



MINUTES
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
DEL NORTE COUNTY
STATE OF CALIFORNIA

Tuesday, January 13, 2026

REGULAR MEETING

10:00 AM

PRESENT: Supervisor, District 2 Valerie Starkey
Supervisor, District 3 Chris Howard
Supervisor, District 1 Darrin Short
Supervisor, District 5 Dean Wilson
Supervisor, District 4 Joey Borges

ABSENT:

CLOSED SESSION 8:30 A.M.

Public Comment on Closed Session items only.

Hold a closed session to consider and discuss litigation and personnel matters:

Conference with Labor Negotiators pursuant to Government Code 54957.6 between County Negotiator: Neal Lopez, CAO and Represented Employee Bargaining Groups.

Conference with County Counsel pursuant to Government Code 54956.9(d)(4):
Initiation of Litigation-One

REGULAR SESSION 10:00 A.M.

10:00 A.M. Call the meeting to order and take roll.

- Moment of Reflection
- The Pledge of Allegiance to be led by Valerie Starkey, District 2 Supervisor.
- Nomination and Election of Chair.

Action: Approved. Supervisor Borges was elected as Chair.

Motion: Move to approve

Move: Chris Howard

Second: Valerie Starkey

Vote Yea: 5 Valerie Starkey, Chris Howard, Darrin Short, Dean Wilson, Joey Borges

Vote Nay: 0 None

Vote Abstain: 0 None

- Nomination and Election of Vice-Chair.

Action: Approved. Supervisor Short was elected as Vice-Chair.

Motion: Move to approve

Move: Chris Howard

Second: Valerie Starkey

Vote Yea: 5 Valerie Starkey, Chris Howard, Darrin Short, Dean Wilson, Joey Borges

Vote Nay: 0 None

Vote Abstain: 0 None

- Introduction of new employees to the Board of Supervisors

Amanda Dockter - Health Educator I, Micheal Rodgers - Client Services Specialist I, Jennifer Beeson - Behavioral Health Specialist II, Nyx Austin - Integrated Case Worker I, Dawn Rarick - Integrated Case Worker I, Stephanie Hogan - Social Worker I, Thomas Gray - Social Worker I (DHHS).

- Report of any actions from closed session by County Counsel

Direction was given with a 5-0 Vote (Yes: Supervisor Short, Starkey, Howard, Borges Wilson No: None) the Board voted to take first steps to possible Litigation. All particulars once formally commenced will be disclosed to any person upon inquiry.

- The Chair requests any deletions, corrections or additions from Board members to the agenda at this time. In order to add an item to the agenda, the matter must have come to the attention of the County subsequent to the posting of the agenda and the matter requires action before the next regular meeting of the Board of Supervisors.

Chair Borges noted that on item #23 the step placement should be listed as a "J" not an "I" as listed on the item recommendation.

- Receive other brief reports or announcements relative to the County of Del Norte programs and projects, progress of the two by two committees, technical advisory committees and/or Board and staff travel/training reports.

Supervisor Short: Nothing to report.

Supervisor Starkey: Spent quite a bit of time monitoring Offshore Drilling Activity, spent time with "Save Our Shores" and attended a Press Conference RE: AB 1536 related to Offshore Drilling and would like to bring that discussion to the Board in the near future, attended a meeting with constituents regarding safety issues on the US Hwy 101 Corridor between Dr. Fine Bridge and Elk Valley Crossroads and hosted a Coffee and Conversation with constituents.

Supervisor Howard: Dealt with constituent concerns regarding safety issues on the US Hwy 101 Corridor between Dr. Fine Bridge and Elk Valley Crossroads, Supervisor Howard stated he would like to bring AB 1014 forward to the Board for discussion at the next Board of Supervisors meeting, attended numerous meetings with Caltrans to reduce speed and provide safe highways on US Hwy 199, US Hwy 101, etc., attended numerous meetings with the California Utilities Commission regarding local infrastructure protection during local disasters, attended a meeting with constituents in Washington Flat regarding noisy highways due to the rumble strips, attended several CSAC Tribal Working Group meetings, attended a meeting with the owner of the local Del Norte Golf Course regarding issues on the property, attended a meeting with DN Fire Safe Council and Del Norte RCD, dealt with constituent concerns on the Harbor District and attended the LTCO meeting.

