



**STATE OF CALIFORNIA, COUNTY OF SIERRA  
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS  
MINUTES  
REGULAR MEETING**

**Lee Adams, District 1**

P.O. Box 1 - Downieville, CA 95936 - 530-289-3506 - supervisor1@sierracounty.ca.gov

**Lila Heuer, District 2**

P.O. Box 485 - Sierra City, CA 96125 - 916-580-5608 - lheuer@sierracounty.ca.gov

**Paul Roen, Vice Chair, District 3**

P.O. Box 43 - Calpine, CA 96124 - 209-479-2770 - supervisor3@sierracounty.ca.gov

**Terry LeBlanc, District 4**

P.O. Box 387 - Loyalton, CA 96118 - 707-489-0314 - tleblanc@sierracounty.ca.gov

**Sharon Dryden, Chair, District 5**

P.O. Box 246 - Loyalton, CA 96118 - 530-913-9218 - sdryden@sierracounty.ca.gov

The Sierra County Board of Supervisors met in regular session commencing at 9:00 a.m. on March 21, 2023, at 105 Beckwith Street, Loyalton Social Hall, Loyalton, CA. This meeting was recorded for posting on the Board of Supervisors' website at [www.sierracounty.ca.gov](http://www.sierracounty.ca.gov).

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:** Led by Supervisor Heuer

**ROLL CALL**

**Present:** Lee Adams, Supervisor, District #1  
Lila Heuer, Supervisor, District #2  
Paul Roen, Supervisor, District #3  
Terry LeBlanc, Supervisor, District #4  
Sharon Dryden, Supervisor, Chair, District #5

**Staff:** Heather Foster, County Clerk-Recorder  
David Prentice, County Counsel  
Van Maddox, Auditor/Treasurer Tax Collector  
Tim Beals, Director of Planning/Public Works/Transportation/OES  
Lea Salas, Director of Behavioral Health  
Lori McGee, Interim Director of Social Services  
Rhonda Grandi, Interim Director of Public Health  
Chuck Henson, Chief Probation Officer  
Mike Fisher, Sheriff/Coroner

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## **APPROVAL OF THE CONSENT AGENDA**

The Board moved to approve the Consent Agenda.

**APPROVED.** Motion: Adams/Roen/Unanimous Roll Call Vote: 5/0

## **12. CONSENT AGENDA**

12.A. Resolution adopting amended Schedule A Assessor, Schedule F Health and Human Services/Behavioral Health, Schedule J Planning, and Schedule M Sheriff to Resolution 2018-024, Sierra County Fee Schedule. (CLERK OF THE BOARD)

**ADOPTED,** Resolution 2023-024

12.B. Minutes from the regular meeting held on February 7, 2023. (CLERK OF THE BOARD)

## **APPROVAL OF THE REGULAR AGENDA**

Supervisor Roen requested adding the following item to the agenda as the matter came up after the agenda was published and requires action before the next regular meeting.

8.1. Approval of letter of support for HR 1586, Forest Protection and Wildland Firefighter Safety Act of 2023.

The Board moved to add Item 8.1. to the Regular Agenda.

**APPROVED.** Motion: Adams/Heuer/Unanimous Roll Call Vote: 5/0

The Board moved to approve the Regular Agenda as amended.

**APPROVED as amended.** Motion: Adams/Roen/Unanimous Roll Call Vote: 5/0

## **REGULAR AGENDA**

### **2. PUBLIC COMMENT OPPORTUNITY**

At 9:04 a.m. Chair Dryden opened and closed the public comment opportunity with no public addressing the Board.

### **3. COMMITTEE REPORTS & ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Supervisor Adams reported that the IRS has added Sierra County to the list of counties who qualify for tax postponement, so Sierra County taxpayers do not have to file taxes with the IRS until October 16, 2023. Supervisor Adams added that he has

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also reached out to the Governor's office and Senator Dahle's office regarding whether Sierra County will be added to the state's tax postponement as well, however he has not heard back yet.

County Forester Danielle Bradfield reported on the award of the three USDA Community Wildfire Defense grant applications supported by the county: 1) the update to the Sierra County Wildfire Protection Plan; 2) project planning at the county level for fuel reduction projects; and 3) Fire Safe Sierra County's application for 500 acres of fuel reduction around Sierraville.

