

**PROCEEDINGS OF THE COCHISE COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
WORK SESSION HELD ON
Tuesday, July 14, 2015 at 1:30 p.m.**

A Work Session of the Cochise County Board of Supervisors was held on Tuesday, July 14, 2015 at 1:30 p.m. in the Executive Conference Room, at 1415 Melody Lane, Building G, Bisbee, Arizona.

Present: Patrick G. Call, Chairman; Richard R. Searle, Supervisor

Absent: Ann English, Vice Chairman

Staff Jim Vlahovich, County Administrator; Britt W. Hanson, Chief Civil Deputy County

Present: Attorney; Karen Riggs, Highway & Floodplain Director; Gussie Motter, Deputy Clerk of the Board

Chairman Call called the meeting to order at 1:32 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

Community Development

1. Discussion and possible direction regarding 5 Year Work Plan for Highways & Flood Control.

Mr. Jim Vlahovich, County Administrator, announced that this Work Session would introduce some additions to the Five Year Work plan presented to the Board several weeks previously but would not present changes to the budget. He then turned the meeting over to Ms. Karen Riggs, Highway and Floodplain Director

Ms. Riggs pointed out that additional lane miles have been added to Charleston Road bringing total lane miles in the work plan up to 73 for Fiscal Year 2015-2016. She added that the department really needs to do 160 lane miles annually to keep up with road maintenance, so the 73 lane miles in the plan is only 46% of what should be done.

Ms. Riggs noted that on page two, the tentative Board of Supervisors/Intergovernmental Agreement (BOS/IGA) for Cougar Place North and Victoria Court North is totally dependent on the citizens coming up with the money and then having the roads annexed into the City of Douglas.

On page three, under tentative projects, Vice Chairman English had asked Ms. Riggs to add Bay Acres Subdivision streets as necessitated by the Douglas sewer project. Ms. Riggs guessed that the entire project will go ahead with the building of the new sewer plant followed by

extending the lines to Bay Acres and would take two to three years to complete at not a great cost to the County. At the completion of the project, the City of Douglas will annex the Bay Acres subdivision.

Ms. Riggs then pointed to the Fencing Program, noting that additional funds have been added to bring the total from \$10,000 up to the \$25,000 requested by the Board. One third of these funds would be put toward repair of existing fences while the rest will go to new fencing on major and minor collector roads currently not fenced.

Turning to the final page of the packet, Ms. Riggs presented a chart that lists rural county paved roads that are major or minor collector or access roads. The chart also includes a column for average daily trips (ADT) and one for the date of the last chip seal. She stated that next year a column for condition of the road will be added to help prioritize needed maintenance.

Responding to a query from Chairman Call, Ms. Riggs said that while there was no equation that helped prioritize, use, time since last chip seal, and condition were all considered.

Supervisor Searle asked Mr. Vlahovich to make note of the fact that he would like to have a discussion regarding the unfunded portion of Fort Grant Road. The cost would be about one half million dollars.

Moving back to recommendations for FY 2015-2016, Ms. Riggs stated that the department is still recommending Ramsey Canyon Road for this year. She directed attention to the pavement deterioration chart, noting that Ramsey Canyon Road was trending between the green and the yellow. One of the reasons to do the road now instead of later is that a drop in condition equals a large jump in maintenance cost.

Ms. Riggs also noted that the department will not fund the two public/private partnership (PPP) projects for next year unless the people putting forth the application are willing to pay a much larger share of the cost of the project. The department will be approaching the applicants in the near future. There has been a new application submitted for the Rolling Hills subdivision. The roads are private and had been paved when the subdivision was formed, but have not had maintenance since. Under the proposed new PPP, this subdivision would not be eligible for the program but as the new PPP has not yet come before the Board, the application has been accepted. Costing the project has been problematic as there are no right-of-ways, only easements as property owners lots go to the middle of the streets.

