

GREENLEE COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS  
CLIFTON, ARIZONA

March 3, 2015

The Greenlee County Board of Supervisors met on this date in regular session in the Board Meeting Room, 2<sup>nd</sup> floor Courthouse Annex, Clifton, Arizona, with the following members present: David Gomez, Chairman; Ron Campbell, Member; and Robert Corbell, Member. Also present were Deborah K. Gale, County Administrator, and Yvonne Pearson, Clerk of the Board.

Chairman Gomez called the meeting to order at 8:30 a.m. and Supervisor Campbell led those present in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Eric Schwennesen, Greenlee County Cattle Growers member, responded to the Call to the Public expressing his concerns regarding the action the Board of Supervisors took to withdraw membership with the Arizona/New Mexico Coalition of Counties. He stated that it is important that Greenlee County be a member and asked that the Board reconsider the action.

Daniel Cervantez, Clifton resident, responded to the Call to the Public, and stated that the Senior Center has reopened and that there is an issue with the oven. He expressed his appreciation for the support of the County. He also stated that he visited the new Canyonlands Health Clinic in Clifton and said that it is a beautiful facility that will help citizens with their needs and also stated that SCS, a contractor with Freeport McMoRan, has moved into the Clifton School facility. He said that several months ago a large vehicle knocked down a pedestrian crossing sign near the post office and he will print and provide copies of pictures he took. He feels it is important to have the pedestrian crossing for the safety of citizens and school children.

The Board of Supervisors convened as the Board of Directors of the Public Health Services District and upon motion by Supervisor Campbell, seconded by Supervisor Corbell, and carried unanimously, the Board approved the Public Health Services District Consent Agenda as follows:

1. Clerk of the Board: Approval of Public Health Services District expense warrants in excess of \$1,000.00

The Board reconvened into regular session.

Nancy Spencer-Morrison, Clifton Ranger District Biologist, updated the Board on the following:

- The new Apache-Sitgreaves Forest Supervisor is Tom Olsen and Claire Mendelson is the acting Deputy Supervisor.
- The new Alpine District Ranger will begin work on March 9<sup>th</sup>

- Seasonal firefighters have been hired and will be here at the end of March. The Ranger District will be fully staffed with 14 firefighters both seasonal and full time, by mid-May.
- A 10 member firefighting crew, consisting of both seasonal and permanent personnel, will be stationed at the Stray Horse station by the end of May.
- Even with the moisture we received through the winter, the forest is still in a drought and is less than 50% of where we should be.
- A 5000 acre prescribed burn has been scheduled north of Rattlesnake Gap toward the end of March or early April and is expected to last approximately two weeks to cutback weedy undergrowth.

Bill Harmon, District Engineer, with the Safford District, Arizona Department of Transportation presented the Board with information regarding traffic issues in Greenlee County. He spoke to the following:

- Traffic issues in the Town of Clifton including: an average of 9,000 vehicles per day volume through the Town with 15% of the traffic being trucks; buildings adjacent to Highway 191; narrow shoulders; pedestrian safety; and lighting. He reviewed goals and several potential solutions that are being considered which will be done in four phases.
- He reviewed road projects to be completed in current fiscal year including channel erosion protection on three washes on State Route 75; scour protection on five bridges on State Route 75; renewal of railroad crossing on State Route 75; and sign renewal in Clifton. Several projects for the next three years were also reviewed.

The Board thanked Mr. Harmon for the information.

Akos Kovach, Economic Development Coordinator, updated the Board on the following:

- He showed two commercials that have been developed by Channel 13 television from Tucson promoting Greenlee County. He stated that there has been a significant increase of inquiries on the Growing Greenlee website as a result of these television commercials.
- He explained the several upcoming partnership events throughout Greenlee County

Ron Pearson, Public Works Manager, updated the Board on the 1<sup>st</sup> Mud Drag Series that occurred on February 21<sup>st</sup>. He stated that there were 69 entries, 315 pit passes, and 300 plus general admission. He stated that there were some issues with timers and lights which are being repaired, but that the event was a success.

Ms. Gale stated that over the past few months there have been significant changes made in all recordkeeping paperwork at the fairgrounds to be able to accurately tie back

costs and revenues for all events at the fairgrounds, to have more control of recordkeeping and to comply with Arizona accounting standards. Due to the difficulty in inventorying liquor, only beer will be sold at the bar to have more accurate and easier inventory control to be able to comply with recordkeeping requirements of the liquor license. Ms. Gale reviewed the fairgrounds budget and revenues.

Ms. Gale stated that the Mud Drags bring in a lot of people from all over with over 600 at the last event. There are 4 events in the series with two stand-alone events, one in February and one in May, and one at the Spring Rampage and the final championship at the Fair in September. The prize money is paid with the money brought in from entrants for all and classes and includes additional money from donations for the championship event. She stated that the process of how prize money is paid is being restructured in order to be more fairly distributed. This will also help to continue to draw the larger, faster entries into the series and to continue to draw spectators who come to see those vehicles, which in turn helps to attract people back to Greenlee County. She asked the Board to consider, during the upcoming budget process, possibly adding funds to be used to increase payouts. The County spends a large amount of money to keep the fairgrounds usable throughout the year for the general public such as ropers, who do not pay for the use. She added that the rules that have been developed and are used for the Mud Drags in Greenlee County have been adopted and used as a model by several other Mud Drag events throughout different areas in the state.