#### **4. DEPARTMENT MANAGERS' REPORTS & ANNOUNCEMENTS**

The Director of Behavioral Health reported on Governor Newsom's announcement regarding reform of the MHSA funding to focus on homeless housing and splitting up how the funds are used, which will change Sierra County's allocation from 5 to 3 components: 30% designated towards homeless population; 30% designated towards full service partnerships; and 40% designated towards the "other" category. The Director continued to express concerns about the change in allocation towards the homeless population and how the county will support individuals who have been housed.

In response to Sandy Sanders' inquiry on behalf of the Mountain Messenger, the Director explained that this will have to come before the voters in the fall of 2024.

The Chief Probation Officer provided an update on having an individual in background for the pre-trial probation officer position and still looking for a janitor. The Chief Probation Officer also reported on making significant strides in the domestic violence program.

The Interim Director of Social Services reported that she will be participating in the Mass Care & Sheltering plan quarterly meeting this afternoon and a meeting regarding Merit Systems to discuss recruiting outside of the system.

The Director of Planning congratulated the County Forester on the award of the three grants. The Director continued to report on a meeting scheduled this Friday to review the grants in place and current activities going on; working to set up a meeting with Carson District Ranger Matt Zumstein and the County Forester to discuss opportunities available under the landscape designation; adding an item to the next meeting to further discuss the proposed national monument within the Plumas National Forest; and the status of applications received under the short-term rental ordinance.

Deputy Director of Transportation Bryan Davey reported on the emergency disaster declaration and the current costs incurred by the county in the amount of \$315,000 for snow removal, equipment, and protective measures the Road department and Sheriff's office took, which included outside contracts for storm debris removal, opening of secondary roads, operating the warming center on behalf of PG&E, and gas distributed to residents who were out of power. Deputy Director Davey added that this

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storm was considered a state disaster so the cost recovery is 70%; if it becomes a federal disaster the cost recovery will be 90%.

Chair Dryden thanked staff for their efforts.

Supervisor Adams also thanked staff for providing gas to residents.

Assistant Director of Personnel Judi Behlke provided an update on staffing in county departments.

## **5. FOREST SERVICE UPDATE**

Beckwourth District Ranger Michael Rahe provided an update on staffing; storm damage; their road crew returning from Los Padres; the status of the community connect project/landscape priority project; the status of the concessionaire at the recreation sites in the Gold Lake area; and the Frenchman Lake paving project.

Sierraville District Ranger Rachel Hutchinson provided an update on staffing and projects going on in the district.

Yuba River District Andrew Mishler provided an update on staffing and projects going on in the district.

## **6. HEALTH & SOCIAL SERVICES**

6.A. Discussion and direction regarding submittal of application regarding CalFresh Healthy Living funding opportunity for CalFresh Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) Education.

The Interim Director of Public Health provided background on the CalFresh Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) Education; the county previously not accepting the SNAP funding as the county's allocation was only \$10,000; the recent increase in the county's annual allocation from \$10,000 to \$162,000; the state's prior suggestion to have Plumas County take this program on for Sierra County; and Plumas County indicating that they would not be interested in taking on this program unless it is on a long term basis.

The Interim Director continued to explain that if Plumas County took over the program each county would be required to have their own work plan, Plumas County would be responsible for staffing and work deliverables, and a small amount of the funding would be kept for administrative costs.

Supervisors Adams and Roen expressed concerns with having Plumas County take this program over.

In response to Supervisor Adams' inquiry, the Interim Director indicated they are comfortable doing the program in-house.

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Discussion ensued with the Board.

Following discussion and by consensus, the Board directed staff to submit the application regarding CalFresh Healthy Living funding opportunity for CalFresh Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) Education.

## **11. TIMED ITEMS**

### **11.A. 10:00 A.M. MUSICA SIERRA HEADWATERS**

Presentation by the Música Sierra for the Música Sierra's Headwaters - Inspired Land, Art, Community, & Cultural Stewardship and approval of letter of support for their application to Upstate Creative Corps Program to create new art to benefit the County and its residents.

Lindsay MacIntosh, Musica Sierra Executive Director made the presentation to the Board on the Musica Sierra Headwaters and the grant application to Upstate Creative Corps Program.

