



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

MINUTES
March 18, 2025

1. CALL TO ORDER REGULAR MEETING

Chair Dobson called the Regular Meeting to order at 9:00 am with Supervisors Mecak, Griffith, and Dobson present. Supervisor Woodrow and Supervisor Jim were present via teleconference.

2. OPEN SESSION - PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

3. ORAL COMMUNICATION - GENERAL PUBLIC COMMENT

Arts and Culture Executive Director January Riddle reported on the success of past events and announced an upcoming art show at the library.

Alpine County Fish and Game Commission member Jerry Lloyd announced resignation from the Fish and Game Commission.

Alpine County Fish and Game Commission member Bill Scherbak announced resignation from the Fish and Game Commission, citing unresolved issues with the commission.

4. DEPARTMENT ANNOUNCEMENTS

Economic Development Director JT Chevallier introduced Wildfire Project Coordinator Clint Celio to provide an update on the Firewise community meeting. Celio reported on the past success of Firewise meeting, announced the upcoming second Firewise meeting, and gave a report on the meeting with Cal Fire regarding defensible space inspection programs going on in Alpine County.

5. ADMINISTRATIVE ANNOUNCEMENTS

CAO/ Human Services Director Nichole Williamson commented that a Fish and Game Commission item would be added to the next Board meeting agenda at the Board's discretion to discuss concerns related to board member resignations.

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. Supervisor Dobson announced an upcoming community event and announced the passing of an Alpine resident.

Supervisor District 2 Evan Mecak gave an update regarding county business, meetings attended related to appointed commissions and committees and upcoming events. Supervisor Mecak reported concerns related to hotels receiving untimely notice of Transiency Occupation Tax (TOT) changes. Director of Finance Klaus Leitenbauer clarified that hotel operators and short-term rentals were notified of the rate increase via mail in December 2024. Additional notification was posted on the County website and quarterly TOT returns were mailed out.

County Counsel Charles McKee commented on the language of the TOT ordinance and the process of the appeal code.

Supervisor District 3 Irvin Jim gave an update regarding county business, meetings attended related to appointed commissions and committees and upcoming events.

Supervisor District 4 Terry Woodrow gave an update regarding county business, meetings attended related to appointed commissions and committees and upcoming events. Supervisor Woodrow reported meeting with Senator Padilla and other Congressional Representatives to discuss concerns affecting Alpine County while at the National Association of Counties Legislative Conference in Washington DC.

Supervisor District 5 David Griffith gave an update regarding county business, meetings attended related to appointed commissions and committees and upcoming events.

7. CONSENT AGENDA

Supervisor Griffith pulled item 7.6 for separate action.

**MOTION Evan Mecak / SECOND David Griffith the Consent Agenda as follows:
AYES: Charles Dobson, Irvin Jim, Terry Woodrow, David Griffith, Evan Mecak;
MOTION PASSED.**

7.1. Regular meeting minutes of 03/04/2025. - County Clerk

7.2. County Claims. - Director of Finance

7.3. **Contract No. CC2025-07** Amendment No. 1 to Contract No. CC2023-55 with Data Ticket to update security requirements within the current contract for the term 11/07/2023 - 11/07/2028. - County Clerk

7.4. **Contract No. CC2025-08** Amendment No. 1 to Contract BHS 2022-05 with GARY ERNST for the term July 1, 2023 - June 30, 2026 in the amount of \$100,000. - Kimball C. Pier, Deputy Director BHS

7.5 Transfer of funds from DNA Account (Prop 69) 800-805-252010 to Sheriff Fund 149 and increase appropriations in account 149-149-562700 MISC. OFFICE EQUIP- MAJOR for the purchase of a new Livescan fingerprint machine in the amount not to exceed \$24,500. – Sheriff

7.6 Item pulled for separate action.

ITEMS PULLED FOR SEPARATE ACTION:

7.6. **Approve an appropriation in the amount of \$25,000 in 382-382-562740 OTHER EQUIPMENT MAJOR to purchase a snowmobile for the Sheriff's Department using unappropriated Fund Balance in Fund 382 - Bear Valley Fire Department Mutual Aid Fire Impact Fund. Fund balance as of 02/28/25 \$78,697 (requires 4/5 vote).** – Sheriff

Supervisor Griffith commented on whether the Mutual Aid fund was an appropriate source to draw from to make the purchase of the snow mobile, considering usually

the fund was used to compensate for equipment usage on incidents outside the County. CAO/ Human Services Director Nichole Williamson stated snowmobiles were needed to respond to medical aid and fire calls in Bear Valley due to high snow levels. Williamson informed the Board that past sheriffs had used Mutual Aid to purchase patrol vehicles within the county.

