

**PROCEEDINGS OF THE COCHISE COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
WORK SESSION HELD ON
Tuesday, March 8, 2016**

A work session of the Cochise County Board of Supervisors was held on Tuesday, March 8, 2016 11:00 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; Ann English, Member

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

Attendees: Karen Riggs
Lisa Marra
Paul Esparza
Eric Petermann
Chuck Potucek
Kim Mulhern
Mary Darling

Chairman Searle called the meeting to order at 11:28 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

INTRODUCTIONS

ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION

Board of Supervisors

1. Discussion and possible direction on continuing the use of consultants to work on various local, state and federal issues of importance to the County.

Chairman Searle had everyone introduce themselves.

Mr. James E. Vlahovich, County Administrator, presented this item using a PowerPoint presentation. Mr. Vlahovich gave the background and noted that Ms. Mulhern and Ms. Darling were the primary consultants for federal land issues and added that costs for some

issues were split with City of Sierra Vista. He went over the total budget.

Chairman Searle gave the background on the Mexican wolf litigation effort and noted that costs were lower than expected since legal support staff was conducting most of the research instead of attorneys. He added that to date the Arizona/New Mexico Coalition had spent \$90,000 and was expected to go to court in June and noted that the County had to contribute \$10,000 to that effort.

Mr. Vlahovich listed potential future expenses.

Chairman Searle noted that he thought it was important for the County to take a stance on this issue.

Mr. Charles Potucek, City of Sierra Vista Manager, said that the city was also a partner in some issues, especially water litigation, which greatly impacted their citizens.

Chairman Searle asked for the Board to consider increasing the current budget to help with the Mexican wolf litigation.

Supervisor English said that she did not think support for these federal issues would make a difference and she thought the money could be better used to address County economic concerns.

Chairman Searle disagreed with Supervisor English and noted that being involved in federal issues that negatively impacted County citizens was the Board's responsibility. He thought an additional \$30,000 would help with the current year's expenses.

Vice-Chairman Call added that water rights impact the ability for community growth and ability for Fort Huachuca to add missions, which directly impacts the County's financial stability.

Mr. Potucek said that it was unfortunate that both the County and City are facing these costs during tough economic times because it does take away from operational needs.

Chairman Searle noted that these types of efforts were being done in cooperation with other government entities and if the litigation was successful all entities would be reimbursed for attorney fees.

Mr. Hanson noted that the request would have to be formally approved by the board as an agenda item with individual costs broken down.

The Board directed staff to bring forth a formal agenda item to increase to the budget.

Chairman Searle adjourned the meeting at 12:23 p.m.

APPROVED:

Richard R. Searle, Chairman

ATTEST:

Arlethe G. Rios, Clerk of the Board