The Board moved to approve the letter of support for the Musica Sierra's application to Upstate Creative Corps Program to create new art to benefit the county and its residents.

Discussion ensued with the Board.

**APPROVED.** Motion: Adams/Roen/Unanimous Roll Call Vote: 5/0

## **7. PLANNING / BUILDING - TIM BEALS**

7.A. Introduction and waive first reading of an ordinance amending Title 12 of the Sierra County Code to adopt an expedited and streamlined process for electric vehicle charging stations in accordance with AB 1236 and Government Code 65850.7.

Deputy Director of Planning Brandon Pangman provided background on the proposed ordinance to adopt an expedited and streamlined process for electric vehicle charging stations in accordance with AB 1236 and the requirement for small jurisdictions to have adopted an ordinance by September 30, 2017.

Deputy Director Pangman continued to review the streamlined application process consistent with AB 1236 and AB 970.

Deputy Director Pangman further commented on the need for a minor technical revision to Section D(1) of the proposed ordinance.

Discussion ensued regarding the streamlining of the application process.

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In response to Sandy Sanders' inquiry on behalf of the Mountain Messenger, Deputy Director Pangman indicated there are two electric charging stations currently permitted with the county, however he is certain there are more.

The Board moved to waive the first reading of an ordinance amending Title 12 of the Sierra County Code to adopt an expedited and streamlined process for electric vehicle charging stations in accordance with AB 1236 and Government Code 65850.7.

**APPROVED.** Motion: Adams/Roen/Unanimous Roll Call Vote: 5/0

## **8. BOARD OF SUPERVISORS**

8.A. Discussion/adoption of a resolution amending Resolution 2007-039 adopting Standard Form of By-Laws for Sierra County Commissions and Committees. (CLERK OF THE BOARD)

Chair Dryden provided brief background on the proposed resolution amending the Standard Form of By-Laws for Sierra County Commissions and Committees.

Supervisor Adams thanked Chair Dryden and Supervisor Heuer for their work on this issue.

The Board moved to adopt the resolution amending Resolution 2007-039 adopting Standard Form of By-Laws for Sierra County Commissions and Committees.

Supervisor Adams also thanked the Clerk for her work on this issue.

**ADOPTED,** Resolution 2023-025. Motion: Adams/Roen/Unanimous Roll Call Vote: 5/0

8.B. Discussion/adoption of a resolution establishing procedures for filling a vacancy on an appointed governing board of special district. (CLERK OF THE BOARD)

Chair Dryden provided brief background on the proposed resolution establishing procedures for filling a vacancy on an appointed governing board of special district.

Supervisor Adams commented on having received questions pertaining to the posting timeline of vacancies and the Clerk clarifying that there are several conflicting rules on how long a vacancy shall be posted. Supervisor Adams further expressed his appreciation to the committee and staff for "belling this cat".

The Board moved to adopt the resolution establishing procedures for filling a vacancy on an appointed governing board of special district.

**ADOPTED,** Resolution 2023-026. Motion: Adams/Roen/Dryden Roll Call Vote: 5/0

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- 8.C. Discussion/introduction and waive first reading of an ordinance amending sections 2.36.010 and 2.36.020 and repealing section 2.36.030 of the Sierra County Code pertaining to the Planning Commission. (CLERK OF THE BOARD)

Chair Dryden provided brief background on the proposed ordinance and the changes to the criteria to serve on the Planning Commission.

Supervisor Adams expressed his appreciation to everyone who worked on the proposed ordinance.

In response to Sandy Sanders' inquiry, Chair Dryden clarified that the proposed ordinance requires a member of the Planning Commission to be a property owner.

Brief discussion ensued regarding the requirement to be a property owner.

Following discussion, the Board moved to waive the first reading of an ordinance amending sections 2.36.010 and 2.36.020 and repealing section 2.36.030 of the Sierra County Code pertaining to the Planning Commission.

**APPROVED.** Motion: Adams/Roen/Unanimous Roll Call Vote: 5/0

- 8.D. Appointments to the Downieville Fire Protection District for terms that will expire March 31, 2023. (CLERK OF THE BOARD)

The Board moved to appoint Frank Lang, Diane Wharff, and Liz Fisher to the Downieville Fire Protection District for terms that will expire March 31, 2023.

