

State of California, County of Siskiyou

Board of Supervisors Minutes, January 7, 2025

The Honorable Board of Supervisors of Siskiyou County, California, met in regular session this 7th day of January 2025; there being present Supervisors Jess Harris, Ed Valenzuela, Michael N. Kobseff, Nancy Ogren and Ray A. Haupt, County Administrator Angela Davis, County Counsel Natalie E. Reed 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 Kobseff. 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 and County Service Area 4. Supervisor Valenzuela led in the salute to the flag of the United States of America.

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

Departmental Requests - County Clerk - Ceremonial Swearing-In of County Elected Officials; Jess Harris, District 1 Supervisor; Ed Valenzuela, District 2 Supervisor; and Nancy Ogren, District 4 Supervisor.

County Clerk Laura Bynum appeared before the Board and presented the County Elected Officials to be sworn in, including Jess Harris, District 1 Supervisor; Ed Valenzuela, District 2 Supervisor; and Nancy Ogren, District 4 Supervisor. Ms. Bynum administered the Oath of Office to each.

Board of Supervisors' Requests - Board of Supervisors - Election of Chair and Vice Chair for 2025. Supervisor Ogren elected Chair and Supervisor Haupt elected Vice Chair for 2025.

It was moved by Supervisor Kobseff, seconded by Supervisor Valenzuela and carried, following a roll call vote with Supervisors Valenzuela, Haupt, Harris, Kobseff and Ogren voting YES, to elect Supervisor Ogren as Chair for 2025 and to elect Supervisor Haupt as Vice Chair for 2025.

Board of Supervisors' Requests - Board of Supervisors - Grant County Officials permission to leave the State of California and the United States during 2025. Permission granted.

It was moved by Supervisor Valenzuela, seconded by Supervisor Ogren and carried, following a roll call vote with Supervisors Valenzuela, Haupt, Harris, Kobseff and Ogren voting YES, to grant County Officials permission to leave the State of California and the United States during 2025.

Presentations from the Public

County Administrator Angela Davis introduced newly appointed Director of Information Technology Jeff Collins.

Mr. Collins appeared before the Board and briefly spoke to members of the Board regarding efforts being made to address cybersecurity.

Consent Agenda – Approved.

It was moved by Supervisor Valenzuela, seconded by Supervisor Kobseff and carried, following a roll call vote with Supervisors Valenzuela, Haupt, Harris, Kobseff and Ogren 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 comment letter to the Golden State Finance Authority and authorize the Chair to sign.

County Administration - Personnel

Adopt Resolution 25-01 amending the Siskiyou County Salary Schedule, Position Allocation List, and new classifications specifications for positions in County service effective January 19, 2025.

Continued...

Consent Agenda – (continued)

County Counsel

Approve the First Addendum to Agreement for Services with Renne Public Law Group, LLP, increasing the compensation under the contract by \$75,000, and authorize the Board Chair to execute same.

Health and Human Services – Behavioral Health Division

Approve and authorize the Chair to sign the agreement for Services between Siskiyou County Health & Human Services Agency, Behavioral Health Division, and for the term commencing October 21, 2024 through June 30, 2027.

Health and Human Services – Behavioral Health Division

Approve and authorize the Chair to sign the Contract for Services between Siskiyou County Health & Human Services Agency, Behavioral Health Division, and California Mental Health Services Authority for the term of January 1, 2022 to June 30, 2025.

Health and Human Services - Social Services Division

Approve and the Chair sign the Contract between the Siskiyou County HHSA, Social Services Division and Canon Solutions America, Inc. for the term January 1, 2025 through December 31, 2029 with a not to exceed amount of \$193,980.06.

Community Development Department - Presentation of 2024 year-end updates for the Community Development Department, including the Planning, Environmental Health and Building Divisions. Presentations and discussion only.

Community Development Director Rick Dean appeared before the Board and provided a brief overview of the request to present updates on the various divisions within the Community Development Department. Mr. Dean advised that, although the year had its challenges, including an arson fire at the Community Development office building, the Department's staff provided services for the public.

