

**PROCEEDINGS OF THE COCHISE COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
WORK SESSION HELD ON
TUESDAY, MARCH 15, 2022**

A work session of the Cochise County Board of Supervisors was held on Tuesday, March 15, 2022, at 10:00 a.m. in the Board of Supervisors' Executive Conference Room, 1415 Melody Lane, Building G, Bisbee, Arizona.

Present: Ann English, Chairman; Peggy Judd, Vice-Chairman, telephonic; Tom Crosby, Supervisor

Staff Present: Richard G. Karwaczka, County Administrator
Sharon Gilman, Deputy County Administrator
Christine Roberts, Chief Civil Deputy County Attorney
Tim Mattix, Interim Clerk of the Board

Attendees: Mark Dannels, Sheriff
Thomas Alinen, Chief of Staff
Lisa Marra, Elections Director
Daniel Duchon, Budget Manager

Chairman English called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m.

ANY ITEM ON THIS AGENDA IS OPEN FOR DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION

THE ORDER OR DELETION OF ANY ITEM ON THIS AGENDA IS SUBJECT TO MODIFICATION AT THE MEETING

ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION

Board of Supervisors

1. Discussion and possible direction regarding the Jail and the new Justice Center proposal.

Sheriff Dannels and Mr. Karwaczka presented this item using a PowerPoint presentation. Sheriff Dannels updated the Board on proposed state legislation that would provide a minimum of \$20 million for Jail construction; a meeting with Pinal County regarding use of their facility, at an estimated cost of \$1 million; and, discussions with the National Institute of Jail Operations (NIJO) and Mr. Karwaczka regarding repairs to the current Jail facility while working towards a long-term solution.

Mr. Karwaczka reviewed updates from the internal Jail District Committee. An election could take place next year. HighGround, Inc., the consultant used previously, could be used again for consulting services at a cost of \$3,500 for six months. In the future, the Jail Committee could be expanded to include members of the public. He requested feedback regarding proceeding.

The Board discussed their thoughts and opinions on the Jail District; a potential tax increase; and, including an accurate estimate of the impact to an average household in the ballot language. Sheriff Dannels stated that all Mayors in the County supported a 1/2 cent sales tax for the new Justice Center. The Board and Mr. Karwaczka discussed the consultant, including the work that would be done moving forward.

The Board, Sheriff Dannels, and Mr. Karwaczka discussed the Sheriff leading the Jail District process and being the face of the project. In response to the Board, Sheriff Dannels stated that the best thing in the near future is to bring NIJO back and make improvements to the existing Jail until a new facility is available. Supervisor Crosby distributed a handout and discussed unfunded pension liabilities for the Public Safety Personnel Retirement System (PSPRS) and Corrections Officer Retirement Plan (CORP); and, inflation and commodities, such as the current cost of gas. There was Board consensus to proceed with the Jail District process.

Mr. Karwaczka reviewed other considerations. The anticipated cost to transfer the female population to the Sierra Vista Jail and move the juvenile population and staff to the Sierra Vista substation is approximately \$1.9 million. Pinal County anticipated costs are \$1 million, plus above-normal medical costs of approximately \$350,000, and \$1 million for transportation costs. The Board, Sheriff Dannels, and Mr. Karwaczka discussed transportation costs and concerns, virtual appearances, and the difficulties of a Cochise County Judge Pro-Tem traveling to Pinal County.

Mr. Karwaczka continued the presentation, and noted that the anticipated cost of the Douglas Department of Corrections Facility is approximately \$3.3 million. He stated that making improvements to the current Jail Facility, moving forward with the Jail District, and proceeding with going out to bid the design of the Jail and Justice Center is the wisest expense. Sheriff Dannels concurred. The Board made closing comments regarding their thoughts and opinions on the Jail District; the other considerations; cost and taxes; and, repairing the current Jail Facility.

Chairman English adjourned the meeting at 10:41 a.m.

APPROVED:

Ann English, Chairman

ATTEST:

Tim Mattix, Interim Clerk of the Board