Undersheriff Chris Harootunian confirmed snow mobile purchase would be used for potential fire calls and search and rescue; also explained that snow mobiles fell under the category of equipment requested by the state for emergencies covered by Mutual Aid. In response to Supervisor Griffith's concern related to Bear Valley having adequate funds, Harootunian stated the importance of vehicle maintenance to prevent major purchases.

Director of Finance Klaus Leitenbauer informed the Board that equipment purchased by the Sheriff's department was used for in-and out-of-county uses. In response to Supervisor Griffith's comment related to discussion of Mutual Aid financial policy, Williamson confirmed that no policy existed to govern Mutual Aid funds, but decisions were recommended by the Sheriff's office and approved by the Board.

MOTION Griffith / SECOND Jim approving an appropriation in the amount of \$25,000 in 382-382-562740 OTHER EQUIPMENT MAJOR to purchase a snowmobile for the Sheriff's Department using unappropriated Fund Balance in Fund 382 Bear Valley Fire Department Mutual Aid Fire Impact Fund. Fund balance as of 02/28/25 \$78,697 (requires 4/5 vote).

AYES: Charles Dobson, Irvin Jim, Terry Woodrow, David Griffith, Evan Mecak; MOTION PASSED.

8. PUBLIC HEARINGS

None

9. REGULAR AGENDA - UNFINISHED BUSINESS

- 9.6. Request approval of a letter of support from the Board of Supervisors for the conservation of approximately 1,690 acres of the Park Ranch in Alpine County, which would be submitted by the Park Ranch and Western Rivers Conservancy in applying for State Wildlife Conservation Board grant funding. APN#s 002-320-007, 002-250-009, 002-250-010, 002-260-002, 002-280-001, 002-300-003, 002-320-007, 002-330-011, 002-330-012, 002-330-013, 002-340-002. - Community Development Director**

Community Development Director Sam Booth introduced the item and provided a background on Park Ranch land use and purpose for letter of support. Booth summarized details related to the initial presentation brought to June 2024 Board Meeting, where the item was continued. Booth spoke about a follow-up meeting with the community, and an update to the Board given at the October 2024 meeting, where the item was continued again. Booth summarized why the Board continued the letter of support, citing issues related to loss of tax revenue, concerns about land management, and the impact of public use. Booth spoke of parties in favor of the letter; Park Ranch, Western River Conservancy, California Department of Fish and Wildlife, and Wildlife Conservation Board. Booth explained the next phases in obtaining land and how land would be transferred to the ownership of Alpine County, if a letter of support was approved. Furthermore, Booth discussed the incentives offered to Alpine County by Park Ranch, which was a donation of

\$250,000 to offset the loss of tax revenue and donations of land parcels.

CAO/ Human Services Director Nichole Williamson expressed gratitude towards Booth for leading the project. Supervisor Jim commented in favor of sending a letter of support and discussed clarification that was needed related to financing the project. Booth confirmed no County funds would be used for purchasing Park Ranch lands; Western Rivers Conservancy would purchase land from state grants and other funders.

Markleeville resident David Peets commented in favor of sending a letter of support. Markleeville resident Nick Hartzell commented in favor of sending a letter of support. County Clerk Teola Tremayne commented that the Clerk's Office received incoming email correspondence from Bob Twiss and Amy Skewes-Cox supporting the item. Markleeville resident Rich Harvey commented in favor of sending a letter of support.

Supervisor Griffith proposed the Park Ranch donation be increased with funds restricted, and cited concerns related to the letter of support. Supervisor Mecak commented in favor of sending a letter of support, and suggested the County could benefit from an increased donation. Supervisor Woodrow and Supervisor Dobson both commented in favor of sending a letter of support. Supervisor Griffith suggested amendments to the language to allow further negotiations.