**APPROVED.** Motion: Adams/Roen/Unanimous Roll Call Vote: 5/0

- 8.E. Appointment to the Cemetery District 2 for a term that will expire March 31, 2023. (CLERK OF THE BOARD)

The Board moved to appoint Madeleine Hamb to the Cemetery District 2 for a term that will expire March 31, 2023.

**APPROVED.** Motion: Adams/Roen/Unanimous Roll Call Vote: 5/0

- 8.F. Discussion/action regarding letter of support for the Sierra County Land Trust to purchase two properties in Sierra City to preserve open space and connection to trails. (SUPERVISOR HEUER)

Supervisor Heuer provided background on the request for a letter of support for the Sierra County Land Trust to purchase two properties in Sierra City to preserve open space and connection to trails.

In response to Chair Dryden's inquiries, the Director of Planning clarified that there is little his department would end up doing with this request. With respect to

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property taxes the county would want to structure this so they can't claim an exemption as the county would want these organizations to pay taxes at some level.

In response to Supervisor Adams' inquiry, the Director clarified that the parcels are difficult parcels to develop, however he can't attest to the fact they aren't buildable.

Supervisor Adams commented on his willingness to support this request but also expressed frustration with both the US and state of California having a 30 x 30 plan to conserve 30% of the planet by 2030 and Sierra County already consisting of 77% national forest land. Supervisor Adams added that he like word to get back to the Land Trust and others, that if they are going to continue this in Sierra County maybe at some point, they need to start a discussion with the Forest Service to allow for townsite expansion in exchange for these transactions, so the county can have an economy of scale.

The Director concurred with Supervisor Adams' comments and expressed concerns about the length of time it took to complete the land exchange in Goodyears Bar.

Discussion ensued with the Board.

Supervisor Heuer indicated that the Land Trust just became aware of the grant availability, which is due by the end of the week, and expressed her support of the request.

The Board moved to approve the letter of support for the Sierra County Land Trust to purchase two properties in Sierra City to preserve open space and connection to trails.

Discussion ensued with the Board.

Supervisor Adams continued to express concerns about losing real estate in the county and the county having a limited economy. He would like to see things opened as others close.

Chris Campbell, Sierra County Land Trust Ranger thanked the Board for supporting the proposal. Mr. Campbell continued to explain that the Land Trust purchased 220 Main Street in Sierra City, so they are now paying property taxes to Sierra County and have also cleaned up the property. Mr. Campbell added that they are working towards keeping their properties open to the public.

Supervisor Roen indicated that he hopes Mr. Campbell took to heart the conversation that the Board just held with more requests like this coming forward.

The Director of Planning indicated that he would be happy to initiate the dialog and set up a meeting with the grant funding agencies, the Sierra County Land Trust, and the Tahoe National Forest.



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Considerable discussion ensued with the Board.

Following discussion and by consensus, the Board directed staff to initiate meetings with the grant funding agencies, the Sierra County Land Trust and Tahoe National Forest to discuss this issue further.

**APPROVED.** Motion: Heuer/Adams/Unanimous Roll Call Vote: 5/0

8.G. Approval of letter to the Tahoe National Forest requesting a waiver of matching funds for the Roadside Fuels Project. (SUPERVISOR DRYDEN)

Supervisor Roen commented on the North Yuba Project and this being the first opportunity to utilize some of the grant funds this spring.

County Forester Danielle Bradfield provided background on the Inflation Reduction Act funding for projects within the North Yuba footprint and the \$3.3 million earmarked for Sierra County. County Forester Bradfield added that the Tahoe National Forest is requesting the county bring a project forward which must be implemented within one to three years, with the potential to extend this out to 5 years, and requires a 20% match. The requested waiver will reduce this match to 5%.

County Forester Bradfield continued to review proposed uses of the funding including putting forward \$300,000 in preparation of the Green Acres timber sale and thinning along critical ingress/egress routes within the county, specifically Mountain House Road, Ridge Road, Saddleback Road, Lavezzola Road, the Highway 49 Corridor and Henness Pass Road and having to consider what projects would be NEPA ready. County Forester Bradfield further explained that the Mountain House Road project is NEPA ready and consists of 5.4 miles of treatment from Goodyears Bar to the Old Mountain House site.

