



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

MINUTES
February 18, 2025

1. CALL TO ORDER REGULAR MEETING

Chair Dobson called the Regular Meeting to order at 9:30 AM with Supervisors Mecak, Griffith, Dobson, and Woodrow present; Supervisor Jim was present via teleconference.

County Counsel Charles McKee reported a technical error with the zoom meeting ID. McKee confirmed Supervisor Mecak's statement that video conference was provided for convenience not the necessity. County Clerk Teola Tremayne stated the meeting details for the public to join zoom call.

2. OPEN SESSION - PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

3. ORAL COMMUNICATION - GENERAL PUBLIC COMMENT

Arts and Culture Executive Director January Riddle gave an update regarding upcoming activities and distributed flyers to the Board

4. DEPARTMENT ANNOUNCEMENTS

Fire Chief Paul Washam announced the retirement of East Fork Chief Todd Carlini, and the new chief replacement was Chief Alan Ernst.

5. ADMINISTRATIVE ANNOUNCEMENTS

County Counsel Charles McKee reiterated work done by the Historical Society and would share more details on the upcoming item.

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 commented on the utility company inspecting trees, with concern that healthy trees would be cut down. Fire Chief Paul Washam reported hazardous and dead trees impacting power lines would be cut.

Supervisor District 2 Evan Mecak gave an update regarding county business, meetings attended related to appointed commissions and committees and upcoming events. Supervisor Mecak requested discussion on giving fines to trucks who forego chains during storms on Highway 88. Supervisor Woodrow commented that California Highway Patrol regulates fines; Cal-Trans meetings discussed similar concerns.

Supervisor District 3 Irvin Jim reported on the loss of a family member.

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

7. CONSENT AGENDA

Supervisor Mecak pulled items 7.1, 7.2 and 7.3 for separate action.

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

- 7.4. Director of Budget and Procurement Matthew McSorley as the Public Risk Innovation, Solutions and Management (PRISM) (formally CSAC-EIA) alternate board member - CAO/ HHS Director**
- 7.5. Kirstin Downer to the Child Abuse Prevention Council representing the Community Based Social Service Agency for a two (2) year term beginning at the date of appointment and ending on 02/18/2027. - County Clerk**

ITEMS PULLED FOR SEPARATE ACTION:

7.1. Regular meeting minutes of 02/04/2025. - County Clerk

Supervisor Mecak commented that the minutes should specify what was incorrect in the transmittal for item 10.6 at the last Board meeting. The correction to the minutes was "transmittal information related to Senator Alvarado-Gil asking for an individual letter was incorrect". In response to Supervisor Mecak's question about editing past agenda transmittals with incorrect information, County Clerk Teola Tremayne stated that changing the transmittal once submitted would not be possible.

County Counsel Charles McKee recommended that the County Website state "Corrections to agenda items or documents shall be reflected in the approved minutes", so that the public would be aware of any corrections made. Supervisor Mecak stated correction was acceptable.

**MOTION Mecak / SECOND Griffith approving regular meeting minutes of 02/04/2025 as amended.
AYES: Charles Dobson, Irvin Jim, Terry Woodrow, David Griffith, Evan Mecak;
MOTION PASSED**

7.2. County Claims. - Director of Finance

Supervisor Mecak commented that the yoga instructor was on a leave of absence but was also shown as paid and requested clarification. Director of Finance Klaus Leitenbauer stated finance would produce backup documents, and clarified that payments were from December and January partial payment. Deputy Director of Behavioral Health Kimbal Pier stated the last yoga class occurred on either January 4th or 14th and communication was in motion with the yoga instructor to reinstate classes.

MOTION Mecak / SECOND Griffith approving County Claims.

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

7.3. Approve Out of State Travel for Angela Slais, Public Health Deputy Director, to attend the National Association of City and County Health Officials (NACCHO) annual Preparedness Summit in San Antonio, Tx April 29-May 2, 2025. - Public Health Deputy Director

In response to Supervisor Mecak's question related to the source of travel funding, Deputy Director of Public Health Angela Slais stated the conference was funded by a grant received from the State. Supervisor Mecak stated that travel-related agenda items should not be placed on the consent agenda, and should be separate items. Supervisor Griffith stated opposition to out-of-state travel, citing the lack of benefits to Alpine County.

