were restricted but it was worth looking into.

MOTION David Griffith / SECOND Irvin Jim approving Memorandum of Understanding between County of Alpine, CA and Golden State Financing Authority for a revolving line of credit in the amount of \$500,000.00.

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

10.5. Discussion regarding the use and rental of private property for transient camping experiences and outdoor stays. - Community Development Director

Community Development Director Sam Booth reported that this item was brought forward at the request of Supervisor Hames during the October 15, 2024 Board meeting. Booth stated that Alpine County Code section 18.73 applied to transient camping within the County. Properties were required to register short-term rentals with the County and certain events held on-site required a conditional use permit and business license.

Supervisor Hames commented that this was a good opportunity for County residents to earn additional income.

Supervisor Griffith commented that, as long as the properties complied with the County's short-term rental regulations, there was no issue.

Supervisor Woodrow asked why the Board was seemingly endorsing Hip Camp over other competitors, to which Supervisor Hames replied that Booth had provided information for multiple companies and that the Board wasn't favoring Hip Camp, specifically. County landowners had numerous choices other than Hip Camp, e.g., Harvest Host and AirBnB. However, the advantage with Hip Camp was that the County was paid directly.

11. ADJOURN TO ANY OF THE FOLLOWING AGENCIES FOR WHICH THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS SITS AS OFFICERS: BOARD OF EQUALIZATION, LOCAL TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION, WATER AGENCY

The Board adjourned to the Local Transportation Commission at 11:00 AM and reconvened as the Board of Supervisors.

12. CLOSED SESSION

12.1. 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

There was no reportable action.

13. ADJOURNMENT

The Board adjourned to the next regular meeting of December 17, 2024 at 9:00 AM at Alpine County Government Center, 99 Water Street, Markleeville, California.

Terry Woodrow

Terry Woodrow (Dec 17, 2024 13:16 PST)

ATTEST:

Daniel Honchariw

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

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.alpinecountyca.gov

Unapproved BOS minutes 12-03-2024

Final Audit Report

2024-12-17

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