Mr. Dean presented a powerpoint regarding the Community Development Department's financial overview, including an expense versus revenue evaluation for each the Building and Planning Divisions and the percentage of General Fund funding that subsidizes those and the percentage of Division costs that are covered by current permit and other fees and realignment funds for the Environmental Health Division. Mr. Dean summarized the Department's financial goals, including possible fee increases to lower the General Fund subsidy and provide stability and distributed a 13-page powerpoint for the Building Division update.

Deputy Director of Planning Hailey Lang appeared before the Board and presented a powerpoint regarding a review of the Planning Division in 2024. Ms. Lang summarized Planning's staffing levels, current and long-range Planning duties (i.e. Boundary Line Adjustments, Use Permits, Williamson Act contracts and General Plan Amendments, to name a few) and an overview of various statistics related to Planning Division applications and projects and Code Enforcement cases. Continuing the powerpoint, Ms. Lang provided an overview of the work being done to square away the Division's Williamson Act and Agricultural Preserve program and provided statistics related to the Surface Mining and Reclamation Act (SMARA) Program. Ms. Lang summarized the Division's upcoming activities, including the JH Ranch Planned Development Amendment, General Plan 2050 Update, ordinances needing to be updated due to the implementation of the House Element and anticipated staff training and certification opportunities.

Brief discussion followed between members of the Board and Ms. Lang regarding the County's fees for the SMARA program versus the fees the State would charge, the ongoing efforts to verify compliant Williamson Act contract holders and the anticipated timing for various ongoing projects to be brought before the Board for consideration.

Chief Building Inspector Glenn Shockency appeared before the Board and presented the powerpoint, including an overview of the Division's current staffing levels, departmental tasks, 2024 statistics related to permits issued, increased number of building inspections done, fees that were waived for rebuilding projects following recent wildfires and statistics related to plan checked permits issued and associated value.

Continued...

Community Development Department – (continued)

Continuing the powerpoint, Mr. Shockency summarized permitting totals related to single family dwellings, residential alterations, accessory buildings, commercial, electrical service and Accessory Dwelling Units (ADUs) either new or conversions. Mr. Shockency provided an overview of Building Division challenges and goal, including the impacts associated with an arson fire in the Community Development building and services being provided to wildfire victims attempting to rebuild and efforts being made to maintain permit plan check review timeframes and implement the County's pre-approved ADU plan program.

Discussion followed between members of the Board and Mr. Shockency regarding the average two-week timeframe for completing plan checks, the potential impact of new Federal/State regulations on the permitting process, expedited processes related to rebuilding from wildfires and the current staffing level for Building Inspectors.

Mr. Dean appeared before the Board and provided a powerpoint for the 2024 Environmental Health Division update, including an overview of current and historical staffing levels and statistics related to various types of inspections provided by the Division (i.e. foods, cottage foods, body art, pools and spas, etc.). Mr. Dean continued the powerpoint, including an overview of the Certified Unified Program Agency (CUPA) hazardous materials program, which included various incidents and inspections of underground storage tanks, landfills/transfer stations, emergency response, fire cleanup activities and illegal cannabis cultivation operations. Mr. Dean provided an overview of activities related to onsite sewage disposal (septic systems) and water supply (wells) and shared concerns that the State may be in the process of conducting certain land use inspections that could increase the costs to property owners.

Members of the Board thanked Mr. Dean for his Department's responses to the general public and members of the Board.

County Administration - Discussion and possible direction re specific level of County assistance to incorporated and unincorporated jurisdictions with regard to warming and/or cooling shelters in various areas of the County.

County Administrator Angela Davis provided an overview of the request to garner input from the Board with regard to possible development of a policy concerning County involvement in warming and/or cooling shelters within areas of the County. Ms. Davis advised that the County receives calls from local cities to provide County staff and/or services during extreme cold or hot weather events. Ms. Davis requested Board direction concerning a response to such calls.

In response to Supervisor Kobseff, Ms. Davis summarized County Administration's informal process to consider those types of requests in the past, including review by the Office of Emergency Services Director to determine the weather benchmarks.