Supervisor Borges: Provided an update on the US Hwy 101 Corridor issues.

Supervisor Wilson: Thanked the Board for passing the COSA results while he was absent.

CONSENT AGENDA

Comments from members of the public may be heard at this time regarding matters on the Consent Agenda only.

Action: Approved. Supervisor Howard recused himself from item #4 due to a conflict of interest.

Motion: Move to approve

Move: Darrin Short

Second: Dean Wilson

Vote Yea: 5 Valerie Starkey, Chris Howard, Darrin Short, Dean Wilson, Joey Borges

Vote Nay: 0 None

Vote Abstain: 0 None

1. Approve and adopt the minutes from the December 09, 2025 Board of Supervisors meeting.**

Approved.

2. Approve and adopt the minutes from the December 12, 2025 Board of Supervisors Special Session.**

Approved.

3. Approve and authorize the board chair to sign the Amendment to the Tetra Tech Agreement #2024-133 for the Hazard Mitigation Plan update as requested by the OES Fiscal Manager**

Approved. DNCOAGREE #2026-002

4. Approve and appoint Matt Westbrook, Blake Alexandre and Richard Wetherell as members of the Board of Directors for the Del Norte Resource Conservation District with a term of four years ending January 31, 2030, as requested by the Director of the Del Norte Resource Conservation District.**

Action: Approved. Supervisor Howard recused himself from this item due to a conflict of interest.

Motion: Move to approve

Move: Darrin Short

Second: Dean Wilson

Vote Yea: 4 Valerie Starkey, Darrin Short, Dean Wilson, Joey Borges

Vote Nay: 0 None

Vote Abstain: 1 Chris Howard

5. Approve and authorize the County Agricultural Commissioner to sign the amendment to the 25/26 High Risk Pest Exclusion Agreement with the California Department of Food and Agriculture as requested by the Agricultural Commissioner.**

Approved. DNCOAGREE #2026-003

6. Approve and Authorize the Chair to Sign the First Amendment to Agreement #2025-008 between Del Norte Wrestling, Inc. and the Del Norte County Recreation Department and Del Norte Building Maintenance Department for Facility Use to Operate Del Norte Wrestling's Program as requested by the Administrative Programs Manager.**

Approved. DNCOAGREE #2026-004

7. Approve and authorize the Chair to sign the attached MOU renewal with First 5 Del Norte to continue Public Health's Community Health Education Kiosk Project for the term of November 1, 2025 through June 30, 2027, as requested by the Director of Health and Human Services.**

Approved. DNCOAGREE #2026-005

8. Approve and authorize the Chair to Sign the Second Amendment to the Agreement (DNCO Agreement #2024-163) between the County of Del Norte and Gallagher Benefit Services, Inc., as requested by the County Administrative Officer.**

Approved. DNCOAGREE #2026-006

9. Approve strategy one of the attached 2025 ER Enhancement Plan Update, as requested by the Director of Health and Human Services.**

Approved.

10. Approve and authorize the Chair to sign the attached Agreement with CalMHSA for HEDIS Performance Measurement for the term of January 1, 2025 through December 31, 2029, as requested by the Director of Health and Human Services.**

Approved. DNCOAGREE #2026-007

11. Approve and adopt the corrected SEA Salary Schedule 600, as attached, effective 12/19/2025 as requested by the Director of Human Resources and Risk Management.**

Approved.

12. Approve the updated job classification descriptions for the Clerk of the Board series to reflect changes in duties, responsibility levels, and minimum qualifications associated with the restructuring of administrative support functions within the County Administrative Office as requested by the County

Administrative Officer and recommended by the Director of Human Resources and Risk Management.**

Approved.

