

**PROCEEDINGS OF THE COCHISE COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
WORK SESSION HELD ON
Tuesday, March 24, 2015**

A work session of the Cochise County Board of Supervisors was held on Tuesday, March 24, 2015 3:00 p.m. in the Board of Supervisors' Executive Conference Room, 1415 Melody Lane, Building G, Bisbee, Arizona.

Present: Patrick G. Call, Chairman; Ann English, Vice-Chairman; Richard R. Searle, Member

Staff Present: Michael J. Ortega, County Administrator

Jim Vlahovich, Deputy County Administrator

Arlenthe G. Rios, Clerk of the Board

Lisa Marra, Grants Director

Lauri Owen, Deputy County Attorney

Norm Sturm, Emergency Services Coordinator

Attendees: Gregory Sundie

Karen Allen

Chairman Call called the meeting to order at 3:06 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. Presentation by Arizona FirstNet Communication System for Public Safety communication systems nationwide.

Chairman Call had everyone introduce themselves.

Mr. Norm Sturm noted that the Arizona FirstNet System dealt mostly with Fire and Police communications.

Ms. Karen Allen, Arizona FirstNet Project Manager, said that the first phase of the project was to gather information from entities in order to have as much data in the system as possible and ensure many entities are utilizing the information sent out regarding emergencies. The main purpose is to have a public safety network that would be separate

from public bandwidth.

Chairman Call asked if this would require emergency entities to have special phones.

Ms. Allen said that chips installed in emergency telephonic equipment would make them different and act as a dual mode so the emergency personnel could switch back and forth, but noted that details have not been decided yet.

Supervisor Searle asked if this new software or system would work with the current communication systems that the County's law enforcement is using. He also asked about the volume of calls and who the users would be.

Ms. Allen said that this system would be separate, but could be used in addition to the current systems being used. She noted that although these new data systems are helpful in emergency situations, FirstNet recognizes that radios are still the best way for emergency personnel to communicate and noted that they would be looking at existing infrastructure to see if it could be enhanced for this purpose. Ms. Allen added that users would be emergency service entities, but the public could also access the system through a lease.

Chairman Call asked if the initial priority would be given to more populated areas.

Ms. Allen said that there was no priority given to metropolitan areas; the team is actually working on a portable system for rural areas in case the infrastructure needed does not exist. She said that state officials would be deciding where the coverage should be and where the priority should take place. She added that the timeline for this project to be completed was in 2016 and that it had to be implemented by 2022.

Vice-Chairman English said that the idea of this system was great, but funding from the County would determine how much the County could participate.

Mr. Gregory Sundie, Project Manager, Arizona FirstNet, said that the details for the funding requirement from each entity were not finalized as of yet.

The Board agreed that without cost information they could not make a decision on whether or not to participate with this system. They thanked the Arizona FirstNet team for their presentation.

Chairman Call adjourned the meeting at 4:08 p.m.

APPROVED:

Patrick G. Call, Chairman

ATTEST:

Arlenthe G. Rios, Clerk of the Board