County Forester Bradfield indicated that 5% of \$3.3 million is \$165,000 and there is a suggestion to use the county's repair to Mountain House Road following implementation of the project as the county's 5% match.

In response to Supervisor Adams' inquiry, County Forester Bradfield and Supervisor Roen clarified that the road repair would be an in-kind match.

Discussion ensued regarding the Mountain House Road project.

In response to Supervisor Adams' inquiry as to whether the county can assure that the Department of Transportation is going to be able to come up with the match, the Director of Transportation indicated that he would like the opportunity to discuss this with the committee as he is unsure at this point and would be interested in looking for other funding sources for the match.

The Board moved to approve the letter to the Tahoe National Forest requesting a waiver of matching funds for the Roadside Fuels Project.

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**APPROVED.** Motion: Adams/Roen/Unanimous Roll Call Vote: 5/0

- 8.I. Approval of letter of support for HR 1586, Forest Protection and Wildland Firefighter Safety Act of 2023.

Supervisor Roen provided background on the proposed letter of support for HR 1586 to avoid a lawsuit that is being filed on behalf of the Clean Water Act to exempt federal, state, and local firefighting agencies from using fire retardant to fight wildland fires.

Chair Dryden indicated the less restrictions on the ability to fight wildfires the better as there is too much at stake.

Supervisor Adams read the RCRC Highlights from the March 8<sup>th</sup> meeting regarding the case of *Forest Service Employees for Environmental Ethics v. United States Forest Service, United States District Court, District of Montana* and RCRC weighing in on this to support the US Forest Service in not restricting the use of fire retardant.

The Board moved to approve the letter of support for HR 1586, Forest Protection and Wildland Firefighter Safety Act of 2023.

**APPROVED.** Motion: Roen/Heuer/Unanimous Roll Call Vote: 5/0

## 10. CLOSED SESSION

- 10.A. Closed session pursuant to Government Code section 54957 - performance review regarding Director of Planning/Public Works.
- 10.B. Closed session pursuant to Government Code section 54956.8 - Conference with Real Property Negotiators. Property: 105 Beckwith Street Loyalton CA. David Prentice, Negotiator. Negotiating parties: County of Sierra and City of Loyalton. Under Negotiation: Price and terms of payment.
- 10.C. Closed session pursuant to Government Code Section 54956.9 (d)(2) - conference with legal counsel - threat of litigation.
- 10.D. Closed session pursuant to Government Code section 54957 – Public Employment – Administrative Director of Behavioral Health.
- 10.E. Closed session pursuant to Government Code Section 54957 - performance review regarding County Counsel.

The Board met in closed session from 11:08 a.m. to 1:22 p.m.

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- 8.H. Discussion/action on the announcement of the retirement of the Director of Public Works/Transportation and Planning/Building and the reorganization of the departments. (CLERK OF THE BOARD)

Chair Dryden announced the retirement of Tim H. Beals, Director of Planning/Public Works/Transportation effective June 2, 2023 and the plan to reorganize the department and adopt separate job descriptions for the Director of Planning and Director of Transportation. Chair Dryden further announced the Board's intent to appoint Deputy Director of Planning Brandon Pangman as the Director of Planning and Deputy Director of Transportation Bryan Davey as the Director of Transportation.

**9. COUNTY COUNSEL/PERSONNEL - DAVID PRENTICE**

- 9.A. Discussion/approval of job description for the Sierra County Director of Behavioral Health.

The Board moved to approve the job description for the Sierra County Director of Behavioral Health.

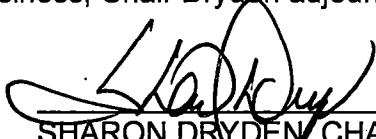
**APPROVED.** Motion: Heuer/Roen/Unanimous Roll Call Vote: 5/0

**CLOSED SESSION STATEMENT**

The Board met in closed session from 11:08 a.m. to 1:22 p.m. With respect to all closed session items, Chair Dryden reported that direction was given to staff.

**ADJOURN**

At 1:25 p.m., with no further business, Chair Dryden adjourned the meeting.

  
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SHARON DRYDEN, CHAIR  
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

ATTEST:

  
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HEATHER FOSTER  
CLERK OF THE BOARD