13. Approve and authorize the Chair to sign the attached Agreement with Center for Applied Research Solutions to provide training for Behavioral Health's Mobile Crisis Team for the term of November 1, 2025 through January 31, 2026, as requested by the Director of Health and Human Services.**

Approved. DNCOAGREE #2026-008

14. Approve and appoint Dora Bernal and Nicole Sills to the Measure R Transactions and Use Tax Oversight Committee, as requested by the County Clerk/Registrar of Voters.**

Approved.

15. Approve and authorize the Chair to sign the attached MOU with Family Resource Center of the Redwoods' Pacific Pantry Mobile Market program for an ongoing term, as requested by the Director of Health and Human Services.**

Approved. DNCOAGREE #2026-009

16. Approve and authorize the Director of Health and Human Services and Chief Probation Officer to sign the attached AB 2083 MOU renewal for the term of January 1, 2026 through January 1, 2028, as requested by the Director of Health and Human Services.**

Approved. DNCOAGREE #2026-010

17. Accept the certified results of the Statement of Vote for the November 04, 2025 Statewide Special Election as requested by the Registrar of Voters.**

Approved.

18. Review and Approve the Treasurer's 2026 Statement of Investment Policy and Adopt a Resolution Granting Investment Authority to the County Treasurer as requested by the Treasurer-Tax Collector.**

Approved. RESO #2026-001

SCHEDULED ITEMS

19. 10:25 A.M. COMMENT PERIOD: Members of the public may address the Board on matters which are within the jurisdiction of the Board. If you are addressing the Board regarding a matter listed on the agenda, you may be asked to hold your comments until the Board takes up that matter. Please limit your comments to three minutes or less.

20. 10:30 AM: Conduct a public hearing and adopt the Resolution of Termination of road maintenance for Del Ponte Street, Gatliff Road, Del Norte Street, Crescent

Street, McBeth Way (portion), Del Norte Way, Siskiyou Way, Alder Lane, Laurel Lane, Trinity Way (Portion), and Illinois Valley Road as requested by the County Engineer.**

Action: Approved. RESO #2026-002

Motion: Move to approve

Move: Darrin Short

Second: Dean Wilson

Vote Yea: 5 Valerie Starkey, Chris Howard, Darrin Short, Dean Wilson, Joey Borges

Vote Nay: 0 None

Vote Abstain: 0 None

21. 10:40 A.M. Hold a public hearing to consider the Sam Schauerman Rezone (R2601) located on Washington Boulevard at APN 117-053-002. It is recommended that the Board of Supervisors take action by: 1) Adopting the staff findings outlined in the staff report; and 2) Approving the rezone as described in Exhibit "A" by approving an ordinance amending Zoning Map B-9, as requested by the Planner of the Community Development Department.**

Action: Approved. RESO #2026-003; ORDINANCE #2026-002

Motion: Move to approve

Move: Valerie Starkey

Second: Chris Howard

Vote Yea: 5 Valerie Starkey, Chris Howard, Darrin Short, Dean Wilson, Joey Borges

Vote Nay: 0 None

Vote Abstain: 0 None

22. 10:50 A.M. Review and Discuss the Treasurer's Report for the quarter ending December 31, 2025, as requested by the Treasurer/Tax Collector.**

REGULAR ITEMS

GENERAL GOVERNMENT:

23. Review and approve the Director of Community Development Department's 30-year longevity salary step placement "I" effective 11/07/2025 in accordance with the Appointed Department Head Resolution as requested by the Director of Human Resources and Risk Management.**

Action: Approved. Chair Borges noted that the step placement should be listed as a "J" not an "I" as listed on the item recommendation.

