

**PROCEEDINGS OF THE COCHISE COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS  
WORK SESSION HELD ON  
Tuesday, May 2, 2017**

A work session of the Cochise County Board of Supervisors was held on Tuesday, May 2, 2017 at 1:30 p.m. in the Conference Room, 450 S. Haskell Avenue, Willcox, Arizona.

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

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

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 County's Strategic Plan.

Chairman English said that these discussions were to ensure that strategic plan goals were spearheaded by the Board and included in the budget to ensure projects related to goals were funded.

Mr. Gilligan said that funding would have to be set aside to consult with a vendor and create a formal plan for a commercial port of entry in Douglas.

Vice-Chairman Call said that a commercial port of entry would be a benefit to the entire County. He noted that throughout the planning stage the appropriate agencies in Mexico should be contacted and kept in the loop to ensure we have their support.

Chairman English said she would contact Mr. Danny Ortega who could help the County get in contact with the appropriate agencies in Mexico, she added that she would also meet with APS, who had volunteered to help in economic development discussions.

Mr. Gilligan said that communicating with the appropriate agencies on both sides of the border was key and he would continue working on hiring a consulting company that specialized in these types of plans.

He moved on to say that a well built and maintained road system would also be key to better economic development countywide. He stated that he would work with staff to look at areas that needed better roads, one example would be the area of Willcox were all the farm wineries were located.

The Board agreed that a good road system needed to be in place.

Vice-Chairman Call said that he was glad staff had been able to sell the old Douglas Hospital and thought that the funds acquired from that sale should go towards funding some of these economic development related projects. He added that staff needed to look at what other buildings the County could sell.

Mr. Gilligan said that staff was currently working on an inventory of all office spaces to help make decisions on which buildings could be sold.

Chairman English stated that she also wanted to set aside funding for infrastructure on an annual basis.

Mr. Gilligan said that he would see where that could fit into the budget. He noted that he would be scheduling a meeting in the near future to brief the board on current litigation.

He moved on to current projects and said that staff was working on cleaning up all existing hangars to prepare them for an inspection by possible renters.

Chairman English asked if staff was researching fiber optics in rural areas of the County and planning on how that connectivity could improve.

Mr. Gilligan said that other projects took priority, but he would get that on the list of projects IT could look into for the future.

He moved on to the South East Arizona Communications (SEACOM) Center and discussed some upcoming maintenance costs and said that the State did not fully commit to maintenance costs, so that would still need to be discussed. He noted that staff was currently working with the City of Sierra Vista on an agreement that would have to be then approved by their council and our Board. He added that there were some concerns by other jurisdictions on the operations and how joining SEACOM would impact their State funding.

Vice-Chairman Call asked what the total cost for SEACOM would be for the upcoming year and what the \$400,000 maintenance costs would cover.

Chairman English asked if she could get a list of what projects are being paid for out of 1/2 cent sales tax and how much is available. She noted that she only thought that one time expenses should come out of that fund line.

She moved on to the budget work session format and said she wanted to keep the meetings focused on operations changes, funding requests that did not involve personnel, and did not want to discuss compensation plans.

Vice-Chairman Call stated that he wanted Mr. Gilligan to begin reaching out to those involved with the Villages at Vignetto subdivision to see if the County could assist in the completion of that project.

Mr. Gilligan said he had direction to move forward and would be using the scheduled strategic plan meetings, to keep the Board updated on current projects and the budget process.

Chairman English adjourned the meeting at 3:06 p.m.

APPROVED:

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Ann English, Chairman

ATTEST:

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Arlthe G. Rios, Clerk of the Board