

**PROCEEDINGS OF THE COCHISE COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
WORK SESSION HELD ON
Tuesday, May 10, 2016**

A work session of the Cochise County Board of Supervisors was held on Tuesday, May 10, 2016 at 4:00 p.m. in the Assessor's Conference Room, 1415 Melody Lane, Building B, 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
Phil Leiendecker, County Assessor
Arlethe G. Rios, Clerk of the Board
Felix Dagnino, Deputy County Assessor
Mike McGinnis, Budget Manager, Finance Department

Attendees: Ted Offutt
Maureen Bandosz

Chairman Searle called the meeting to order at 4:00 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 Assessor's Office.

Mr. Phil Leiendecker, County Assessor, gave the background of property values and said that his office has had issues with their current budget due to an increase in services. He noted that he would be submitting a decision package for salary adjustments due to retirements and would request a comprehensive desk audit to evaluate classifications countywide. He added that one time distributions were not helping employees or helping their base salary. He then went over the goals and accomplishments for his office.

Chairman Searle asked about the expansion of a dairy in the north part of the County.

Mr. Felix Dagnino, Deputy County Assessor, said that the dairy expansion would have a

significant impact on the property tax revenue for the upcoming fiscal year as would some other projects that were scheduled to be completed this year.

Mr. Leiendecker moved on to share a concern he had with the Board regarding releasing property owner information on the County's website. He said he was working with the County Attorney's Office to ensure that confidentiality was not an issue if this information was released.

Supervisor English said that she had been informed that all other County's provide this information and asked what his major concern was.

Mr. Leiendecker said he felt it was an accountability issue.

Mr. Jim Vlahovich, County Administrator, said that he would be bringing this issue as a work session topic to the Board before moving forward with releasing property owner information.

Mr. Leiendecker continued with property tax information and said that he is not seeing a lot of changes regarding property values. He said that assessed values have been decreasing since 2014 and noted that those numbers impact the revenues coming in. He also noted that mines, gas and electric utilities are all self reported through the State, so the Assessor's Office does not regulate those values. He added that legislative changes were a big concern due to a recent 40% loss of value countywide and said that counties need a more powerful voice at the legislature. He also recommended that the Board increase the tax rate and that each office be allowed to keep their salary savings to help address employee salaries.

The Board thanked Mr. Leiendecker for the information.

Chairman Searle adjourned the meeting at 4:40 p.m.

APPROVED:

Richard R. Searle, Chairman

ATTEST:

Arlenthe G. Rios, Clerk of the Board