

**PROCEEDINGS OF THE COCHISE COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
WORK SESSION HELD ON
Tuesday, February 9, 2016**

A work session of the Cochise County Board of Supervisors was held on Tuesday, February 9, 2016 2:30 p.m. in the Board of Supervisors' Executive Conference Room, 1415 Melody Lane, Building G, Bisbee, Arizona.

Present: Richard R. Searle, Chairman; Ann English, Member
Absent: Patrick G. Call, Vice-Chairman
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
Lisa Marra, Communication & Community Relations Administrator
Attendees: Michael Coyle
James Demuth
Robert Salazar
Sharon Webster
Modestina Frascella
Stephanie Fulton
Lise Gilliland
William Miller
Josh Steinberg
Karla Rothrock
Mike Rutherford

Chairman Searle called the meeting to order at 2:30 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. Discussion and possible direction regarding the Fiscal Year 2016 Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Funding Cycle for possible activities or projects to pursue with CDBG Funding.

Chairman Searle asks everyone to introduce themselves.

Ms. Lisa Marra, Communications & Community Relations Administrator, presented this item. Ms. Marra said she would not cover the same details she had covered during the January 26 public hearing. She noted that the final decision would have to be made at the March 8 Board meeting and a resolution would have to be adopted to describe the process. She added that funds from this grant would not be available until November or December of this year, except for the administrative work, which could begin right away and said that it would be the Board's decision on whether or not to charge an administrative fee.

She moved on to the considerations and noted that each funding period could fund up to three projects. All projects being considered had to have been presented at the January 26 public hearing and no new projects can be introduced at this point. She also stated that all projects had been vetted and the applicants could not make any changes to their project. She clarified some facts about the community survey and handed out a list of all the projects and noted whether or not they would have to have a survey done. The survey had to be done by mail, telephone, or in person. Ms. Marra thought that in order to stay within the timeline, in person surveys would be the most effective. She added that any project chosen by the Board would still have to be approved by the Housing and Urban Development Department.

She listed the projects being considered under different categories:

Public Facilities/Improvements –

Library in Elfrida – Ramada/Benches

Whetstone Water District – Work truck, AC pipe for water system, new building, new water tank

Elfrida Water District – Repairs for water system

Bowie Water District – Repairs for water system

Fire & Police Protection –

Fry Fire District – Metal Roof/Radios

Sunsites/Pearce Fire District – Concrete pad/Water Tank/Pump/Piping, 2 gas generators, Extrication Equipment

Sunnyside Fire District – Fencing around new building, units of gear for firefighters

Community/Supportive Housing Facilities –

Southern Arizona Children's Haven – Building remodel

Public Services –

Rural Accents – building repairs or purchase new building

Neighborhood Revitalization and Redevelopment –

Fry Townsite – Sidewalks/Street Lights

Chairman Searle asked Ms. Marra to present each project and the applicant to speak on behalf of the project.

Ms. Marra began with the Elfrida Library and noted that due to the income level and type of project, it would not need an income survey.

Ms. Stephanie Fulton, Elfrida Library Director, added details about the request, benefactors of the project, and emphasized the need for the community.

Ms. Marra continued with the Whetstone Water District requests.

Mr. Robert Salazar, Whetstone Water District Representative, discussed the projects being requested and prioritized the projects: Smythe Water Tanks, Riding Mower, New Building, and AC pipe for water system.

Ms. Marra explained that the Sunsites Pearce sidewalk project was removed from the list because it was ruled out by the Arizona Department of Housing.

Ms. Marra moved on to Elfrida Water District and noted that it would require an income survey.

Mr. Michael Coyle, Elfrida Water District Representative, discussed the three projects and noted that an engineer had already done an evaluation.

Ms. Marra moved on to Bowie Water District, said she had reached out to them, but had received no response and added that in order to get costs, an engineer study would have to be done.

Supervisor English said that the reason she had suggested the Elfrida and Bowie Water Districts was because they still needed additional work and she would like to focus on projects that completely solve an entity's problem.

Chairman Searle said that he had been in contact with Bowie Water District and they had not applied for any funding because they have a plan in place to address their issues.

Ms. Marra moved on to fire and police protection projects.

She began with Fry Fire projects and said that they had requested two different projects and noted that they would not need to do an income survey for the roof project.

Chief William Miller, Fry Fire, said that the radios were the first priority and the metal roof was second.

Ms. Marra noted that in order to do these projects an easement issue would need to be resolved, but the outcome of that looked positive.

She moved on to the requests by the Sunsites/Pearce Fire District and noted that an income survey is required.

Chief Josh Steinberg prioritized the projects: two gas generators, concrete pad/water tank/pump/piping, extrication equipment and gave example of situations in which the requests would benefit his team and the community.

Ms. Marra discussed the requests by the Sunnyside Fire District and noted that Mr. Tom Schelling, District Administrator, was not able to attend. She said that Mr. Schelling had asked to remove the item concerning fencing as that project needed to be done immediately, but still wanted the Board to consider the turnout gear for the firefighters.

She moved on to Community/Supportive Housing Facilities projects.

Mr. Mike Rutherford, owner of the Southern Arizona Children's Haven facility, discussed his project and said that he expected higher volumes since the services provided were local instead of families having to drive to Tucson. He noted that he received letters of support from the County Sheriff, the Chief of Police in Sierra Vista, and the Director of First Things First. He added that the building had been burglarized prior to opening operations and then damaged in a fire.

Chairman Searle asked if the funding timeline was of concern.

Mr. Rutherford said that if the Board decided to fund their project they would abide to the timeline.

Ms. Marra moved on to the request from the Bowie Food Bank and noted that an income survey would not be needed.

Ms. Modestina Frascella, Bowie Food Bank Representative, said that the exterior part of the wall of their building needs assistance, but they also have a place to put a new structure if the Board would rather fund a new project entirely.

Ms. Marra stated that the owner occupied housing repair was withdrawn from the Cochise County Housing Authority due to their board's preference.

She moved on to Neighborhood Revitalization and Redevelopment projects.

She said that Fry Townsite had two projects: sidewalks/curbs and street lights and added that drain repairs did not qualify because they are the County's responsibility to maintain.

Chairman Searle said that adding street lights without a responsible party to maintain them would be a challenge. He asked staff to check with the City of Sierra Vista to see if they would be willing to take ownership of the lights.

Ms. Karen Riggs, County Engineer, stated that the curbs and sidewalks would address some of the drainage issues.

Chairman Searle noted that the new requirement of the income survey made it difficult to do projects and his preference would be to look at projects that did not require a survey.

Supervisor English said staff should focus on projects that could be funded entirely to address an issue.

Chairman Searle adjourned the meeting at 3:36 p.m.

APPROVED:

Richard R. Searle, Chairman

ATTEST:

Arlethe G. Rios, Clerk of the Board