Park Ranch owner Mary Anne Park stated that the land was appraised at \$8 million, with alternative plans if the letter was not approved. Additionally, Park stated that Park Ranch would not make further donations past \$250,000. Park reminded the Board that the donated land parcels were at the discretion of the County to be sold for income.

Western Rivers Conservancy Project Manager Susanna Danner explained that most of the language in the grant agreement was not flexible, for the purpose of meeting taxpayer needs. In response to Supervisor Mecak's question related to the state's willingness to manage the land, Danner stated that the Department of Fish and Wildlife would take ownership.

McKee discussed the priority of protecting the County, highlighted the County's obligations under the grant agreement, and suggested that the grant template be modified to allow land transfer. Danner responded that while the grant template was not modifiable, the terms were manageable to abide by. Booth added that property use would be monitored under current land use. Economic Development Director JT Chevallier highlighted the economic opportunities the land offered.

In response to Supervisor ~~Mecak's~~ Griffith's question related to leasing meadows, Park Ranch owner David Park responded that Park Ranch would be a committed tenant to conservation of the land and explained personal experience with a monitoring plan. In response to Supervisor Griffith's question related to risks associated with restricted cash donations, McKee explained that restricted funds could be a disadvantage to the County in the long term. Williamson commented in opposition to limited funds for categorical spending. McKee expressed gratitude to the Parks for collaboration.

MOTION Mecak / SECOND Woodrow approving a letter of support from the Board of Supervisors for the conservation of approximately 1,690 acres of the Park Ranch in Alpine County, which would be submitted by the Park Ranch

and Western Rivers Conservancy in applying for State Wildlife Conservation Board grant funding. APN#s 002-320-007, 002-250-009, 002-250-010, 002-260-002, 002-280-001, 002-300-003, 002-320-007, 002-330-011, 002-330-012, 002-330-013, 002-340-002.

AYES: Charles Dobson, Irvin Jim, Terry Woodrow, David Griffith, Evan Mecak;
MOTION PASSED.

- 9.7. Consider an agreement between the County of Alpine and The Historical Society for Alpine County to operate the Alpine County Museum and authorize the Chair of the Board to execute the Agreement. Consider a transfer of \$90,000 from General Fund Contingency to 100-198 Museum to fund the current deficit and 2025 operations. – County Counsel**

County Counsel Charles McKee gave a background to the agreement between Alpine County and the Historical Society; discussed corrections made to the agreement and transmittal that was distributed to the Board. Supervisor Mecak commented on the County's commitment to the Historical Society. Historical Society President Angela Franklin expressed appreciation to the Board, the community, and the current and past historical society board for efforts. Supervisor Griffith expressed gratitude to the new Historical Society board, voiced hope of a new start and stated the contract could be revisited by both parties in the upcoming years to assess any changes. Historical Society Treasurer Clint Celio expressed appreciation to the Board, Alpine County, and community. Historical Society member Kathryn Rakow commented in favor of the agreement and read a personal statement related to the history of the museum. McKee expressed gratitude to Library Director/Museum Rita Lovell for the continued operation of the museum. CAO/ Human Services Director Nichole Williamson expressed gratitude to the staff for work in the museum and clarified museum operations. Supervisor Woodrow expressed gratitude and voiced support for the agreement. Supervisor Jim voiced support for the agreement.

MOTION Griffith / SECOND Jim approving Contract No. CC2025-09 between the County of Alpine and The Historical Society for Alpine County to operate the Alpine County Museum and authorize the Chair to sign. Approve a transfer of \$90,000 from General Fund Contingency to 100-198 Museum to fund the current deficit and 2025 operations.

AYES: Charles Dobson, Irvin Jim, Terry Woodrow, David Griffith, Evan Mecak; **MOTION PASSED.**

10. REGULAR AGENDA - NEW BUSINESS

- 10.1. Continued update and presentation by USDA Forest Service regarding issues affecting Alpine County. (Ref. 04/18/2023 and continuing the second meeting of each month). - County Clerk**

The USDA Forest Service District Ranger Matt Zumstein announced that the Resource Advisory Committee (RAC) meeting was canceled and gave a report on current activities and projects that impacted Alpine County. Zumstein reported current projects related to prescribed fires, signage, Broadband services, Caltrans, and utility companies.