Motion: Move to approve

Move: Dean Wilson
Second: Valerie Starkey

Vote Yea: 5 Valerie Starkey, Chris Howard, Darrin Short, Dean Wilson, Joey Borges

Vote Nay: 0 None

Vote Abstain: 0 None

24. Approve a joint resolution between the County of Del Norte and the Del Norte County Flood Control District declaring the existence of an emergency and directing staff to take action necessary to alleviate the flooding caused by the unabated increases in the levels of Lakes Earl and Tolowa by breaching the intervening sandbar between the lakes and the Pacific Ocean as requested by the County Engineer.**

Action: Approved. RESO #2026-004

Motion: Move to approve

Move: Darrin Short

Second: Chris Howard

Vote Yea: 5 Valerie Starkey, Chris Howard, Darrin Short, Dean Wilson, Joey Borges

Vote Nay: 0 None

Vote Abstain: 0 None

25. Approve and accept a vehicle donation from Donna Zorn to the Del Norte County Search and Rescue Fleet as requested by the Sheriff-Coroner.**

Action: Approved.

Motion: Move to approve

Move: Darrin Short

Second: Valerie Starkey

Vote Yea: 5 Valerie Starkey, Chris Howard, Darrin Short, Dean Wilson, Joey Borges

Vote Nay: 0 None

Vote Abstain: 0 None

26. Approve and adopt the "Ordinance of the Del Norte County Board of Supervisors Updating Title 2 of the Del Norte County Code: Human Resources and Risk Management Director", which amends subsection 2.10.20, subsection 2.10.30, and subsection 2.10.50 of the Del Norte County Code and adds subsection 2.10.90, section 2.11, subsection 2.11.10, subsection 2.11.20, subsection 2.11.30, subsection 2.11.40, subsection 2.11.50, subsection 2.11.60, and subsection 2.11.70 as requested by County Counsel.**

Action: Approved. ORDINANCE #2026-001

Motion: Move to approve

Move: Darrin Short

Second: Dean Wilson

Vote Yea: 5 Valerie Starkey, Chris Howard, Darrin Short, Dean Wilson, Joey Borges

Vote Nay: 0 None

Vote Abstain: 0 None

27. Approve and adopt the "Human Resources and Risk Management Director" update to the Del Norte County Administrative Manual, which amends the following sections: 1.20, 6.10, 7.10, 9.10, 9.90, and 11.30, as requested by County Counsel.**

Action: Approved.

Motion: Move to approve

Move: Darrin Short

Second: Dean Wilson

Vote Yea: 5 Valerie Starkey, Chris Howard, Darrin Short, Dean Wilson, Joey Borges

Vote Nay: 0 None

Vote Abstain: 0 None

28. Discuss and take possible action to approve the waiver of the hive registration fee of \$10 for hobbyist beekeepers as requested by the Agricultural Commissioner.**

Action: Approved.

Motion: Move to approve

Move: Valerie Starkey

Second: Darrin Short

Vote Yea: 5 Valerie Starkey, Chris Howard, Darrin Short, Dean Wilson, Joey Borges

Vote Nay: 0 None

Vote Abstain: 0 None

29. Approve and authorize the adoption of the new County Sick Leave Policy for unrepresented employees in order to bring the County into full compliance with California's paid sick leave requirements under the Healthy Workplaces, Healthy Families Act of 2014 (Labor Code section 245 et seq.), as amended, including the expanded provisions effective immediately, subject to applicable accrual caps, carryover rules, and anti-retaliation protections as outlined by the Department of Industrial Relations. This Policy has been collaboratively developed and reviewed by Administration, the Auditor-Controller, and County Counsel, and is

recommended for approval and implementation as presented as requested by the Director of Human Resources and Risk Management.**

Action: Approved.

Motion: Move to approve

Move: Darrin Short

Second: Valerie Starkey

Vote Yea: 5 Valerie Starkey, Chris Howard, Darrin Short, Dean Wilson, Joey Borges

Vote Nay: 0 None

Vote Abstain: 0 None

BUDGET TRANSFERS:

Action: Approved.

