

**PROCEEDINGS OF THE COCHISE COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS  
WORK SESSION HELD ON  
Tuesday, February 21, 2017**

A work session of the Cochise County Board of Supervisors was held on Tuesday, February 21, 2017 at 1:30 p.m. in the Board of Supervisors' Executive Conference Room, 1415 Melody Lane, Building G, Bisbee, Arizona.

Present: Ann English, Chairman; Peggy Judd, Member  
Absent: Patrick G. Call, Vice-Chairman  
Staff Present: James E. Vlahovich, County Administrator  
Edward T. Gilligan, Deputy County Administrator  
Lauri Owen, Civil Deputy County Attorney  
Arlethe G. Rios, Clerk of the Board  
Attendees: Ruben Miranda, Internal Services Administrator  
Amadee Ricketts, Library Director  
Anita Baca, Public Support Services Representative

Chairman English called the meeting to order at 1:30 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**

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***INTRODUCTIONS***

***ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION***

**Board of Supervisors**

1. Discussion and possible direction regarding the Library District bookmobile service.

Chairman English said that the purpose of the work session was to discuss the current bookmobile service.

Ms. Ricketts said that the bookmobile service was started to address the rural nature of the County. She added that the idea was great, but as technology changes, services would have to adapt. She moved on to the budget and stated that the bookmobile had not been budgeted for the current fiscal year and the service was paid by vacancy savings from the director position. She said that after doing research she came to the conclusion that the cost to keep the bookmobile outweighed the benefits and that in order to balance the library district budget the service had to be discontinued.

Supervisor Judd asked for the location of all the libraries in the County.

Ms. Ricketts said that there were libraries in: Bisbee, Benson, Tombstone, Willcox, Huachuca City, Sierra Vista, and Douglas, which the Library District provided support for. She stated that the libraries in the County funded by the Library District were located in Elfrida, Sunsites, Sunizona, Bowie, and Portal. She noted that she would reach out to the communities mostly impacted by the discontinuation of the bookmobile.

Chairman English asked about the statistics related to the use of the bookmobile.

Ms. Ricketts said that the numbers were not accurate, but she noted that some of the locations were not visited by patrons at all.

Mr. Gilligan asked if there were many complaints during the time that the vehicle was out of commission.

Ms. Ricketts said that there had been a few calls from individual patrons, but staff was able to help them make other arrangements to return books.

Chairman English said that financial responsibility was critical and if some patrons were upset she should explain the situation.

Ms. Ricketts said that other programs would be developed to replace bookmobile services.

Chairman English said that she was supportive of keeping services in rural areas that enhanced the quality of life of the citizens and she was willing to add positions to ensure services were of good quality.

Ms. Ricketts said that she would strive to provide excellent service and still keep some of the services provided by the bookmobile on a smaller scale, like home deliveries.

Mr. Gilligan stated that operating the bookmobile had been done with contingency money and the County did not have the funds to operate it within the regular budget.

Ms. Ricketts noted that staffing would also be an issue.

Mr. Miranda stated that it would cost about \$6,000 to get it repaired. He noted that no one had done a cost evaluation when the vehicle was first purchased.

Chairman English asked about the other library services and what the future looked like for the library district.

Ms. Ricketts went over current staffing and services. She noted that current staffing levels were critical to keep providing core services. She added that changes needed to happen to modernize services and strengthen the use of technology.

Mr. Gilligan noted that the library district also funds the law library, which is a critical service for the County's citizens involved in litigation.

Supervisor Judd said she would need to discuss with residents to find out if the impact of budget decisions would be detrimental.

Ms. Ricketts said that she would work on providing more books online, as well as grant funding to provide free libraries in outlying communities.

Mr. Gilligan said staff would bring this back to the Board for a final decision.

Chairman English adjourned the meeting at 2:33 p.m.

APPROVED:

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Ann English, Chairman

ATTEST:

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Arlathe G. Rios, Clerk of the Board