

**PROCEEDINGS OF THE COCHISE COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
SPECIAL MEETING HELD ON
Thursday, March 31, 2016**

A special meeting of the Cochise County Board of Supervisors was held on Thursday, March 31, 2016 10:00 a.m. in the Board of Supervisors' Executive Conference Room, 1415 Melody Lane, Building G, Bisbee, Arizona.

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

Staff Present: James E. Vlahovich, County Administrator
Edward T. Gilligan, Deputy County Administrator
Britt W. Hanson, Chief Civil Deputy County Attorney
Arlethe G. Rios, Clerk of the Board
Katie A. Howard, Elections/Special Districts Director
Martha Rodriguez, Elections Coordinator

Chairman Searle called the meeting to order at 10:15 a.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

PRESENTATION

Presentation to the Board by the Elections Department to update them on the status of Vote Centers for the 2016 election cycle and an update regarding prior - and planned - Voter Outreach efforts, including a viewing of a short instructional video produced to teach voters how to use the new voting equipment.

Ms. Rodriguez, Elections Coordinator, presented this item using a PowerPoint presentation. She noted that the election had gone well, but there were issues in two precincts when the electricity had gone out, but it was restored within a few hours. She stated that one of the major issues was that Independent or Party Not Designated voters were confused about their ability to vote. Overall she said that the election had gone well and voters had had positive experiences with the new election equipment.

Chairman Searle asked about the all mail election process in Douglas and the outreach to voters.

Ms. Howard, Elections & Special Districts Director, said that the City of Douglas was planning more outreach as some citizens were not aware of the system or process and added that staff hoped an all mail election helped clean up the voter registration polls.

Supervisor English said that this next election would not include precincts, which should help voter turnout.

Ms. Rodriguez moved on to discuss vote center information and layout.

Supervisor English asked about the informational videos.

Ms. Rodriguez said that one of the clerks at each center was responsible for showing the informational video, but that had become an issue since there were no lines.

Ms. Howard added that staff was aware that new vote center lists were not posted on all the old vote centers, but staff did do outreach through radio, newspapers, and social media.

Supervisor English stated that observers needed to be more regulated on their duties while in the vote centers as some had been viewed as rude.

Ms. Howard said that staff would be sending out clearer information to each of the parties regarding the roles for observers. She then moved on to statistics about the vote centers and voters and noted that Portal had requested to vote by mail, which statute would allow. She added that all concerns brought forward would be addressed to include signage, training regarding provisional ballots for poll workers and voter outreach.

ACTION

Board of Supervisors

1. Accept the elections results certified and submitted by the Cochise County Elections Department as the official canvass for the Presidential Preference Election held on March 22, 2016.

Ms. Rodriguez presented the official Presidential Preference Election results.

Vice-Chairman Call noted that the information on the webpage was clearer for this election.

Supervisor English moved to accept the elections results certified and submitted by the Cochise County Elections Department as the official canvass for the Presidential Preference Election held on March 22, 2016. Vice-Chairman Call seconded the motion.

Chairman Searle said that he had been notified that there were requests for public comment, which he would allow at this time.

Ms. Tamara Birch, Bisbee resident, addressed the Board on her concerns with the new election process and volunteered to help with voter outreach.

Ms. Carol Taylor, Bisbee resident, addressed the Board on her observations of the new election process specifically at the Bisbee vote center. She added that there were some issues with the process and some voters had walked out without voting due to the information on the voter registration server.

No one else chose to speak.

Chairman Searle added that he had heard from his citizens that there had been some confusion on driver licenses and the voter information shown on the system.

Ms. Howard said that the confusion came from voters who registered through the Motor Vehicle Division.

Ms. Gruhn, Deputy County Recorder, said that the easiest way to find a person is by date of birth.

The Board thanked staff for the information and their work during this election.

Chairman Searle called for the vote and it was approved 3-0.

CALL TO THE PUBLIC

Chairman Searle opened the call to the public.

No one chose to speak and Chairman Searle closed the call to the public.

This is the time for the public to comment. Members of the Board may not discuss items that are not specifically identified on the agenda.

Chairman Searle adjourned the meeting at 11:19 a.m.

APPROVED:

Richard R. Searle, Chairman

ATTEST:

Arlenthe G. Rios, Clerk of the Board