

State of California, County of Siskiyou

Board of Supervisors Minutes, March 7, 2023

The Honorable Board of Supervisors of Siskiyou County, California, met in regular session this 7th day of March 2023; there being present Supervisors Brandon Criss, Michael N. Kobseff, Nancy Ogren, Ray A. Haupt and Ed Valenzuela, County Administrator Angela Davis, County Counsel Edward J. Kiernan, and County Clerk and ex-Officio Clerk of the Board of Supervisors Laura Bynum by Deputy County Clerk Wendy Winningham.

The meeting was called to order by Chair Valenzuela. Pursuant to AB23, the Clerk announced that the Board members receive no additional compensation for sitting as members of the Siskiyou County Flood Control and Water Conservation District, County Service Area #3 and County Service Area #4. Supervisor Ogren led in the salute to the flag of the United States of America.

Invocation - Siskiyou County Sheriff Chaplain Robert Mason provided an invocation.

Presentations from the Public

There were no presentations from the public received.

Appointments - County Clerk - Appointment of five members to the scheduled vacancies on the Local Childcare Planning Council, for one Consumer, two Providers and two Public Agency representatives, for terms ending February 28, 2025. Daintry Zarzynski, Doreen Healy and Hilary Oiler appointed; remaining vacancies continued.

Deputy County Clerk Wendy Winningham provided an overview of the request, advising that incumbent Daintry Zarzynski was interested in reappointment. In addition, Ms. Winningham advised that the Local Childcare Planning Council (LPC) recommended reappointment of Daintry Zarzynski and Doreen Healy (Providers) and appointment of Hilary Oiler (Public Agency representative) to replace Sarah Boegener who was not interested.

It was moved by Supervisor Criss, seconded by Supervisor Kobseff and carried, following a roll call vote with Supervisors Haupt, Kobseff, Criss, Ogren and Valenzuela voting YES to appoint Daintry Zarzynski, Doreen Healy and Hilary Oiler to the scheduled vacancies on the Local Childcare Planning Council, for terms ending February 28, 2025.

The remaining vacancies were continued to a later date.

Consent Agenda – Approved.

At Supervisor Haupt's request, item 5D, County Administration/County Counsel's addendum to general retainer agreement with Olson Remcho, LLP for the Fairchild Medical Center litigation matter was pulled from the consent agenda for discussion.

It was moved by Supervisor Kobseff, seconded by Supervisor Ogren and carried, following a roll call vote with Supervisors Haupt, Kobseff, Criss, Ogren and Valenzuela voting YES, that the following consent agenda is approved, and the Chair and/or clerk authorized to execute/record any necessary documents:

County Administration

Approve the letter to Malin Community Service Club and authorize the Chair to sign.

County Administration

Approve the second addendum to the Liebert Cassidy Whitmore agreement increasing compensation \$100,000.00 for a total NTE \$450,000.00 through the term of the agreement, June 30, 2024.

County Administration

Approve the documents included in this agenda item, authorize the Chair to sign, and authorize staff to submit the documentation for the implementation of the LATA Grant.

Continued...

Consent Agenda – (continued)

District Attorney

Approve agreement between Siskiyou County District Attorney and Language Line for language translation services through June 30, 2026, with compensation as a Rate .01.

Health and Human Services - Behavioral Health Division

Approve and authorize the Chair to sign the Data Sharing Agreement between Siskiyou County Health & Human Services Agency, Behavioral Health Division, and Partnership Healthplan of California.

Local Childcare Planning Council

Approve Annual Certification Statement Regarding Composition of LPC Membership.

Transfer of Funds - County Administrator - \$100,000. Resolution 23-39 adopted.

Transfer of Funds - District Attorney - Public Administrator - \$2,800. Resolution 23-40 adopted.

Transfer of Funds - Emergency Services - \$934. Resolution 23-41 adopted.

Transfer of Funds - Risk Management - Liability - \$100,000. Resolution 23-42 adopted.

Transfer of Funds - Sheriff - \$22,000. Resolution 23-43 adopted.

County Administration/County Counsel - Approve addendum to general retainer agreement with Olson Remcho, LLP for the Fairchild Medical Center litigation matter, increasing the agreement by \$100,000 to a total not to exceed \$390,000. Approved.