MOTION Mecak / SECOND Woodrow approving Out of State Travel for Angela Slais, Public Health Deputy Director, to attend the National Association of City and County Health Officials (NACCHO) annual Preparedness Summit in San Antonio, Tx April 29-May 2 2025. - Public Health Deputy Director .

**AYES: Charles Dobson, Irvin Jim, Terry Woodrow, Evan Mecak;
NO: David Griffith;
MOTION PASSED.**

8. PUBLIC HEARINGS

None

9. REGULAR AGENDA - UNFINISHED BUSINESS

9.1. Continued discussion and possible direction to staff regarding a letter to Senator Marie Alvarado-Gil stating issues of importance to Alpine County Board of Supervisors - Assistant CAO to Personnel and Risk Management

Supervisor Woodrow commented that corrections and formatting errors suggested at the last meeting were not reflected in the agenda packet. Supervisor Woodrow specifically noted that the wording of the Monitor Pass and closing statement needed revision, and additions of carbon copies. Supervisor Mecak commented on typos,

sentence structure, and order of items to be corrected in the letter. Supervisor Griffith recommended rewording details related to Monitor Pass in the letter. Supervisor Mecak opposed the inclusion of Monitor Pass in the letter, citing unsafe weather conditions for first responders. The Board consensus was to wait for the letter to be fully revised and review the letter at the next scheduled Board meeting.

10. REGULAR AGENDA - NEW BUSINESS

- 10.1. Consider an agreement between the County of Alpine and the Alpine County Historical Society for the operation of the Alpine County Museum for up to a twelve (12) year term; Authorize the Chair of the Board to execute the most recent draft Agreement submitted after judicially sponsored settlement conferences if the Historical Society executes the Agreement by March 15, 2025; 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 history of the lawsuit and negotiations taking place with the Historical Society and Alpine County. McKee stated the parties had a tentative agreement, with a plan to dismiss the lawsuit, but minor changes were needed to finalize the agreement. McKee stated the County submitted a draft agreement and the proposal was declined by the Historical Society, who submitted a new draft agreement for the County to consider. McKee explained options for the Board to act on related to the draft agreement, authorize further negotiations, provide alternative direction, or take no action.

County Clerk Teola Tremayne announced a receipt of a letter from the Historical Society that was distributed to the Board. In response to Markleeville resident Bill Young's question related to a future meeting date, McKee stated the upcoming court hearing was set for February 26, 2025, for a settlement hearing on record and dismiss the lawsuit. Alpine County resident Katherine Rakow commented on hope of a quick resolution and voiced support for the draft agreement to be made public. Markleeville resident Angela Franklin commented on hope for a quick resolution and voiced support for the draft agreement being made public. McKee stated that the decision to make the draft agreement public was up to the Board's discretion and the Historical Society. Markleeville resident Beverly Crawford voiced support for the draft agreement being made public. Markleeville resident Rich Harvey voiced support for the draft agreement being made public.

Supervisor Griffith stated the lawsuit process was taking too long and costing the county too much funding. Supervisor Mecak stated that misinformation was out in the community and stated details surrounding the settlement conference. Supervisor Jim commented on the details surrounding the settlement conference and voiced support for the draft agreement being made public. Supervisor Mecak commented on the history of the draft agreements and the Historical Society's new draft. Supervisor Woodrow suggested waiting until the scheduled meeting on February 26, 2025, to act.

Markleeville resident Clint Celio voiced support for the draft agreement being made public.

McKee stated the request for releasing agreements to the public would not have to be formal but would be decided at the next hearing. Markleeville resident Angela Franklin commented on the hope of a quick resolution. In response to Harvey's question related to the total costs of the lawsuit, Supervisor Griffith stated roughly \$80,000. Young commented on support for the County to make the draft agreement public.

