

**PROCEEDINGS OF THE COCHISE COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
WORK SESSION HELD ON
TUESDAY, AUGUST 22, 2023**

A work session of the Cochise County Board of Supervisors was held on Tuesday, August 22, 2023, at 9:00 a.m. in the Board of Supervisors' Hearing Room, 1415 Melody Lane, Building G, Bisbee, Arizona.

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

Staff Present: Richard G. Karwaczka, County Administrator
Christine Roberts, Chief Civil Deputy County Attorney
Lara Loewenheim, Deputy Clerk of the Board

Attendees: David Stevens, County Recorder
Bob Bartelsmeyer, Elections Director

Chairman Judd called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m.

ANY ITEM ON THIS AGENDA IS OPEN FOR DISCUSSION

ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION

Board of Supervisors

1. Discussion and possible direction regarding administrative and supervisory authority over the Elections Department after the Agreement for Election Services with Cochise County Recorder David Stevens terminates on September 7, 2023.

Mr. Karwaczka provided background information, that on February 28, 2023, the Board, along with Recorder Stevens, entered into an agreement for Recorder Stevens to manage Elections services. He stated on June 9, 2023, Recorder Stevens sent an email that served as his termination notice. Mr. Karwaczka explained the termination is effective from September 7, 2023.

He stated he sought Board direction on what should happen for oversight after September 7, 2023. Chairman Judd shared her comments of appreciation for Recorder Stevens and Mr. Bartelsmeyer. She stated she expected supervision would return to the way it had been before the Recorder Agreement.

Supervisor Crosby asked Recorder Stevens to explain how the administrative responsibilities would change. Recorder Stevens explained he met goals of the agreement by hiring staff and preparing for November election. Recorder further explained that functions of Elections would remain a part of Elections and Recorder duties remain with Recorder.

In response to the Board, Mr. Bartelsmeyer stated Recorder Stevens provided a clear delineation of roles within the Elections Department.

In response to the Board, Recorder Stevens stated there is ongoing collaboration between the Elections Department and the Recorder's office. Mr. Stevens explained the supervision of Elections with the Board and Mr. Karwaczka, he stated the existing

collaboration will persist, particularly in special elections and Title 19 initiatives, referendums, and recalls.

A discussion followed between Board and Recorder Stevens and Bartlesmeyer regarding ballot styles in November 2023 Elections.

Supervisor English clarified that the County Administrator over saw Elections department in the past and she saw no problems. She stated she would like to go back to previous structure before agreement with Recorder Stevens.

In response to Chairman Judd, Mr. Karwaczka stated that Special Districts, as established by a previous resolution, are overseen by the director or manager of Elections. He noted that other departments also assist. He specified that the Clerk of the Board maintains records and does not provide legal advice.

Supervisor Crosby provided general comments regarding an exhaustive list of duties of staff and the desire for more meetings.

Mr. Karwaczka sought clarification on Supervisor Crosby's statement suggesting an additional option where the elections director reports directly to the Board, potentially leading to more meetings. He asked if this was a direction to do new Resolution for this structure.

Supervisor English and Chairman Judd each stated their direction was to do the same as in the past.

Chairman Judd adjourned the meeting at 09:29 a.m.

APPROVED:

Peggy Judd, Chairman

ATTEST:

Sharon Gilman, Interim Clerk of the Board