

**PROCEEDINGS OF THE COCHISE COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
WORK SESSION HELD ON
Tuesday, January 22, 2018**

A work session of the Cochise County Board of Supervisors was held on Monday, January 22, 2018 at 1:30 p.m. at Bodega Pierce Winery, 4511 Robbs Road, Willcox, Arizona.

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

Staff Present: Edward T. Gilligan, County Administrator
Britt W. Hanson, Chief Civil Deputy County Attorney
Marty Haverty, Solid Waste/Highways Director
Joaquin Solis, Floodplain Engineer
Amanda Baillie, Public Information Officer
Arlethe G. Rios, Clerk of the Board

Attendees: Jesus Valdez, Public Works Director, Santa Cruz County
Barbara Pierce, Citizen
Dan C. Pierce, Citizen
Sam Pillsbury, Citizen
Rhona MarMullan, Citizen
Mark Jorve, Citizen
Gary Kurtz, Citizen
Denzil Farbo, Citizen
Dorothy Laage, Citizen
Shirley Seplak, Citizen
John Arbuthnot, Citizen
Chad Preston, Citizen
Steve Seplak, Citizen
James & Ruth Graham, Citizens
Jesse Noble, Citizen
Bod & Julia Dixon, Citizens

Chairman English called the meeting to order at 1:36 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. Continued discussion and possible direction regarding the Willcox Wineries and a Road Review of that area.

Chairman English had all attendees introduce themselves.

She thanked the group for attending and said that today the focus would be on following up with the next steps that had been discussed at the November work session.

Ms. Pierce gave an update on signage for the area directing tourists to the wineries and said they had found a tourism directional policy that was currently being used in other wine countries nationwide. She went over highlights of the policy.

Chairman English said that to implement this policy, the State Department of Transportation would have to be involved due to the number of state highways in the area. She committed to contacting the District Engineer to discuss and report back to the group.

Mr. Haverty noted that some informational signs for the wine country in Santa Cruz County already exist and will bring back information on these signs and the policies involved to the group.

Mr. Hanson reported on his meeting with Ms. Pierce and County staff regarding the formation of a Road Improvement District (RID). He said that although this was an option it would be a long process and he recommended that the group look at grant opportunities and using Highway User Revenue Funds (HURF) to begin work on the roads leading to the wineries.

Ms. Pierce said she would continue to reach out to local federal agencies for grants, but due to the government shutdown she had not been able to contact anyone.

Chairman English also discussed a Public/Private Partnership, but said that in order to move forward in that direction the citizens would have to pay for materials and only one mile of road could be worked on during one calendar year.

She clarified that legislative restrictions barred the County from working on roads not on the maintenance system and upgrading roads to a higher standard than they were originally built.

Mr. Gilligan noted that he was also gathering information regarding a commerce authority grant that could be used for road improvements based on an economic development industry area.

Chairman English said that there were also local companies that were interested in donating money for road improvement. She cautioned the wine owners to be open to all types of companies that could help. She added that having a grant writer work on the grant applications would be a benefit.

Mr. Gilligan said that the County would begin working on statistics for the roads to collect data and use it for all grant applications.

Mr. Solis added that if Wayward Winds Road had water issues a flood engineering study would have to be done.

Chairman English summarized the next steps:

1. Chairman English will meet with District Engineer to discuss signage
2. Mr. Alan Baker and Ms. Barbara Pierce will continue looking at grants and find a grant writer to assist with the grant application process; County will provide data as needed for grant applications or special district purposes
3. Mr. Hanson and other County staff will meet with the group to continue discussing the feasibility of a Road Improvement District
4. Highways will conduct traffic counts on roads in the winery area and provide a firm estimate of the cost of chip sealing three miles of Robbs Road
5. Floodplain Division will conduct study on water issues on Wayward Wind Road and provide an estimate of the cost to improve it to County standards
6. Highways will review Arzberger Road for safety concerns

Chairman English thanked everyone for their input.

Chairman English adjourned the meeting at 2:39 p.m.

APPROVED:

Ann English, Chairman

ATTEST:

Arlthe G. Rios, Clerk of the Board