Deputy Director of Social Services Division Susan Cervelli appeared before the Board. In response to Supervisor Kobseff Ms. Cervelli advised that warming/cooling shelters would be available to anyone in the community in need of the services, including unhoused members of the public.

Discussion followed between members of the Board, Ms. Davis and Ms. Cervelli regarding the process currently being utilized by County Administration following a request from a local city, safety and confidentiality concerns regarding the potential for unauthorized access to sensitive records and negative impacts to the facilities should a government building/property be used for a shelter, possible use of a mobile shelter that could be located within unincorporated areas, the inability of those in need of shelter to travel to or access a facility during winter storms and the difference between warming/cooling centers versus shelters (temporary use versus longer term use including overnight).

Director of Social Services Division Trish Barbieri appeared before the Board, advising that County staff are considered disaster service workers and that Health and Human Services Agency (HHSA) staff has participated in warming/cooling centers in the past. Ms. Barbieri summarized the process for HHSA staff to participate in the centers and provide services as needed and shared concerns regarding the impacts to staffing levels during that time.

Continued...

County Administration – (continued)

Office of Emergency Services (OES) Director Bryan Schenone appeared before the Board, advising that the County has provided cooling shelters during wildfire emergency events to provide cooling during the hottest hours but not overnight. Mr. Schenone summarized his authority with regard to operation of warming/cooling shelters or centers taking place within another jurisdiction (i.e. city), and provided an overview of the weather criteria that would need to be met prior to the need for establishment of a warming or cooling center.

Further discussion followed, including Mr. Schenone regarding the need for information regarding city duties or responsibilities during heat or cold weather events, the need to collaborate and partner with local cities/communities with regard to warming/cooling centers, the need to develop a plan outlining what and how the County would provide for warming/cooling centers in the future, which could then be presented to local cities.

Mr. Schenone shared concerns regarding the need to address public safety for staff and those utilizing those centers, which would include a law enforcement presence.

Discussion followed regarding the homeless liaison position within the Yreka Police Department funded by funds from the County and the need to develop a plan to include the process expected of the County and local cities to be brought back before the Board for adoption.

It was the consensus of the Board for the County Administrator to move forward with developing a warming/cooling center plan for future Board review and adoption.

Closed Session - Conference with labor negotiators pursuant to Government Code §54957.6, 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 11:00 a.m., concluded at 12:57 p.m., with action taken.

Report On Closed Session

County Counsel Natalie E. Reed announced that closed session concluded at 12:57 p.m., with 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: Peggy Sykora v. State of California, et al, Siskiyou County Superior Court, Case No. 23CV07392, Ms. Reed advised that it was moved by Supervisor Ogren, seconded by Supervisor Valenzuela and carried with a unanimous vote of YES to approve a settlement agreement and authorize the County CAO to execute the agreement. The terms of the settlement agreement are that the Plaintiff will dismiss the County from her suit and each party will bear their own attorneys fees and costs.

Appointments - County Clerk - Appointment of one member to the scheduled vacancy on the Happy Camp Community Services District, for a full term ending December 1, 2028 to establish a quorum. Kathy Toland appointed.

Deputy County Clerk Wendy Winningham provided an overview of the request, advising that the Clerk's Office was informed that former District Board members Kathy Toland, Tim Zink and Nicole Hokanson were interested in serving and that local resident Kaitlin Evans was interested and eligible to serve as a registered voter, residing within the District. In addition, Ms. Winningham advised that the Clerk's Office had received emails from others who expressed interest in serving. Ms. Winningham further advised that two local residents, Rita Manley King and Raymond Spence, were found to be eligible to serve.

It was moved by Supervisor Haupt, seconded by Supervisor Kobseff and carried, following a roll call vote with Supervisors Valenzuela, Haupt, Harris, Kobseff and Ogren voting YES, to appoint Kathy Toland to the scheduled vacancy on the Happy Camp Community Services District, for a full term ending December 1, 2028 to establish a quorum.

