

State of California, County of Siskiyou

Board of Supervisors Minutes, June 29, 2021

The Honorable Board of Supervisors of Siskiyou County, California, met in special session this 29th day of June 2021; there being present Supervisors Michael N. Kobseff, 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 Winingham. Supervisor Nancy Ogren was absent. Pursuant to California Governor Newsom's Executive Order N-08-21, June 11, 2021, Supervisor Brandon Criss participated/attended via teleconference phone from an off-site location.

The meeting was called to order by Chair Haupt. Chair Haupt led in the salute to the flag of the United States of America.

Off-agenda item – County Counsel – Resolution urging citizens throughout the county to refrain from using fireworks during this period of very high fire danger. Added to the agenda. Resolution 21-91 adopted.

Supervisor Haupt requested the addition of an urgency item concerning the use of fireworks within the County for the upcoming Fourth of July.

It was moved by Supervisor Haupt, seconded by Supervisor Kobseff and carried, following a roll call vote with Supervisors Criss, Kobseff, Valenzuela and Haupt voting YES, and Supervisor Ogren ABSENT, to add an item not on the posted agenda with regard to a Resolution urging citizens throughout the county to refrain from using fireworks during this period of very high fire danger.

Later in the meeting, County Administrator Angela Davis distributed and summarized a Resolution urging County citizens to refrain from using fireworks during high fire danger.

Discussion followed between members of the Board, County Fire Warden Phil Anzo and County Counsel Edward J. Kiernan regarding various cities/jurisdictions that were not allowing fireworks sales due to the high fire danger, the current Lava Fire burning around the City of Weed and community of Lake Shastina, and the need to consider an ordinance banning illegal fireworks in the County.

It was moved by Supervisor Valenzuela, seconded by Supervisor Kobseff and carried, following a roll call vote with Supervisors Criss, Kobseff, Valenzuela and Haupt voting YES and Supervisor Ogren ABSENT to adopt Resolution 21-91 urging citizens throughout the county to refrain from using fireworks during this period of very high fire danger.

Off-agenda item – County Administration – Resolution proclaiming a local emergency and requesting that the Governor proclaim a State of Emergency (Lava Fire). Added to the agenda. Resolution 21-89 adopted.

Following a brief overview of the request from County Counsel Edward J. Kiernan, it was moved by Supervisor Kobseff, seconded by Supervisor Haupt and carried, following a roll call vote with Supervisors Criss, Kobseff, Valenzuela and Haupt voting YES, and Supervisor Ogren ABSENT, to add an item not on the posted agenda with regard to a Resolution proclaiming a local emergency and requesting that the Governor proclaim a State of Emergency (Lava Fire).

Later in the meeting, County Administrator Angela Davis distributed and summarized a Resolution proclaiming a local emergency and requesting that the Governor proclaim a State of Emergency (Lava Fire). Additionally, Ms. Davis recommended revising language in the Resolution with regard to the current number of acres burning (15,000 versus 14,400) and the fire containment percentage (5% versus 20%), due to updated information received during the meeting.

Discussion followed between members of the Board and Ms. Davis regarding the official start/origin date for the Lava Fire (June 24 versus June 25) and the County's receipt of Fire Management Assistance Grant (FMAG) notification from the Governor's Press Office.

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Off-agenda item – County Administration – (continued)

It was moved by Supervisor Kobseff, seconded by Supervisor Haupt and carried, following a roll call vote with Supervisors Criss, Kobseff, Valenzuela and Haupt voting YES, and Supervisor Ogren ABSENT, to adopt Resolution 21-89 proclaiming a local emergency and requesting that the Governor proclaim a State of Emergency (Lava Fire), revised to indicate 15,000 acres burning, 5% containment and the start/origin date of Thursday, June 24, 2021.

Off-agenda item – County Administration – Resolution requiring that a Unified Command be composed between United States Forest Service, Cal Fire and the County of Siskiyou, to respond to the Lava Fire. Added to the agenda. Resolution 21-90 adopted.

Following a brief overview of the request from County Counsel Edward J. Kiernan, it was moved by Supervisor Kobseff, seconded by Supervisor Haupt and carried, following a roll call vote with Supervisors Criss, Kobseff, Valenzuela and Haupt voting YES, and Supervisor Ogren ABSENT, to add an item not on the posted agenda with regard to a Resolution requiring that a Unified Command be composed between United States Forest Service, Cal Fire and the County of Siskiyou, to respond to the Lava Fire.

Later in the meeting, County Administrator Angela Davis distributed and summarized a Resolution requiring that a Unified Command be composed between United States Forest Service, Cal Fire and the County of Siskiyou, to respond to the Lava Fire, advising that a unified command was currently in place for the Lava Fire.

Additionally, Ms. Davis recommended revising language in the Resolution with regard to the current number of acres burning (15,000 versus 14,400) and the fire containment percentage (5% versus 20%), due to updated information received during the meeting.

Following discussion between members of the Board, Ms. Davis and County Counsel Edward J. Kiernan regarding the need to consider a Resolution requesting a unified command for current and future fires burning in the County, the benefits associated with a unified command to fight local wildfires and the official start/origin date for the Lava Fire (June 24 versus June 25).

It was moved by Supervisor Kobseff, seconded by Supervisor Haupt and carried, following a roll call vote with Supervisors Criss, Kobseff, Valenzuela and Haupt voting YES, and Supervisor Ogren ABSENT, to adopt Resolution 21-90 requiring that a Unified Command be composed between United States Forest Service, Cal Fire and the County of Siskiyou, to respond to the Lava Fire, revised to indicate 15,000 acres burning, 5% containment and the start/origin date of Thursday, June 24, 2021.

