

**PROCEEDINGS OF THE COCHISE COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
SPECIAL MEETING HELD ON
Monday, September 17, 2018**

A special meeting of the Cochise County Board of Supervisors was held on Monday, September 17, 2018 at 9:30 a.m. in the Board of Supervisors' Executive Conference Room, 1415 Melody Lane, Building G, Bisbee, Arizona.

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

Staff Present: Edward T. Gilligan, County Administrator
Britt W. Hanson, Chief Civil Deputy County Attorney
Arlethe G. Rios, Clerk of the Board

Attendees: Gabe Lavine, Emergency Services Coordinator
Carrie Langlely, Health and Social Services Director
Amanda Baillie, Public Information Officer
Judy Lynn, Arizona Department of Emergency and Military Affairs

Chairman Judd called the meeting to order at 9:30 a.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

ACTION

Board of Supervisors

1. Discussion and possible adoption of Resolution 18-18 declaring an emergency in Cochise County due to the Naco Hazardous Material Incident.

Supervisor Judd asked everyone to introduce themselves.

After Mr. Gabe Lavine, Emergency Services Coordinator, went over the mitigation plans and he asked that the Board approve a resolution declaring a local emergency to further the possibility of receiving assistance from state and federal agencies.

Chairman Judd asked if declaring an emergency meant that the County will receive funding.

Mr. Lavine said that the declaration does not guarantee funding, but it does bring attention from federal and state agencies.

Ms. Judy Lynn, Arizona Department of Emergency and Military Affairs (ADEMA) South

Region Liaison, said that her agency was the equivalent of the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA). She noted that ADEMA had no authority on military decisions and added that declaring an emergency would get attention and expedite the process. She added that declaring an emergency did not guarantee funding and recommended other agencies that could also assist with funding.

Supervisor English moved to adopt resolution 18-18 declaring an emergency in Cochise County due to the Naco, Sonora Hazardous Material Incident. Vice-Chairman Call seconded the motion.

Vice-Chairman Call clarified that he wanted to be careful with any assistance as he did not want the County to assume liability for something that was not in the County's realm of authority.

Supervisor English said she wanted to bring attention to the problem and involve all necessary agencies who were truly the ruling authorities and could solve the problem.

Chairman Judd called for the vote and it was approved 3-0.

2. Discussion and possible approval of a mitigation plan to address the hazardous material incident in the Naco, Arizona area.

Mr. Gabe Lavine, Emergency Services Coordinator, presented this item using a PowerPoint presentation. Mr. Lavine gave the background and said he would need guidance from the Board to decide on a course of action. He discussed four different options and went over the incident summary. He showed a map and pictures of the affected area and answered questions from citizens and the Board on the best path to move forward.

He added that staff was coordinating with all appropriate agencies on both sides of the border and had taken measures to address the emergency, but a longer term solution needed to be discussed.

Ms. Carrie Langley, Health and Social Services Director, discussed community impacts and noted concerns about possible chemicals and other issues with the raw sewage. She added that mosquitos were a major problem that needed to be addressed.

Mr. Lavine said that in addition to public health; infrastructure; commerce; other issues could have an impact if this was not resolved promptly. He also discussed well testing and emergency situations if water is contaminated.

Mr. John Ladd, a local rancher, said that extreme measures had to be taken in order to get the attention of the Mexican government. He added that County staff had done a great job responding.

Mr. Lavine said he understood that staff had to engage at a higher level to request assistance since it is an international issue that requires federal government involvement.

Mr. Robert Smith, Bisbee City Manager, gave his insight and said assistance to Mexico was difficult due to corruption in their government.

Supervisor English emphasized that this was not the County's problem and that the governor needed to assist with solving this issue. She added that if the County solved the problem alone the chances of receiving assistance from other agencies would decrease and those agencies would then expect that the County's assistance would be the long term solution.

Vice-Chairman Call added that taking responsibility would also mean taking on liability.

Mr. Lavine said that inaction could also become a liability.

Vice-Chairman Call said that the County would assist, but that a long term solution was not within the authority of the County.

Mr. Gilligan said that it was important for the County to respond to an emergency, but not as the permanent solution.

Mr. Lavine finished covering the options and asked how the Board wanted to move forward.

The Board asked that staff keep them informed, but that unless reacting to an emergency situation staff needed to work on getting the proper agencies involved in solving the issue.

Chairman Judd adjourned the meeting at 10:57 a.m.

APPROVED:

Peggy Judd, Chairman

ATTEST:

Arlethe G. Rios, Clerk of the Board