Motion: Move to approve

Move: Darrin Short

Second: Chris Howard

Vote Yea: 5 Valerie Starkey, Chris Howard, Darrin Short, Dean Wilson, Joey Borges

Vote Nay: 0 None

Vote Abstain: 0 None

30. Approve and adopt budget transfer #12-03 within the Sheriff's Budget Unit to transfer Measure R Funds in the budget unit to be allocated for the purchase of an approved Sheriff's Office radio base and antenna repair project in order to maintain effective communications for emergency call-outs to county agencies as requested by the Sheriff-Coroner.**

Approved. BT #12-03

31. Approve and adopt budget transfer #12-04 within the Measure R Budget to transfer money out to Sheriff's Budget to reflect Measure R funds approved by the Board for the purchase of the Sheriff's Office radio base and antenna repair project in order to maintain effective communication for emergency call-outs to county agencies, as requested by the Sheriff-Coroner.**

Approved. BT #12-04

32. Approve and adopt budget transfer #01-01 within the Office of Emergency Services (OES) budget in the amount of \$80,150.00, (eighty thousand one hundred fifty dollars) to purchase a Sports Utility Vehicle for OES as requested by the Fiscal Manager for Emergency Services.**

Approved. BT #01-01

33. Approve and adopt budget transfer #01-02 within the Contingency budget in the

amount of \$18,795.00, (eighteen thousand seven hundred ninety five dollars) to fund the 30% County match to fund the purchase of a new vehicle for OES as requested by the Fiscal Manager for Emergency Services and the County Administrative Officer.**

Approved. BT #01-02

LEGISLATIVE AND BUDGET ISSUES:

Consider miscellaneous legislative and budget matters pertinent to the County of Del Norte. Authorize the Chair to sign and send appropriate letters with respect to matters pending before the state or federal governments.

34. Receive update from Aaron Babcock, Coordinator Del Norte Fire Safe Council, and a letter of support from Supervisor Howard, relating to the "Smith-to-Klamath Shared Forest Stewardship" concept being advocated for by the Fire Safe Council, as requested by Supervisor Howard.**

No action was needed on this item.

35. Approve and authorize a letter to be sent to Ryan Flynn, President of Pacific Power, relating to electrical resiliency efforts in Del Norte County, as requested by Supervisor Howard.**

Action: Approved.

Motion: Move to approve

Move: Darrin Short

Second: Valerie Starkey

Vote Yea: 5 Valerie Starkey, Chris Howard, Darrin Short, Dean Wilson, Joey Borges

Vote Nay: 0 None

Vote Abstain: 0 None

36. Discuss and take possible action on forming a 2x2 committee with the Smith River Community Water Service District and appointing Supervisor Howard and Supervisor Borges to the committee as requested by Supervisor Howard.

Action: Approved.

Motion: Move to approve

Move: Darrin Short

Second: Dean Wilson

Vote Yea: 5 Valerie Starkey, Chris Howard, Darrin Short, Dean Wilson, Joey Borges

Vote Nay: 0 None

Vote Abstain: 0 None

37. 1) Approve and authorize two Supervisors to participate in stakeholder working groups, committees and other related meetings pertaining to the local Performing Arts Center project at their discretion; and 2) Appoint Supervisor Starkey and Supervisor Howard; and 3) Authorize staff to provide support to the appointed supervisors and to participate as needed, as requested by Supervisor Howard.

Action: Approved. Included in the motion was a direction staff to provide support to the Supervisors and provide assistance as needed.

Motion: Move to approve

Move: Valerie Starkey

Second: Darrin Short

Vote Yea: 5 Valerie Starkey, Chris Howard, Darrin Short, Dean Wilson, Joey Borges

Vote Nay: 0 None

Vote Abstain: 0 None

ADJOURNMENT

(Next meeting is January 27, 2026)

Kylie Goughnour, Clerk of the Board
County of Del Norte, State of California

Date Posted: January 08, 2026

THE AGENDA AND ACTION SUMMARY ARE AVAILABLE ON THE COUNTY WEBSITE:

www.co.del-norte.ca.us