Appointments - County Clerk - Appointment of one member to the scheduled vacancy on the Happy Camp Fire Protection District, for a full term ending December 1, 2028 to establish a quorum. Justina Harrison appointed.

Deputy County Clerk Wendy Winningham provided an overview of the request, advising that the Clerk's Office received emails and/or letters of interest in serving from former District Board members Pedro Torres and Justina Harrison.

It was moved by Supervisor Haupt, seconded by Supervisor Kobseff and carried, following a roll call vote with Supervisors Valenzuela, Haupt, Harris, Kobseff and Ogren voting YES, to appoint Justina Harrison to the scheduled vacancy on the Happy Camp Fire Protection District, for a full term ending December 1, 2028 to establish a quorum.

Appointments - County Clerk - Appointment of one member to the unscheduled vacancy on the PSA 2 Area Agency on Aging Advisory Council for a four-year term effective from the date of appointment. 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 on the PSA 2 Area Agency on Aging Advisory Committee. Ms. Winningham requested that the item be continued.

Chair Ogren advised that this item was continued to a later date.

Appointments - County Clerk - Appointment of three members and three alternate members to the scheduled vacancies on the Siskiyou County Fish and Game Commission, for representatives of Supervisorial Districts 1, 2 and 4, with terms ending January 1, 2029. Paul Chapman appointed; George Steen appointed; Mike Ford appointed; remaining vacancies continued.

Deputy County Clerk Wendy Winningham provided an overview of the request, advising that the Clerk's Office received letters of interest in serving from incumbent Mike Ford for the Supervisorial District 4 position and from incumbent George Steen who was interested in serving as alternate for Supervisorial District 1 rather than delegate.

Brief discussion followed between members of the Board regarding District 2 incumbent Paul Chapman and alternate representative Steve Pigoni who had moved out of the District.

It was moved by Supervisor Valenzuela, seconded by Supervisor Kobseff and carried following a roll call vote with Supervisors Valenzuela, Haupt, Harris, Kobseff and Ogren voting YES to appoint Paul Chapman as delegate member to the scheduled vacancy on the Siskiyou County Fish and Game Commission, to represent Supervisorial District 2, for a term expiring January 1, 2029.

It was moved by Supervisor Harris, seconded by Supervisor Kobseff and carried following a roll call vote with Supervisors Valenzuela, Haupt, Harris, Kobseff and Ogren voting YES to appoint George Steen as alternate member to the scheduled vacancy on the Siskiyou County Fish and Game Commission, to represent Supervisorial District 1, for a term expiring January 1, 2029.

It was moved by Supervisor Ogren, seconded by Supervisor Kobseff and carried following a roll call vote with Supervisors Valenzuela, Haupt, Harris, Kobseff and Ogren voting YES to appoint Mike Ford as delegate member to the scheduled vacancy on the Siskiyou County Fish and Game Commission, to represent Supervisorial District 4, for a term expiring January 1, 2029.

The Chair advised that the remaining vacancies, including one delegate member and two alternate members, were continued to a later date.

Appointments - County Clerk - Appointment of three members to the scheduled vacancies on the Local Child Care Planning Council (LPC) for a Discretionary appointee, a Consumer and a Public Agency Representative, for terms ending February 28, 2025 and February 28, 2026. Tammy Jaime appointed; remaining vacancies were dropped from the agenda.

Deputy County Clerk Wendy Winningham provided an overview of the request.

Continued...

Appointments - County Clerk – (continued)

Ms. Winingham advised that the Local Child Care Planning Council (LPC) recommended appointment of Tammy Jaime to fill a vacant Discretionary Appointee position on the LPC. Ms. Winingham requested that the remaining vacancies be dropped from the agenda as those would be back before the Board in March, 2025.

It was moved by Supervisor Ogren, seconded by Supervisor Harris and carried, following a roll call vote with Supervisors Valenzuela, Haupt, Harris, Kobseff and Ogren voting YES, to appoint Tammy Jaime to the scheduled vacancy on the Local Child Care Planning Council (LPC) for a Discretionary Appointee, for a term ending February 28, 2026.