This item was pulled from the consent agenda at Supervisor Haupt's request. Supervisor Haupt recused himself from consideration of this item.

In response to Supervisor Kobseff regarding the Fairchild Medical Center litigation, County Counsel Edward J. Kiernan summarized the litigation's history and associated County general fund costs.

It was moved by Supervisor Valenzuela, seconded by Supervisor Criss and carried, following a roll call vote with Supervisors Kobseff, Criss, Ogren and Valenzuela voting YES and Supervisor Haupt RECUSED, to approve the Fifth Addendum to the Professional Services Retention Agreement with Olson Remcho, LLP, that increases compensation \$100,000 to a total NTE \$390,000.00.

Community Development - Discussion, direction and possible action re request to re-ratify Proclamation of Local Health Emergency by the County Health Officer associated with the health and safety issues caused by the destruction of structures from the 2022 McKinney, Mill and Mountain wildland fires for another 30 days. Emergency Proclamation re-ratified for another 30 days.

Community Development Director Rick Dean provided an overview of the request to continue the Proclamation of Local Health Emergency by the County Health Officer associated with the health and safety issues caused by the destruction of structures from the 2022 McKinney, Mill and Mountain wildland fires for another 30 days to allow the County and others agencies to finish cleanup efforts in areas impacted by the 2022 McKinney, Mill and Mountain wildland fires.

It was moved by Supervisor Haupt, seconded by Supervisor Kobseff and carried, following a roll call vote with Supervisors Haupt, Kobseff, Criss, Ogren and Valenzuela voting YES, to re-ratify for an additional 30 days the subject proclamation of local health emergency that was proclaimed by the Siskiyou County Health Officer associated with the health and safety issues caused by the destruction of structures from the 2022 McKinney, Mill and Mountain wildland fires.

County Administration - Discussion, direction, and possible action re second reading of an Ordinance amending Sections 2-8.03 and 2-8.07 of Chapter 8 of Title II of the Siskiyou County Code related to the purchasing agent and the purchase of personal property and goods and services. Second reading approved; Ordinance 23-01 adopted.

Deputy County Administrator Elizabeth Nielsen provided an overview of the request, advising that there had been no changes to the draft ordinance since the first reading. Continued...

County Administration – (continued)

County Counsel Edward J. Kiernan advised that, although this item was originally scheduled as a public hearing at the time the first reading was approved, a public hearing was not necessary. Mr. Kiernan further advised that the recommended motion included a request to vacate the public hearing in addition to approving the ordinance second reading.

It was moved by Supervisor Kobseff, seconded by Supervisor Ogren to vacate the public hearing and instead conduct the second reading as part of this regular public meeting; waive, adopt, and approve the second reading of the ordinance; adopt the ordinance as presented. Following a roll call vote with Supervisors Haupt, Kobseff, Criss, Ogren and Valenzuela voting YES, the motion to adopt Ordinance 23-01 carried unanimously.

Health and Human Services - Social Services Division - Presentation re critical updates to the CalFresh (Food Stamp) and Medi-Cal Programs. Presentation and discussion only.

Health and Human Services Agency Director Sarah Collard and Social Services Division Director Trish Barbieri appeared before the Board and presented a powerpoint presentation concerning the CalFresh (Food Stamp) and Medi-Cal Programs. Ms. Barbieri shared concerns regarding the significant decrease in CalFresh benefits that were previously increased due to the COVID pandemic (emergency allotments) had ended due to the passage of the Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2023. Ms. Barbieri provided an overview of the anticipated negative impacts of the reduced benefits on recipients and the local economy.

In response to Supervisor Valenzuela, Ms. Barbieri advised that approximately 25% of the County's population would be affected.

Ms. Barbieri and Ms. Collard continued the powerpoint, including an overview of various statistics related to the CalFresh program, the outreach being provided by the State and the County regarding the discontinuance of those benefits and the lack of the ability for recipients to appeal the decreased benefits.

Discussion followed between members of the Board, Ms. Barbieri and Ms. Collard regarding the increase in the number of recipients countywide and the potential negative impacts associated with increasing costs (i.e. fuel, food, transportation).

