

**PROCEEDINGS OF THE COCHISE COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
WORK SESSION HELD ON
WEDNESDAY, MAY 4, 2022**

A work session of the Cochise County Board of Supervisors was held on Wednesday, May 4, 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
Tim Mattix, Clerk of the Board
Camila Rochin, Public Information Officer

Attendees: Mark Dannels, Sheriff
Daniel Duchon, Budget Manager
Michael Cline, Director, SEACOM
Victoria Yarbrough, Assistant City Manager, City of Sierra Vista
Jennifer Dillaha, Management Analyst, City of Sierra Vista

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. Budget Work Session - Discussion of County Budget for Fiscal Year 2022-2023 specifically: Southeastern Arizona Communications (SEACOM) and Public Safety.

Mr. Cline presented this item using a PowerPoint presentation. He reviewed SEACOM's history, mission statement, organizational chart, and the Fire, Private Ambulance Transport, and Law Enforcement entities served by SEACOM. He reviewed the total number of calls received by category and the average number of calls received per day. A major challenge SEACOM faces is the recruitment and retention of personnel; SEACOM is proposing a 4% market shift and 2% step increase in July, with a 2% market shift in January, 2023, to address recruitment and retention. He reviewed the status of new subscribers and the Fire Alerting System project. A grant awarded from the Arizona Department of Emergency and Military Affairs (DEMA) will be used for the radio system. In response to the Board, he confirmed that he will provide statistical information broken down by number of calls for Police, Fire, or Ambulance.

Mr. Cline reviewed the budget by category, noting the reasons for various increases. The County's share for Fiscal Year 2022-2023 is lower than the current Fiscal Year, at \$955,899, including a split with Sierra Vista of \$314,199 for the deficit.

The Board, Sheriff Dannels, Mr. Cline, and Ms. Yarbrough discussed the salary of 9-1-1 dispatchers; SEACOM working with carriers to realign cell towers so callers in the eastern portion of the County are not connected with 9-1-1 in New Mexico; and, various recruitment options. There was a detailed discussion regarding the Career and Technical Education (CTE) Law and Public Safety high school program with students interested in law enforcement and public safety careers, and a potential future educational opportunity through Cochise College. Topics also discussed in detail included: the impact of rising minimum wage rates; the specialty required for dispatch positions; minimum age for dispatchers; and, recruitment and pay for dispatchers.

Chairman English adjourned the meeting at 10:39 a.m.

APPROVED:

Ann English, Chairman

ATTEST:

Tim Mattix, Clerk of the Board