Appointments - County Clerk - Appointment of three members to the scheduled vacancies on the Siskiyou County Law Library Advisory Board, for one year terms ending December 31, 2026. John Quinn appointed; remaining vacancies continued.

Deputy County Clerk Wendy Winingham provided an overview of the request, advising that the terms for the Law Library Advisory Board was one-year with terms ending December 31, 2025. Ms. Winingham advised that incumbent John Quinn was interested in re-appointment.

It was moved by Supervisor Kobseff, seconded by Supervisor Ogren and carried, following a roll call vote with Supervisors Valenzuela, Haupt, Harris, Kobseff and Ogren voting YES, to appointed John Quinn to the scheduled vacancy on the Law Library Advisory Board, for one-year term ending December 31, 2025.

The Chair advised that the remaining vacancies were continued to a later date.

Appointments - County Clerk - Appointment of seven members to scheduled and unscheduled vacancies on the Siskiyou County Behavioral Health Services Board for terms ending December 31, 2025, December 31, 2026 and December 31, 2027. Lise Rogers appointed; remaining vacancies continued.

Deputy County Clerk Wendy Winingham provided an overview of the request, advising that the Behavioral Health Services (BHS) Board had delegate and alternate vacancies with terms expiring December 31st in 2025, 2026 and 2027. Ms. Winingham further advised that incumbent Lise Rogers was interested in continuing on the BHS Board.

It was moved by Supervisor Ogren, seconded by Supervisor Valenzuela and carried, following a roll call vote with Supervisors Valenzuela, Haupt, Harris, Kobseff and Ogren voting YES, to appoint Lise Rogers to the scheduled vacancy on the Behavioral Health Services Board for a term ending December 31, 2027.

The Chair advised that the remaining vacancies were continued to a later date.

Minute Approval - December 3, 10, 19 and 20, 2024. Approved.

It was moved by Supervisor Haupt, seconded by Supervisor Kobseff and carried, following a roll call vote with Supervisors Valenzuela, Haupt, Kobseff and Ogren voting YES and Supervisor Harris ABSTAINING, to approve the December 3, 10, 19 and 20, 2024 as presented.

Board and Staff Reports

County Administrator Angela Davis thanked Facilities Management Director Amanda Kimball, Maintenance, Janitorial and Communications staff members and Andy Hughes with SB James Construction for the efforts made to complete the new Board Chambers project.

Supervisor Valenzuela advised of recently celebrating an anniversary and birthday.

Supervisor Haupt advised of his attendance at an after action meeting regarding the Ag Pass process, with Supervisor Kobseff (concerning evacuations and other actions taken due to wildfires) and his participation in a conference call with Water Board representatives, Supervisor Kobseff and Deputy County Administrator Elizabeth Nielsen.

Continued...

Board and Staff Reports – (continued)

Supervisor Kobseff advised of his attendance at an Ag Pass after action meeting with Supervisor Haupt, a meeting with Pit River Tribe representatives in Burney, CA with Supervisor Harris and Deputy County Administrator Elizabeth Nielsen and his participation in a conference call with Water Board representatives, Supervisor Haupt and County staff.

Supervisor Ogren advised of her attendance at a Rural County Representatives of California (RCRC) and Golden State Connect Authority (GSCA) meetings in Sacramento, a Local Transportation Commission (LTC) meeting, a North Coast Resource Partnership (NCRP) meeting and a meeting with Siskiyou Economic Development representatives regarding the upcoming NCRP quarterly meeting. Supervisor Ogren additionally advised that the Collier Interpretive and Information Center (CIIC) River Walk project had been completed.

Supervisor Harris advised of his attendance at a meeting with Pit River Tribe representatives, Supervisor Kobseff and Deputy County Administrator Elizabeth Nielsen in Burney, CA and a meeting with City of Yreka representative Corey Middleton.

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

Attest:
Laura Bynum, County Clerk

Michael N. Kobseff, Chair

By: _____
Deputy