

**PROCEEDINGS OF THE
COCHISE COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS SPECIAL EMERGENCY MEETING
HELD ON TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 20, 2012 @ 2:00 P.M.
IN THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS CONFERENCE ROOM
LOCATED AT 1415 MELODY LANE, BUILDING G, BISBEE ARIZONA**

This Emergency Meeting of the Board of Supervisors is authorized under A.R.S. § 38-431-02, Subsections C & D

Vice-Chairman Call called the Special Meeting of the Board of Supervisors to order at 2:10 p.m. Supervisors attending telephonically were Richard Searle, Chairman and Ann English, Supervisor. Vice-Chairman Pat Call was present at the meeting; also present were Mike Ortega, County Administrator; Jim Vlahovich, Deputy County Administrator and Katie Howard, Clerk of the Board. Also attending telephonically were Ed Rheinheimer, County Attorney; Britt Hanson, Chief Deputy County Attorney and Juanita Murray, Elections Director.

ACTION

ITEM 1

Determine the procedures for filling the position of Cochise County Sheriff as a result of the vacancy created by Sheriff Larry Dever's death and determine the ballot language for the office of Sheriff.

Mr. Ortega informed the Board that the Republican Party had made a decision on the candidate to nominate for the ballot for the office of Sheriff. He stated that representatives from the Elections Department and the County Attorney's Office were present at the meeting of the Republican Party to witness the proceedings. The paperwork advising the Elections Department of the candidate nominated was submitted timely. The candidate receiving the requisite number of votes from the Republican Party Precinct Committeemen (i.e., 50% + 1 vote) was Mark Dannels; therefore, Mr. Dannels' name will replace Larry Dever's name on the ballot.

Vice-Chairman Call added that by statute, Rod Rothrock (current Chief Deputy Sheriff) will assume the responsibilities of the Sheriff in the interim. The attorneys concurred but advised that the Board had a couple of choices. The Board could choose to do nothing in which case Chief Deputy Rothrock would remain in that role until Mr. Dannels assumes office or the Board could choose to appoint Mr. Dannels to serve in the interim, if he was elected in November.

Supervisor English suggested the Board make the appointment soon, to avoid indecision in the department over the next several months, to allow the department to move forward. Chairman Searle disagreed, saying he was inclined to allow Chief Deputy Rothrock to continue to serve in the interim. However, he asked the attorneys if Chief Rothrock would serve in that instance until the November election, or until January? Mr. Hanson said they would have to research that question. Mr. Ortega commented on the importance of relationships between the County Attorney's Office, the Sheriff's Office and Elections, with the Board. Mr. Rheinheimer commented that Chief Rothrock has been with the department for a long time and should be allowed to finish the term; on the other hand, he said he could make the argument that moving Dannels into the office now would smooth the transition.

However, he pointed out that this decision was beyond the scope of the Action item before the Board today.

The Board directed the Clerk of the Board to add an item to consider an interim appointment, to their regular meeting agenda for the following Tuesday's meeting.

There being no further business before the Board, Vice-Chairman Call adjourned the meeting at 2:26 p.m.

APPROVED: _____
Richard Searle, Chairman

ATTEST: _____
Katie A. Howard, Clerk of the Board