Continuing the powerpoint, Ms. Barbieri and Ms. Collard provided an overview of the impacts associated with recent legislation on the Medi-Cal program, advising that recipients would now be required to reapply for the benefits (the renewal process had been on 'hold' during the COVID pandemic). Ms. Barbieri provided an overview of the Department's plans to contact recipients in order for them to complete the redetermination (renewal) process and summarized the associated redetermination timeline and impacts to the Department's staff.

Further discussion followed regarding the process for recipients to utilize the Medi-Cal system, the Department's readiness level/plan to address the renewals, anticipated staff trainings, impacts to the County's homeless population and a request for information related to certain recipient statistics (i.e. age group).

Probation Department - Presentation of a Resolution honoring Assistant Chief Probation Officer Jennifer Villani on the occasion of her retirement. Presentation only.

Supervisor Kobseff read the Resolution honoring Assistant Chief Probation Officer Jennifer Villani on the occasion of her retirement into the record.

Chair Probation Officer Mike Coley appeared before the Board, sharing his appreciation for Ms. Villani and all of her work. In addition, Mr. Coley read a Proclamation from Congressman Doug LaMalfa honoring Ms. Villani upon her retirement and presented her with the Proclamation.

Deputy Chief Probation Officer James Roach, Supervising Probation Officer Stacey Jackson, Sheriff Jeremiah Larue and member of the Board congratulated Ms. Villani on her retirement.

Ms. Villani thanked the Board and County staff for the honor.

Members of the Board presented Ms. Villani with the Resolution.

Office of Emergency Services - Presentation of an update re Office of Emergency Services' current operations and activities. Presentation and discussion only.

Office of Emergency Services (OES) Director Bryan Schenone appeared before the Board and presented a powerpoint presentation concerning the OES Department's operations and activities. Mr. Schenone summarized the OES Department's mission statement and the Cost Appropriateness Risk Readiness Legality (CARRL) method used by the Department with regard to fiscal responsibility. Mr. Schenone additionally summarized the OES 2022 grants and grant cycle and provided an overview of the various alerts and warnings utilized by the Department. Mr. Schenone provided an overview of activities related to emergency preparedness and the 2022 emergency responses and associated recovery efforts.

Discussion followed between members of the Board and Mr. Schenone regarding various response/recovery activities along the Klamath River/Highway 96, the use of the ZoneHaven and CodRED alert systems, the impacts associated with the dwindling number of volunteers available for emergency and fire services and recent development of a local Voluntary Organizations Active in Disaster (VOAD).

General County Fire - Presentation of an update regarding current General County Fire operations and activities. Presentation and discussion only.

County Fire Warden Darryl Laws appeared before the Board and presented a powerpoint presentation regarding the Siskiyou County General Fire/CalFire Agreement, which was established in 1978. Mr. Laws summarized the current agreement, including the two Firefighter, two Communication Operator and one Office Technician positions based in the Yreka Interagency Command Center and at the Hornbrook Amador Station provided in the agreement. Mr. Laws additionally summarized the fiscal impact of the agreement, including an overview of cost savings to the County and revenue received from rental of certain County equipment needed during fire season.

Discussion followed between members of the Board and Mr. Laws regarding concerns of longer response time to certain areas of the County (i.e. along Highway 96/Happy Camp) from the Hornbrook Station and the need to research the history of utilizing two Firefighter positions at the Hornbrook Station.

Mr. Laws provided an update regarding the status of various County Service Area #4 (CSA4) fire departments/stations (i.e. Lake Shastina, Hammond Ranch, Mt. Shasta Vista) and the local CalFire stations, including an overview of various vegetation management projects and grant funding opportunities.

Further discussion followed regarding the difficulty associated with finding people to volunteer/serve at local fire department/stations, the mutual aid program and how it operates, varying models for operation of local fire departments/stations, the need to engage the Federal agencies (i.e. Forest Service) regarding their response to emergencies and the need to research the efforts to coordinate with local firesafe councils.

Appointments - County Clerk - Appointment of one scheduled vacancy on the Behavioral Health Services Board, with a term ending December 31, 2025. Paul Contreras appointed.

