

**PROCEEDINGS OF THE COCHISE COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS  
WORK SESSION HELD ON  
Tuesday, April 4, 2017**

A work session of the Cochise County Board of Supervisors was held on Tuesday, April 4, 2017 at 1:36 p.m. in the Board of Supervisors' Executive Conference Room, 1415 Melody Lane, Building G, Bisbee, Arizona.

Present: Ann English, Chairman; Patrick G. Call, Vice-Chairman; Peggy Judd, Member  
(telephonic)

Staff Present: Edward T. Gilligan, County Administrator  
Arlethe G. Rios, Clerk of the Board

Attendees: Ruben Miranda, Internal Services Administrator  
Joe Casey, Information Technology Director  
Lisa Marra, Community and Communications Administrator

Chairman English called the meeting to order at 1:35 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 County's Strategic Plan.

Chairman English said that this was a follow up to the Board retreat to further discuss the Board's strategic plan focus as related to budgetary decisions.

Mr. Gilligan said that he wanted to discuss three main priorities in economic development.

Vice-Chairman Call said in the past the Board had a different approach on economic development. He noted that with the current economic situation he now thought that the County should take a leadership role in regional economic development. He said that this effort would have to be prioritized in the strategic plan and funded. He stated that he would like to keep providing assistance and funding for water issues and would like to focus on a commercial port of entry.

Chairman English suggested putting money for all this effort in one fund line for tracking

purposes.

Supervisor Judd said that there were also possibilities for water recharge projects in the Sulphur Springs Valley.

Both Chairman English and Vice-Chairman Call agreed that \$1,000,000 would be appropriate for funding the economic development effort.

Chairman English discussed becoming a leader in technology, specifically making high speed internet available.

Mr. Casey said that he could not commit to external projects at this time, but would look at available grants for rural connectivity.

Vice-Chairman Call said that providing connectivity would be helpful to the County, but wanted to consider the legalities of the County becoming involved in fiber optic projects.

Mr. Miranda said that he was working on another project that would impact economic development by working with Northrup Grumman, a unmanned aerial systems company, to use the Bisbee Douglas International (BDI) Airport to expand business operations there. He stated that the company was currently working at Cochise College, but needed a bigger airstrip in order to fly their new updated aerial system. He asked if the Board would be interested in meeting with the company in order to make decisions about upgrading current hangars.

The Board said that they were interested and Mr. Miranda said he would coordinate a meeting.

Mr. Miranda said that staff would continue to work on improving the facility at the Willcox Airport and keep it up to the standards required by the Arizona Counties Insurance Pool. He noted that fuel sales had increased within the last couple of months.

Mr. Gilligan moved on to the status of the commercial port in Douglas. He noted that this was a separate project from the remodel of the current port of entry in Douglas. He said he would be meeting with consultants to look at what the County could do to focus on the commercial port and move that project forward.

Vice-Chairman Call requested a work session on the port.

Chairman English asked about the status of the Easter Mountain lawsuit.

Mr. Gilligan said that he was still working with staff and the attorney's office to gather information on how to best deal with this issue.

The Board directed Ms. Rios to set up several more strategic planning meetings around the County over the next four months.

Chairman English adjourned the meeting at 2:45 p.m.

APPROVED:

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Ann English, Chairman

ATTEST:

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Arlthe G. Rios, Clerk of the Board