PROCEEDINGS OF THE COCHISE COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
SPECIAL MEETING HELD ON
Tuesday, November 22, 2016

A special meeting of the Cochise County Board of Supervisors was held on Tuesday, November 22, 2016 at 10:00 a.m. in the Board of Supervisors' Hearing Room, 1415 Melody Lane, Building G, Bisbee, Arizona.

Present: Richard R. Searle, Chairman; Patrick G. Call, Vice-Chairman; 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 Howard, Elections & Special Districts Director

Chairman Searle called the meeting to order at 10:00 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

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 opened the call to the public.

Mr. John Viverto, Mule Mountain Democrats representative, addressed the Board regarding his concerns with the wait time at the Bisbee Vote Center and requested that the Board consider adding more vote centers.

Ms. Maggie Kohanek, Bisbee resident, addressed the Board regarding her concerns with the voting issues that occurred at the general election, specifically with access to the vote centers in the County.

Ms. Charlet Le Pard, Bisbee Warren District Precinct Committeeman, addressed the Board regarding her concerns as a poll worker for the Bisbee Vote Center, specifically the number of express vote machines available to voters and wait times.

Mr. Richard Greene, Bisbee resident, addressed the Board regarding his concerns with the General Election, specifically voter suppression and requested that the Board add more vote centers in the County.

Ms. Tamara Birch, Bisbee resident, addressed the Board regarding her concerns with the General Election, specifically the amount of ballots given to each vote center and the wait times in Bisbee and Douglas.

Ms. Alice Hamers, McNeal resident, addressed the Board regarding her concerns with voting during the General Election and said that it was the County's responsibility to provide the appropriate tools to make it easy for citizens to vote.

Ms. Margaret MacCartney, Bisbee resident, addressed the Board regarding her concerns with voting during the General Election, specifically the small number of vote centers throughout the County and voter suppression by having long wait times.

Chairman Searle asked that the audience be respectful of speakers.

Ms. Helise Irene Dubnick, Bisbee resident, addressed the Board regarding her concerns with voting during the General Election, specifically in Douglas and Bisbee and requested that the Board add more vote centers so that there is not an appearance of voter suppression.

Ms. Pat Fleming, Sierra Vista resident, addressed the Board regarding her experience with the Elections Department during the last year. She stated that she thought the Elections Department had done a good job with voter outreach and noted that citizens need to submit early ballots to avoid the provisional process. She added that citizens and candidates need to put out more information about voting.

On the Record:

Ms. Joan A. Murphy, Sierra Vista resident, sent an email to request that the Board add more vote centers in the County.

Ms. Kelly Galligan, Bisbee resident, sent an email to request that the Board add more vote centers in Bisbee.

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

ACTION

Board of Supervisors

1. Accept the elections results certified and submitted by the Cochise County Elections Department as the official canvass for the General Election held on November 8, 2016.

   Ms. Katie Howard, Elections & Special Districts Director, presented this item. Ms. Howard said that all ballots have been counted. She used handouts to go over statistics related to how the estimates were done for this year's General Election. She said she understood the concerns from citizens and she would address those issues at the December 6 work session. She continued going over statistics of summary reports, provisional ballots, early ballots, and regular ballots. She noted that the General Election had been successful in many ways and she was disappointed that the long lines overshadowed that success and hard work from many County employees and volunteers.

   Vice-Chairman Call moved to accept the elections results certified and submitted by the Cochise County Elections Department as the official canvass for the General Election held on November 8, 2016. Superviosr English seconded the motion.

Supervisor English said that the results were not an issue and those would be approved. She added that the Board does understand that there were issues, but the Board is committed to providing a good election process and they would be looking at improving processes.

Vice-Chairman Call thanked staff for their work during the elections transition.

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

Chairman Searle adjourned the meeting at 10:49 a.m.

APPROVED:

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Richard R. Searle, Chairman

ATTEST:

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Arlethe G. Rios, Clerk of the Board