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

A work session of the Cochise County Board of Supervisors was held on Tuesday, May 9, 2016 at 3:00 p.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
Karen Riggs, Highway & Floodplain Director
Steve Jones, Solid Waste Financial Manager
Joaquin Solis, Highway & Floodplain Deputy Director
Ron Ellis, Highway and Floodplain Operations Manager
Anissa Acedo, Business Manager
Nike Noack, Financial Services Manager
Mike McGinnis, Budget Manager
Mary Gomez, Health and Social Services Director
Anita Baca, Housing Director
Kim Lemons, Assistant to the Clerk of the Board

Chairman Searle called the meeting to order at 3:17 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. Budget Work Session - Discussion of County budget for Fiscal Year 2016-2017 specifically: the Community Development Services group - Highway & Floodplain, Planning & Zoning, Solid Waste Management.

   Mr. Esparza, began by saying several property owners in the Sunsites area have contacted Planning and Zoning to update the Sunsites Area Plan. This would involve multiple mailings via snail mail to 9,750 property owners, at an approximate cost of $20,000. The plan was updated last in 2001, and is a top priority to update based on public response.

Mr. Vlahovich said it is possible to do away with the area plan and go generic but if an area is zoned general business you would not want the classification to revert back to rural.

Vice-Chairman Call asked about creating a sunset plan for area plans that have not been updated for many years. Mr. Vlahovich said it would need to go through a formal approval process with the Planning and Zoning Commission and Board of Supervisors' boards.

Supervisor English suggested using the money to go through all the plans versus updating only the Sunsites Area Plan.

Mr. Esparza and Ms. Riggs will look into what is necessary to initiate a sunset process and get back with the Board.

Ms. Noack stated with increased revenue and cost savings over the current fiscal year approximately $18,000 would be covered but the budget for the next fiscal year would need to increase to cover the difference of approximately $2,000.

The Supervisors agreed to support the area plan update but want to move forward with the sunset process and review other outdated plans.

Mr. Esparza said some of their vacant positions had been filled, and the solar projects are good. Customer Service excellence is the main focus, along with workforce training; turnover rate 26%; trend in permits appears to be increasing, residential permits have been mostly for additions and patio covers.

The Board stated they have been receiving good feedback about Mr. Esparza from the community.

Ms. Riggs said the Solid Waste Department's tipping fee increase to $60.50 has already been approved for fiscal year 2016-17, but the Rate Review Advisory Board (RRAB) voted to increase it to $64, and have requested a Work Session to discuss; that figure is not included in this budget. There is one Decision Package for a new tarp cover system to save $130,000 including repair and maintenance; Net cost $15,000 in the first year, following year in the black. Ms. Riggs and Mr. Jones added that the Free Dump Day is logistically hard to manage. Need a solution - request a voucher system for residents to use throughout year. Mr. Jones gave an overview of the transfer station dump day tonnage.

Ms. Riggs presented the overview for the Highway Division - budget does not include an additional $300,000 from recent legislative changes and does not reflect $1 million from the ½ cent sales tax, it shows Highways using carry forward this year. Bureau of Land Management (BLM), Highway User Revenue Fund (HURF) and Forest Service are revenues, $575,000 higher than budgeted and because of reduction in spending, the division can absorb the $1 million deficit from cash carry forward this year. There is bond money coming in which makes carryover look high, $3 million, undesignated. There are not a lot of changes in the budget, increased guardrail expense to $50,000. Supervisor Searle asked if the increased fencing for Gleason will be kept the same for next year and staff recommended keeping. Ms. Riggs stated that for heavy equipment replacement funds, we are leasing now to save in depreciation. She also noted that Mr. Ellis and staff go to great lengths to find ways to negotiate and save money.

Ms. Riggs continued by going over the Highway and Floodplain Work Plan: $14,000 lane mile for maintenance chip seal; proposed road maintenance focuses mainly on high volume roads where low volume falls into the need for Remove and Replace (R&R). What determines these recommendations are the Average Daily Traffic (ADT), last time chip sealed, and the foreman drives road to get pavement rating.

The Board and staff discussed specific roads recommended for maintenance in the Work Plan and for the most part deferred to County staff for road recommendations with possible further discussion in the future.

Ms. Riggs gave an overview of the Work Plan with map handouts, including R&R and place holder projects.

Mr. Ellis said the Arizona Department of Emergency and Military Affairs (ADEMA) had approved estimated work of $2.2 million.

Ms. Riggs continued with the Floodplain Division: Floodplain funds are used judiciously and engineers design in-house.

Vice-Chairman Call complimented staff for the floodplain maintenance on the Palominas recharge project. Ms. Riggs said she will need additional monies for monitoring in year three, approximately $47,000. The division had applied for grant funds that ultimately went for water conservation versus recharge projects.

Chairman Searle adjourned the meeting at 4:38 p.m.

APPROVED:

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Richard R. Searle, Chairman

ATTEST:

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Kim Lemons, Assistant to the Clerk of the Board