Ms. Riggs told the Board that the memo has been updated to reflect the 73 miles of maintenance chip seal (MCS) recommended. She also asked for approval to maintain operators at 36 through replacement of vacancies as they occur, explaining that short term vacancies would be filled by temps. Mr. Vlahovich, Chairman Call, and Supervisor Searle all agreed with that plan.

Supervisor Searle had a question regarding filling operator positions, asking if it would be possible to bring in an operator 2 or 3.

Mr. Ron Ellis, Operations Manager, stated that it is possible but, because County pay is lower than the market, not very probable. Mr. Ellis is actively recruiting some of his retired operators to come back full-time. Mr. Ellis also said that the only 2 and 3 level operators applying are from outside Cochise County.

Supervisor Searle suggested that they have a conversation about trying to raise salaries if recruitment continues to be a problem.

Ms. Riggs then moved onto the Floodplain budget and proposed projects. She directed the

Supervisors' attention to FY 2015-2016, noting that annual revenue is down and the cost of annual operations is up, resulting in a reduction in the amount of money available for the annual work plan. Referring to the future, Mr. Riggs admitted that the further from this fiscal year, the more nebulous the numbers become. The department has seen about a 5% decrease per year in revenues as property valuation drops.

Chairman Call asked that the 5% decrease per year be shown on the draft five year plan as property values are not expected to come back up in the near future.

Ms. Riggs agreed to do so and moved onto projects to be funded in FY 2015-2016:

Flood Control Projects

- Palominas Recharge
- Riverstone is on hold for the moment. Phase 1, Investigation, was completed last year.
- Bella Vista is under contract for Phase 1, Investigation. Actual design may start this year. The numbers in the budget are based on acreage as a place to start figuring the costs.
- Rain Gage Network – the County now has 13 gages to maintain. Chairman Call thought the maintenance cost was too high and mentioned actual weather stations being used by the Cochise Water Project. Ms. Riggs offered to compare the specs. Joaquin Solis, Deputy Highway & Floodplain Director, reminded the Supervisors that many of these gages are in remote places and maintenance workers have to hike into them.
- Stone Ridge and Prince Place – moved to 2016-2017
- Sands Ranch Road earthen channel – moved to 2016-2017
- Willow Lakes Mitigation Channel – need more right-of-way.
- Old Pomerene Road concrete dip crossing – mitigation work near Katie Lane with the understanding that the County is not taking the road into our maintenance system
- Ash Canyon Federal Lands Access Program (FLAP) Grant (Coronado Memorial Road) – September construction
- Merritt & Douglas drainage plan Pirtleville – moved to 2016-2017
- Bay Acres/Washington Ave & 34th Street – stop ponding on Washington Avenue. Right-of-way and construction to be completed this Fiscal Year.
- Leslie Canyon Waters Users Association and Freeport Ponds – this is located a mile or two north of Glenn Road. Could stop flooding on Glenn Road and Leslie Canyon Road by creating detention basins. This will come back to the Board for approval.

Bridge Maintenance and Repair

- Desert Wash Bridge (Double Adobe Culvert Replacement – ADOT requires wing walls on outlet side of the bridge.
- Leslie Canyon Bridges – Maintenance is mostly erosion inspection and repair around the piers.
- Pearce Bridge – completed last Fiscal Year. Basic maintenance only
- Rucker Canyon Bridge – Annual maintenance only

Completed Projects Annual O&M

- Stump Canyon Crossing #2
- Foudy Road Wash Crossings 1&2

The final pages of the draft 5 year plan deal with projects due to hurricane Odile and Arizona Department of Emergency and Military Affairs (ADEMA) plus ongoing contracts and state standards and additions approved by the Arizona Department of Water Resources (ADWR).

Chairman Call adjourned the meeting at 2:35 p.m.

APPROVED:

Patrick G. Call, Chairman

ATTEST:

Gussie Motter, Deputy Clerk of the Board

"PUBLIC PROGRAMS, PERSONAL SERVICE"