Supervisor Mecak stated willingness to send copies of the lawsuit to anyone inquiring. The Board's consensus was to wait until after the court hearing to decide action.

10.2. 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

USDA Forest Service Director Matt Zumstein reported on past activities related to issuing citations and pile burning. Zumstein stated funding was an obstacle to completing tasks and operations. Zumstein reported a loss of recreation employees that impacted staffing. Supervisor Griffith commented that cutbacks would affect recreation and tourism.

10.3. Discussion and possible direction to staff regarding the solicitation of State and Federal Earmark Projects with congressional representatives - Economic Development Director

Economic Development Director JT Chevallier introduced the background of Federal Earmark Projects. Community Development Director Sam Booth shared a list of projects related to road improvements.

Supervisor Griffith stated opposition to repaving of Diamond Valley road. In response to Supervisor Griffith's question related to grant funding for Pleasant Valley Road, Booth stated grant funding was possible due to partnership with the Forest Service. In response to Supervisor Griffith's question related to the Bear Valley town lift feasibility study, Chevallier stated that the project's purpose was to assess transit needs first before implementing a study. In response to Supervisor Griffith's question related to the cost of rebuilding Turtle Rock Park, Booth stated an estimate and breakdown would be available soon. Chevallier stated projects were chosen to appeal to federal level funding. Supervisor Griffith opposed projects related to the Middle Mile.

In response to a question related to fixing drainage in the library parking lot, Booth stated repairs were made. Supervisor Griffith commented on the importance of addressing the Bear Valley fire station on the upper level. Supervisor Woodrow commented on adding discussion related to the Bear Valley ski lift partnership with Bear Valley Ski Resort. Supervisor Mecak commented on adding improvement projects related to Bryan Way. Supervisor Jim stated support for project related to Diamond Valley Road.

In response to Supervisor Griffith's question related to producing cost for road improvement to Diamond Valley Road, Booth stated estimate would be provided. Supervisor Woodrow requested a status update on the project list before upcoming visit to Congressman Kiley's office.

10.4. Discussion and possible direction to staff regarding a letter to Congressman Kevin Kiley urging U.S House Leadership to reauthorize the Secure Rural Schools (SRS) Program-Director of Finance

Director of Finance Klaus Leitenbauer summarized the purpose of creating the letter to Congressman Kiley. Supervisor Woodrow stated revisions related to percentages of land, dates, punctuation, and names to include for sending copies. Supervisor Mecak stated the letter was poorly written and recommended using AI tool Copilot to assist. Supervisor Griffith stated support for the letter as amended and reiterated the importance of submitting the letter in a timely manner.

School Board Member Clint Celio stated support for sending the letter. County Counsel Charles McKee clarified that the letter would be amended with the judgment of staff to rewrite language.

MOTION Griffith / SECOND Woodrow approving a letter to Congressman Kevin Kiley urging U.S House Leadership to reauthorize the Secure Rural Schools (SRS) Program-Director of Finance as amended.

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

10.5. Request adoption of a resolution approving Mid-Year 2024-2025 Budget Adjustments. - Director of Budget and Procurement

Director of Budget and Procurement Matt McSorley introduced a resolution approving Mid-Year Budget Adjustments to the Board. Director of Finance Leitenbauer gave an in-depth presentation of county's financial budgets. The presentation highlighted Alpine County's unaudited income statement of revenues and expenses for Fiscal Year 2024.

Leitenbauer explained the County's major funds: General Fund, Road Fund, Mental Health Services Act, Realignment fund, Social Services, and Other Governmental. Leitenbauer detailed the balance of the Road Fund and upcoming funds movement to and from the Road Fund to maintain a positive balance. Leitenbauer explained the purpose of the Realignment fund and plans for the social services fund to move into the Other Governmental fund. Leitenbauer explained that the fund balance for the end of the year was \$38 million, with \$6.9 million of that in the General Fund, and \$3.2 million of the General Funds reserved for Trindel insurance claims.

