

**PROCEEDINGS OF THE COCHISE COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
WORK SESSION HELD ON
Tuesday, September 25, 2018**

A work session of the Cochise County Board of Supervisors was held on Tuesday, September 25, 2018 at 1:30 p.m. in the Board of Supervisors' Executive Conference Room, 1415 Melody Lane, Building G, Bisbee, Arizona.

Present: Peggy Judd, Chairman (telephonic); Patrick G. Call, Vice-Chairman (telephonic); 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: Shar Porier, Sierra Vista Herald
Robert Montgomery, Citizen
Nancy Rasmusson, Citizen
Michele Emerson-Roberts, Citizen
Charles R. Roberts, Citizen
Dan Morales, Sr., Citizen
Maria A. Morales, Citizen
Lori Kilpatrick, Citizen
Sue Mitchell, Citizen
Kevin Jamka, Deputy, Sheriff's Office
Randy Judd, Deputy, Sheriff's Office
Bruce Piepho, Citizen
Thad Smith, Chief Deputy, Sheriff's Office
Bill Duggan, SEACOM Executive Director

Supervisor 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

INTRODUCTIONS

ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION

Board of Supervisors

1. Discussion and possible direction regarding the First Amendment to the Southeastern Arizona Communications (SEACOM) Center Intergovernmental Agreement (IGA).

Supervisor English gave a brief background and said the Board had several meetings on this topic in order to make changes to the original agreement and any approved changes would become a formal decision presented as the first amendment to the Board and the City Council.

Mr. Gilligan said that the changes were consistent with the resolution proposed at the last meeting. He stated that each entity would chose their own representative instead of having a defined position noted in the agreement and at this time he recommended that the County's representative be Sheriff Dannels. He added that in addition to this change he had also discussed the City taking on more responsibilities like: Human Resources, Finance, and Procurement. He noted that Information Technology would remain as a County responsibility along with building maintenance since the building belonged to the County. SEACOM would be allowed to chose their own legal counsel and the clerk responsibilities would rest with the Chair's organization.

Supervisor English asked about the chairman position for the operations committee.

Mr. Gilligan said that the amendment also clarified that if the Sheriff served on the SEACOM Board he would not chair the operations committee.

Supervisor English went over all the changes to ensure everyone was clear on the details:

1. Each entity will chose a representative of their choosing because the Board of Supervisors wanted each entity to have equal representation.
2. Due to auditor concerns the finances of SEACOM would be handled by the City of Sierra Vista.
3. Human Resources would also be handled by the City of Sierra Vista to ensure that all employees belong to one organization.
4. Clerk duties will be handled by the Chairman's organization
5. The chair of the operations committee can not be on the SEACOM Board of Directors.
6. The County/City, as principals, will always be responsible for the cost structure by majority vote of their elected bodies to keep a fair rate that can be sustained.

Chairman Judd suggested that each entity have two votes.

Vice-Chairman Call said that he agreed with the current amendment and did not have an interest in having more than one member per organization.

Mr. Gilligan said that in the municipal environment it would introduce subordinates and that he thought one voice for every entity is in the best interest of SEACOM. He added that it was appropriate for the County's representative be Sheriff Dannels.

Sheriff Dannels said that the system was not broken and he believed Mr. Gilligan and himself should both be representatives on the SEACOM Board.

Supervisor English noted that the role of chairman of the operations committee had been chosen for the Sheriff because it was appropriate for him to oversee operations, but if he would rather be on the SEACOM Board then he should be the representative for the County so that there is a balance between all entities. She added that in the agreement Sheriff Dannels would be identified by title to ensure the clarity of his position on the Board.

Supervisor English allowed for public comment.

Mr. Bruce Piepho, Sierra Vista resident, said that the Sheriff was not a part of the County and separate from all entities involved and he should remain on the Board.

Ms. Lori Kilpatrick, Tombstone resident, said she agreed with Mr. Piepho.

Mr. Bill Duggan, SEACOM Executive Director, said that he disagreed with Mr. Gilligan and thought that both the Sheriff and Mr. Gilligan served a valuable role. He added that he would follow the direction of the Board, but believed the original structure of SEACOM was set up appropriately.

Vice-Chairman Call said that he was confident in the Sheriff's ability to represent the County and the Board would have financial oversight along with the other elected councils.

Chief Deputy Smith said that he still believed that no changes needed to be made and that this amendment process had been a waste of time. He cited the Sheriff's authority as the leading public safety figure in the County and explained why he should be on the Board as a voting member in addition to Mr. Gilligan. He added that the term ex officio was clear and had been made even more clear by the County Attorney's legal opinion.

Supervisor English said that she disagreed with this process being a waste of time and that she thought it was of value to clarify the initial intent.

Sheriff Dannels said that it was his authority to have a place on the Board that was separate from Mr. Gilligan, who represented the interest of the Board.

Mr. Gilligan said that the original structure gave both the Board and the Sheriff important positions. He added that taxing entities were meant to be on the SEACOM Board due to taxing responsibilities.

Supervisor English asked if anyone else wanted to comment.

Ms. Michele Emerson Roberts said that the position of Sheriff needs to have a seat on the Board.

Mr. Robert Montgomery asked why the County was even considering changes.

Mr. Gilligan said that Sheriff Dannels wanted a seat on the Board and these changes would make him the representative for the County. He added that he felt that the Sheriff could adequately handle SEACOM business. He did not think SEACOM meetings had been productive due to this conflict and with these changes that should no longer be an issue.

Supervisor English thanked everyone for their comments and the Board directed Mr. Gilligan and Mr. Hanson to clarify the changes discussed and bring back to the Board for approval.

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

APPROVED:

Peggy Judd, Chairman

ATTEST:

Arlthe G. Rios, Clerk of the Board