Upon motion by Supervisor Campbell, seconded by Supervisor Corbell, and carried unanimously, the Board approved the request to fill a budgeted vacant Public Works Operations Tech II position in the Public Works Roads Division as presented.

Pat Sexton, Undersheriff, requested approval to apply for the Governor's Office of Highway Safety Selective Traffic Grant requiring no matching funds to help offset deputy overtime. He stated that after speaking with the grant representative from the state that he will apply for \$44,000 which will include paying employee related expenses. Upon motion by Supervisor Campbell, seconded by Supervisor Corbell, and carried unanimously, the Board approved the request as presented.

Philip Ronnerud, Planning & Zoning Director, stated that the Planning and Zoning Commission met the previous evening and recommend that the Comprehensive Plan be re-adopted by the Board of Supervisors with work to update the existing plan over the next year. The requirement is that the Board either adopt a revised plan or re-adopt the existing plan by June 30, 2015. Upon motion by Supervisor Campbell, seconded by Supervisor Corbell, and carried unanimously, the Board approved that the existing Comprehensive Plan be re-adopted by Resolution at a future meeting.

Yvonne Pearson, Elections Director, requested approval to solicit bids for the purchase of new voting equipment. She stated that the current equipment is outdated and that

parts are no longer being made. Only refurbished machines are available for purchase. She stated that several counties throughout the state who have the same equipment are in the same situation. Upon motion by Supervisor Campbell, seconded by Supervisor Corbell, and carried unanimously, the request was approved as presented.

Ms. Gale reported the following:

- The state legislature is progressing on the budget with negotiations going on with different points of the Governor's budget.
- She encouraged the Board to sign in with legislators to oppose House Bill 2320 regarding firearms in public buildings.
- She advised the Board that the County has only received approximately \$40,000 in Secure Rural Schools funding. The County normally receives \$860,000. This will affect schools and the road fund. She will meet with the School Superintendent to draft a distribution plan for approval at the next Board meeting.
- Sheriff Deputy Smerglia will come to the next Board meeting to request support for the Community Block Watch program
- The Sheriff has requested the use of an out-of-service ambulance for a crime scene investigation equipment vehicle.
- There is a public meeting in Alpine on March 13<sup>th</sup> regarding the proposed release of wolves.

The Calendar of Events was reviewed.

Upon motion by Supervisor Campbell, seconded by Supervisor Corbell, and carried unanimously, the Board approved the Consent Agenda as follows:

- A. Clerk of the Board: Approval of minutes to previous meeting – 02/17/2015
- B. Clerk of the Board: Approval of expense warrants in excess of \$1,000.00 – Voucher 1045; 1047; 1048
- C. Chief Finance Officer: Approval of General Fund loans in the amount of \$268.75 to be reimbursed upon receipt of funds: Fund 152 - \$268.75
- D. Clerk of the Board: Approval of Resolution 15-02-01 to update checking account signatures on the Sheriff's Department checking account with National Bank of Arizona
- E. Public Works Manager: Approval of replacement of AC unit in the IT Server Room

Supervisor Corbell reported the following:

- A. He did not attend the Legislative Rules Committee on House Bill 2175. He found out that it was not necessary at this point.
- B. He attended the Arizona Small Counties Forum meeting where several legislators attended and discussion took place regarding the National Resource

Conservation Districts and Special Districts; housing; wolf issues; and copper prices.

- C. He attended the County Supervisors Association (CSA) meeting where public land issues were discussed as well as becoming a Purple Heart County and CSA legislative priorities.

Supervisor Campbell reported the following:

- A. He attended the National Association of Counties Legislative Conference where he attended steering committee meetings. Vice President Biden spoke at the General Session and he met with Congresswoman Kirkpatrick and Senator Flake at one-on-one meetings regarding County issues.

Supervisor Gomez reported the following:

- A. The State Transportation dinner and meeting that the County hosted was a huge success. He thanked the hard work of the staff.
- B. He attended the National Association of Counties Legislative Conference where he attended steering committee meetings and was glad for the meetings with the Arizona delegation as well as a meeting with the Secretary of the Interior where PILT and Secure Rural Schools funding were among several topics of discussion.
- C. He attended the South Eastern Arizona Governments Organization (SEAGO) meeting where Mayor Ortega of Douglas gave a presentation on the plans to build a new port of entry in Douglas to try to bring back manufacturing.

There being no further business to come before the Board of Supervisors, the meeting was adjourned at 11:17 a.m.

APPROVED: /s/ David Gomez, Chairman

ATTEST: /s/ Yvonne Pearson  
Clerk of the Board