The presentation highlighted General Fund revenues from taxes, licenses/permits, fines, use of money and property, intergovernmental with a total of \$12 million. Leitenbauer explained that Federal grants were received, and \$741,000 of Local Assistance and Tribal Consistency Fund (LATCF) grant money received was unassigned to be used for one-time expenditures. The presentation highlighted expenditures, with significant activity occurring in Public Protection. Leitenbauer stated the budget was created based on full staff occupancy with savings when vacancies occur. Leitenbauer stated a \$670,000 loss in the General Fund but a 2-million-dollar equity gain as a whole.

Leitenbauer explained the general fund balance of \$6.5 million, and the reasons for approximately \$1 million in adjustments. Leitenbauer explained staffing decisions made in the past to increase staff salaries and benefits. Leitenbauer explained AB8 Factor calculations and tax revenues, and the increase of \$6.6 million to \$7.7 million

over a 3-year period. Leitenbauer explained the breakdown in tax apportionments within the County.

McSorley presented information on resolutions for items which needed additional appropriation and stated the Financial Director had authority to move money within budget units. Leitenbauer clarified the fund movement displayed in the resolution. McSorley explained the details and purpose of the county-wide cost plan. Leitenbauer commented on a past meeting with department heads and reported that staff understood and supported the finance department's actions. Supervisor Griffith commented that in the past, County costs were not reimbursed for overhead costs related to federal and state programs, but according to the current report, County costs were covered. McSorley stated that the Realignment Fund covers the cost of programs that were not fully reimbursed. Supervisor Mecak commented that current spending was not sustainable and wanted a quarterly report on the room tax. Leitenbauer stated that a report would be made available by the Assistant Treasurer Tax Collector starting at the beginning of May.

MOTION Woodrow / SECOND Mecak adopting Resolution No. R2025-05 Mid-Year 2024-2025 Budget Adjustments.

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

10.6. Consider the adoption of a resolution to implement a temporary hiring freeze to optimize resource allocation and maintain financial stability. - Director of Finance

Director of Finance Klaus Leitenbauer introduced the purpose of the resolution to the Board and clarified that the freeze in hiring would be temporary while County funding stabilizes. Supervisor Griffith stated the need for a list of critical positions before approving the resolution. Supervisor Mecak stated section four should be removed from the resolution. Leitenbauer stated the list of critical positions was under review by the administration and needed clarification considering the scheduled interviews. County Counsel McKee stated administrators should be handling the operations, and the Board should be handling policy. Supervisor Griffith stated concerns regarding the hiring freeze and requested a list of staff hired under exception, with confirmation of funding available for hiring.

In response to Leitenbauer related to moving forward with the scheduled interviews, Supervisor Dobson and Supervisor Mecak both stated that canceling the interviews would be an unfavorable appearance for the County. McKee recommended a form be submitted by department heads that justified the need to hire.

Supervisor Mecak clarified public concern related to a Board member's increased salary during a hiring freeze. McKee stated the Board's salary was set by ordinance, a percentage of a judge's salary and the Board did not take action to increase; the salary increase was set by the state. Leitenbauer stated that salary increases were based on revenues since current revenues slowed down, a hiring freeze was appropriate.

Supervisor Mecak requested a list of the critical positions by the next meeting. In response to Alpine County resident Katherine Rakow's question related to how long the hiring freeze would be in effect, Leitenbauer stated the freeze would be at the discretion of the board, with a specific timeline known after the 2025-2026 budget was created.

MOTION Mecak / SECOND Griffith adopting Resolution No. R2025-06 to implement a temporary hiring freeze to optimize resource allocation and maintain financial stability.

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.

13. ADJOURNMENT

The Board adjourned to the next regular meeting of Tuesday, March 4, 2025, at 9:00 AM at the Alpine County Government Center, Markleeville, California.

Charles Dobson
Charles Dobson (Mar 4, 2025 15:20 PST)

ATTEST:

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

Teola L. Tremayne

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