

**PROCEEDINGS OF THE COCHISE COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
SPECIAL/EXECUTIVE MEETING HELD ON
TUESDAY, JULY 7, 2020**

A special meeting of the Cochise County Board of Supervisors was held on Tuesday, July 7, 2020 at 9:30 a.m. in the Board of Supervisors' Executive Conference Room, 1415 Melody Lane, Building G, Bisbee, Arizona.

Present: Thomas E. Borer, Chairman; Ann English, Vice-Chairman; Peggy Judd, Supervisor, telephonic

Staff Present: Edward T. Gilligan, County Administrator
Sharon Gilman, Associate County Administrator
Christine Roberts, Chief Civil Deputy County Attorney
Kim Lemons, Clerk of the Board
Amanda Baillie, Public Information Officer

Chairman Borer 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. Approve Proclamation by the Chairman of the Cochise County Board of Supervisors requiring face covers for the purpose of mitigating the spread of Covid-19.

Mr. Gilligan said this draft proclamation language is based on others passed in other counties, particularly in Yuma County. He summarized the Covid-19 case counts in Cochise County.

Vice-Chairman English said, as a member of the Board of Health, all members are in support of keeping the public healthy. The medical organizations in the County have asked for mandated masks but the public is divided. She said, in the public arena, the Board has a responsibility to make sure the public is safe and healthy. She understands the opinion of both sides but not the general outcry, especially when there was not one when the Governor said everyone should stay home. A Proclamation from the Board gives credibility to the fact that this is a public health issue.

Supervisor Judd said she is solidly against masks and polled her community, and they believe this mandate is an infringement of personal liberty, and they are responsible

enough to make a choice. The Sheriff's Office is against it. She understands the medical community's opinion for mandating masks but does not want the cities to think we are forcing this on them.

Chairman Borer said he had spent considerable amount of time researching this and does not have a problem with wearing a mask, and he wears one himself. We want to continue to educate the community and campaign and encourage personal responsibility and let individuals decide for themselves. He does not feel the urgency now, looking at the numbers for the 20 zip codes in the County and those under mask orders who have increased counts. He summarized the counts throughout the County. He wants the individual mayors to decide what is best for their cities and at this point he is not in favor of mandating masks. He asked that the County continue an education campaign. This proclamation is not enforceable, and he asked that citizens take personal responsibility for keeping themselves safe.

Chairman Borer gave the statistics of the comments received from the public as of 5:00 p.m. the day before with 51 comments received with one to be read. The total number of comments received were 849 with 798 received from 5:00 p.m. yesterday until 9:00 a.m. today.

Chairman Borer read the one email from resident Mr. Ted Pahle as requested.

Chairman Borer also read a memorandum submitted to the Board from Sheriff Dannels.

There were no additional comments from the Board.

Vice-Chairman English made a motion to approve Proclamation by the Chairman of the Cochise County Board of Supervisors requiring face covers for the purpose of mitigating the spread of Covid-19. Supervisor Judd seconded the motion.

Chairman Borer called for the vote: English voted aye; Judd and Borer voted nay; item failed 2-1.

Chairman Borer adjourned the meeting at 9:51 a.m.

APPROVED:

Thomas E. Borer, Chairman

ATTEST:

Kim Lemons, Clerk of the Board