

**PROCEEDINGS OF THE COCHISE COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
WORK SESSION HELD ON
Monday, May 12, 2014**

A work session of the Cochise County Board of Supervisors was held on Monday, May 12, 2014 at 3:00 p.m. in the Board of Supervisors' Executive Conference Room, 1415 Melody Lane, Building G, Bisbee, Arizona.

Present: Ann English, Chairman; Richard R. Searle, Vice-Chairman (telephonic); Patrick G. Call, Supervisor

Staff Present: Michael J. Ortega, County Administrator
Jim Vlahovich, Deputy County Administrator
Arlethe G. Rios, Clerk of the Board

Attendees: Lois Klein

Chairman English called the meeting to order at 3:00 p.m.

ANY ITEM ON THIS AGENDA IS OPEN FOR DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

THE ORDER OR DELETION OF ANY ITEM ON THIS AGENDA IS SUBJECT TO MODIFICATION AT THE MEETING

INTRODUCTIONS

ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION

Board of Supervisors

1. Budget Work Session - Discussion of County budget for Fiscal Year 2014-2015 specifically: the Sheriff's Office budget.

Chairman English stated the topic of the discussion.

Deputy Sheriff Thad Smith said that the reason for this meeting is to discuss staffing issues of detention officers at all county jails. He stated that there are currently 72 positions and that due to vacancies and other issues there is no flexibility in case of an emergency.

Jail Commander Ken Bradshaw listed the three options that the Sheriff's Office has designed in order to deal with the staffing issues. He said that the most desirable would be to hire 9 additional detention officers and noted that the estimated cost would be \$450,000 annually. He presented a background document that contained a professional opinion on jail risks from Mr. Gary W. DeLand, DeLand and Associates, Inc.; letters from the sergeants of the Willcox and Sierra Vista substations describing the history of the substations; and the proposals on how to deal with the staffing issue. He stated that if 12 hour shifts were

implemented the Sheriff's Office would have enough staff to allocate 2 more detention officers to the substations and provide adequate coverage.

Chairman English asked if staff had considered closing down the two substations.

Vice-Chairman Searle asked if anyone had inquired about partnering with the cities to man the substations.

Deputy Sheriff Smith said that since it was the County's responsibility to provide a jail they had not looked into partnering with the cities.

Supervisor Call asked if having only the jail in Bisbee ensured we met statutory requirements.

Deputy Sheriff Smith said it did. He also noted that the substations were used to segregate juveniles and special cases and if they were closed down then they would have to reach out to other counties to house them.

Chairman English asked if Commander Bradshaw could estimate the cost of paying the per diem for the special cases and compare this to the cost of running the substations.

Deputy Sheriff Smith said that transport had to be considered a big factor if the substations were closed down. He noted that it would impact deputy coverage in certain areas while they were transporting prisoners back to Bisbee.

Mr. Ortega explained that he had discussed the risks at the jails with Bill Hardy from the Arizona Counties Insurance Pool (ACIP) and that they are not dictating that we have to address all issues, but that they want the County to be aware that not addressing certain issues does increase the risk of future incidents. He stated that due to budgetary concerns he did not feel like all staffing issues could be addressed, but that something could be done to alleviate some of the issues. He discussed several scenarios to help with the jail staffing.

Chairman English asked about the hiring process.

Commander Bradshaw noted that they would be more aggressive in their hiring and recruiting.

Deputy Sheriff Smith said that he was very confident in filling current vacancies by the end of the calendar year.

Mr. Ortega commented on the discussions that ACIP was having with different counties to address these risks and suggested that maybe a pilot program be put in place after more detailed information was provided by the Sheriff's Office regarding costs.

The Board directed Mr. Ortega to look at different partnership opportunities with the cities and inform them of the different proposals the County was reviewing to include shutting down the substations.

Chairman English adjourned the meeting at 3:47 p.m.

APPROVED:

Ann English, Chairman

ATTEST:

Arlethe G. Rios, Clerk of the Board