Closed Session - Conference with real property negotiators pursuant to Government Code §54956.8, conference with legal counsel, existing litigation pursuant to Government Code §54956.9(a), one case, commenced at 8:35a.m., concluded at 9:06a.m., with no action taken.

Report On Closed Session

County Counsel Edward J. Kiernan announced that closed session concluded at 9:06a.m., with no reportable action taken.

Presentations from the Public

County Fire Warden Phil Anzo appeared before the Board and provided an update regarding the Lava Fire burning north of the City of Weed and near the community of Lake Shastina. Mr. Anzo provided information regarding other wildfires burning in the County.

Discussion followed between members of the Board and Mr. Anzo regarding various statistics related to the fire's behavior, State and Federal firefighting resources and the current status of evacuation orders. Further discussion followed regarding Federal and State firefighting duties/responsibilities during a Unified Command and public outreach efforts being made.

Public Requests - Mt. Shasta Fire Protection District - Discussion, direction and possible action re request to withdraw Mt. Shasta Fire Protection District funds from the Siskiyou County Treasury, effective July 1, 2021 or possible later date. Approved.

Project Coordinator Elizabeth Nielsen provided an overview of the request for the Mt. Shasta Fire Protection District to withdraw funds from the Siskiyou County Treasury.

Discussion followed between members of the Board, Ms. Nielsen and County Administrator Angela Davis regarding the request, the anticipated process for the District to administer the funding, and the need for additional information regarding the County's review/audit processes related to the District's tax revenue.

It was moved by Supervisor Valenzuela, seconded by Supervisor Kobseff and carried, with Supervisors Criss, Kobseff, Valenzuela and Haupt voting YES, and Supervisor Ogren ABSENT to approve Mount Shasta Fire Protection District's request to exit the County Treasury, effective July 1, 2021, or a later date if it is determined that the commitments made by the Fire Protection District cannot be met by July 1, 2021.

County Counsel / County Administration - Discussion, direction and possible action re Resolution approving the option to purchase and purchase agreement for 13.9 acres of surplus property located at the intersection of Foothill Drive and Sierra Vista Drive (APN #053-651-820), in the City of Yreka pursuant to Government Code Section 25539.4; authorizing the Chair to execute same; authorizing the County Administrative Officer to execute all necessary and relevant documents to complete the transaction; and declaring the property exempt surplus property upon sale pursuant to Government Code Section 25539.4, with Rural Communities Housing Development Corporation to provide affordable housing. Resolution 21-88 adopted.

County Counsel Edward J. Kiernan provided an overview of the request, advising that should sale of the property be approved, the Rural Communities Housing Development Corporation (RCHDC), would have the option to purchase the property for development of affordable housing.

It was moved by Supervisor Valenzuela and seconded by Supervisor Haupt to adopt the resolution approving the Option to Purchase and Purchase Agreement, authorizing the chair to sign it, declaring the property Exempt Surplus Property upon sale pursuant to Government Code Section 25539.4, and authorizing the CAO or her designee to execute all subsequent necessary documents to complete the transaction.

In response to Supervisor Kobseff regarding the loan associated with development of the affordable housing, Health and Human Services Agency Director Sarah Collard advised that RCHDC representative Elizabeth Hull was available via teleconference phone for questions.

Pursuant to California Governor Newsom's Executive Order N-08-21, June 11, 2021, participation in presentations from the public by various members of the public was provided via teleconference phone.

Discussion followed between Supervisor Kobseff and Ms. Hull regarding the processes associated with the County receiving loan payments (including interest) from the developer, funding that would be earmarked for future affordable housing projects, funding that could be utilized to pay staffing costs and the development project's 55-year term (the County would be required to encumber the funding from the affordable housing project for 55 years).

In response to Supervisor Kobseff, Ms. Collard advised that the Health and Human Services Agency currently has sufficient staff to handle the project.

Supervisor Kobseff voiced concerns regarding the potential increase in bureaucracy related to the proposed project.

Chair Haupt called for the question and following a roll call vote with Supervisors Criss, Valenzuela and Haupt voting YES, Supervisor Kobseff voting NO and Supervisor Ogren ABSENT, the motion to adopt Resolution 21-88 carried.

County Administration - Discussion, direction and possible action re contract with Avenu Insights and Analytics, LLC to provide Information Technology services, in a total amount not to exceed \$2,044,565.04, for the term July 1, 2021 through June 30, 2024. Approved.

Following an overview of the request from County Administrator Angela Davis, it was moved by Supervisor Kobseff and seconded by Supervisor Haupt to approve and the Chair to sign the contract between Avenu Analytics and Insights and the County for IT Services.

Following a roll call vote with Supervisors Criss, Kobseff, Valenzuela and Haupt voting YES, and Supervisor Ogren ABSENT, the motion carried.

Closed Session - Conference with real property negotiators pursuant to Government Code §54956.8, conference with legal counsel, existing litigation pursuant to Government Code §54956.9(a), one case, commenced at 10:10a.m., concluded at 10:39a.m., with no action taken.

Report On Closed Session

County Counsel Edward J. Kiernan announced that closed session concluded at 10:39a.m., with no reportable action taken.

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

Attest:
Laura Bynum, County Clerk

Ray A. Haupt, Chair

By: _____
Deputy