Supervisor Griffith encouraged members of RAC to attend meetings, to obtain a quorum so that funds could be dispersed.

- 10.2 Request approval of a contract for services with Sierra Institute for Community and Environment (501c3) for the term of March 18, 2025 - June 30, 2025, in the amount not to exceed \$46,844.60 for the purposes of conducting a stakeholder analysis to better understand social concerns, values, and perspectives throughout the Forest Health Community Working Group's region and waive the public bidding process. - Economic Development Director**

JT Chevallier provided background and explained the purpose of the contract with Sierra Institute for Community and Environment. In response to Supervisor Griffith's comment related to the contract routing form missing a signature, County Clerk Teola Tremayne clarified that the contract routing form does not have space for signature, unless an insurance waiver was needed. Supervisor Griffith stated an insurance waiver was marked, and requested the contract be fully signed before submission to the Board. Tremayne stated the contract routing form would be modified in the future to separate insurance waiver portion.

MOTION Griffith / SECOND Mecak approving Contract No. CC2025-10 for services with Sierra Institute for Community and Environment (501c3) for the term of March 18, 2025 - June 30, 2025, in the amount not to exceed \$46,844.60 for the purposes of conducting a stakeholder analysis to better understand social concerns, values, and perspectives throughout the Forest Health Community Working Group's region and waive the public bidding process. AYES: Charles Dobson, Irvin Jim, Terry Woodrow, David Griffith, Evan Mecak; MOTION PASSED.

- 10.3. Request approval of the plans and specifications for the 2025 SB1 RMRA (Road Maintenance and Rehabilitation Account) Road Projects, including Spring Cliff Rd., Mule Ear Rd., Pioneer Tr., Sawmill Rd., Timber Ln., and Snowshoe Rd. - Community Development Deputy Director**

Deputy Director of Community Development Ethan Gray explained the background and purpose of the item. Gray listed projects which were approved at a Board Meeting in April 2024, discussed projects already completed and in progress. In response to Supervisor Griffith's question related to the amount of optional road projects the county would fund, Gray stated the budget had \$700,000 left and county engineers estimated 1.5 million-2 million dollars. Gray explained the engineers' estimates changed overtime due to detailed surveys, increased material costs, and inflation.

MOTION Griffith / SECOND Woodrow approving the plans and specifications for the 2025 SB1 RMRA (Road Maintenance and Rehabilitation Account) Road Projects, including Spring Cliff Rd., Mule Ear Rd., Pioneer Tr., Sawmill Rd., Timber Ln., and Snowshoe Rd. AYES: Charles Dobson, Irvin Jim, Terry Woodrow, David Griffith, Evan Mecak; MOTION PASSED.

- 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**

None

12. CLOSED SESSION

- 12.1. **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.

- 12.2. **CONFERENCE WITH LEGAL COUNSEL-Initiation of litigation pursuant to Section 54956.9 (d) (4) - (1) one case. - Assistant CAO to Personnel and Risk**

No reportable action.

13. ADJOURNMENT

The Board adjourned to the next regular meeting of Tuesday, April 1, 2025, at 9:00 AM at the Alpine County Government Center, Markleeville, California.

Charles Dobson

Charles Dobson (Apr 2, 2025 11:35 PDT)

Charles Dobson, Chair, Board of Supervisors County of Alpine, State of California

Teola L. Tremayne

ATTEST:

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

By: Miriam Andrade, Deputy County Clerk

A complete audio/video recording of this meeting is available on the County website

www.alpinecountyca.gov

Board of Supervisors - Regular Meeting - April 1, 2025 9:00 AM

Final Audit Report

2025-04-02

Created:	2025-04-01
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"Board of Supervisors - Regular Meeting - April 1, 2025 9:00 A M" History

-  Document created by Miriam Andrade (mandrade@alpinecountyca.gov)
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-  Document emailed to Charles Dobson (cdobson@alpinecountyca.gov) for signature
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-  Document e-signed by Charles Dobson (cdobson@alpinecountyca.gov)
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2025-04-02 - 6:46:14 PM GMT
-  Document e-signed by Miriam Andrade (mandrade@alpinecountyca.gov)
Signature Date: 2025-04-02 - 6:47:38 PM GMT - Time Source: server
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