Deputy County Clerk Wendy Winningham provided an overview of the request, advising that the Behavioral Health Services Board recommended appointment of Paul Contreras to fill the vacancy.

It was moved by Supervisor Ogren, seconded by Supervisor Criss and carried, following a roll call vote with Supervisors Haupt, Kobseff, Criss, Ogren and Valenzuela voting YES, to appoint Paul Contreras to the scheduled vacancy on the Behavioral Health Services Board, with a term ending December 31, 2025.

Appointments - County Clerk - Appointment of one unscheduled vacancy on the Behavioral Health Services Board, with a term ending December 31, 2023. Continued to a later date.

Deputy County Clerk Wendy Winningham provided an overview of the request, advising that the Clerk's Office had not received any letters of interest in filling the vacancy.

This item was continued to a later date.

Appointments - County Clerk - Appointment of one member to the scheduled vacancy on the Mt. Shasta Fire Protection District, with a term ending December 4, 2026. No action taken.

Deputy County Clerk Wendy Winningham provided an overview of the request to fill a vacancy on the Mt. Shasta Fire Protection District. Continued...

Appointments - County Clerk – (continued)

Ms. Winningham advised that the District was unable to make an appointment to fill a vacancy within their allotted timeframe and that this was the only opportunity for the Board of Supervisors to make an appointment. Ms. Winningham further advised that neither the Clerk's Office nor the District had received any letters of interest in serving on the District Board.

Brief discussion followed between members of the Board and Ms. Winningham regarding the process to make an appointment in the future.

No action was taken with regard to this item.

Minute Approval - February 21 and 28, 2023. Approved.

It was moved by Supervisor Kobseff, seconded by Supervisor Haupt and carried, following a roll call vote with Supervisors Haupt, Kobseff, Criss, Ogren and Valenzuela voting YES, to approve the February 21, 2023 minutes as presented.

It was moved by Supervisor Kobseff, seconded by Supervisor Haupt and carried, following a roll call vote with Supervisors Haupt, Kobseff, Ogren and Valenzuela voting YES, and Supervisor Criss ABSTAINING to approve the February 28, 2023 minutes as presented.

Closed Session - Conference with legal counsel, existing litigation pursuant to Government Code §54956.9(d)(1), four cases, conference with legal counsel, anticipated litigation pursuant to Government Code §54956.9, initiation of litigation pursuant to Government Code §54956.9(d)(4), one case, commenced at 11:30a.m., concluded at 12:23p.m., with action taken.

Report On Closed Session

County Counsel Edward J. Kiernan announced that closed session concluded at 12:23p.m., with the following reportable action taken:

With regard to item 13D, Conference with legal counsel, existing litigation pursuant to Government Code §54956.9(d)(1), name of case: Renee Klep, et al., v. County of Siskiyou, et al., United States District Court, Eastern District of California, Sacramento Division, Case No. 2:23-cv-00274, Mr. Kiernan advised that Supervisor Criss made the motion, Supervisor Kobseff seconded it and approved 5/0 to hire counsel to represent the County in that suit.

With regard to item 13A, Conference with legal counsel, existing litigation pursuant to Government Code §54956.9(d)(1), name of case: John Doe 1, et al., v. Humboldt County, et al., Humboldt County Superior Court, Case No. 22-cv-01700, Mr. Kiernan advised that a motion was made by Supervisor Kobseff and seconded by Supervisor Haupt and approved by the Board 5/0 to enter into a joint defense agreement with outside counsel to defend that suit.

Board and Staff Reports

Supervisor Haupt advised of his attendance at a California Fish and Game meeting with Supervisor Kobseff.

Supervisor Kobseff reported on his attendance at a Family Farm Alliance meeting in Reno NV with Supervisor Valenzuela.

Supervisor Criss advised of attendance at a California State Association of Counties (CSAC) board meeting in Sacramento.

Supervisor Valenzuela reported on his attendance at the CSAC board meeting and a Sierra Nevada Conservancy meeting.

Adjournment - There being no further business to come before the Board of Supervisors, the meeting was adjourned.

Attest:
Laura Bynum, County Clerk

Ed Valenzuela, Chair

By: _____
Deputy