

**PROCEEDINGS OF THE COCHISE COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
SPECIAL MEETING HELD ON
TUESDAY, JULY 2, 2024**

A special meeting of the Cochise County Board of Supervisors was held on Tuesday, July 2, 2024, at 10:00 a.m. in the Board of Supervisors' Hearing Room, 1415 Melody Lane, Building G, Bisbee, Arizona.

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

Staff Present: Richard G. Karwaczka, County Administrator
Sharon Gilman, Deputy County Administrator
Denise Riden, Civil Deputy County Attorney
Melissa Wright, Administrative Specialist

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

ACTION

Board of Supervisors

1. Discussion and possible action to appoint up to three board members to the Mescal J6 Fire District Board, selected from the attached letters of intent, to fill vacancies pursuant to A.R.S. § 48-803(B), effective immediately for two terms ending in 2024 and one term ending in 2026.

Sharon Gilman, Deputy County Administrator, provided background on the necessity of appointing interim board members for the Mescal J6 Fire District. She stated that three out of five board members resigned, leaving the board without a quorum. She stated that according to statute 48-803B, the Board of Supervisors must appoint interim members or an administrator to manage the district until the next election. She noted that due to the urgency of passing a budget and the availability of submitted names, the appointments were added to the agenda to reestablish a quorum for conducting business.

In response to Chairman English, Ms. Gilman stated the timing is critical as there are deadlines for the fiscal year. She mentioned the Mescal J6 Fire District needs to submit a signature card to the County Treasurer by July 1st, which requires signatures from the district's Treasurer, Chief, and Chairman—all positions currently vacant. She noted the district's budget is due to the Board of Supervisors by August 1st to set the required tax rate.

Chairman English called on the public who requested to speak on the item.

Michael Nervick highlighted extensive experience in emergency services in Cochise County, served as a paramedic chief with ACI Ambulance for 15 years and is currently active in the Cochise County Fire Chiefs Association.

Mary J. Bowen emphasized her 13 years of experience as a board member for the Mescal J6 Fire District. She expressed the need to fill the vacant positions promptly to ensure the district can continue serving the community effectively.

Dennis Lee expressed his concerns about the fire district's issues and urged appointing an administrator.

Janette Hochar voiced significant concerns about the current situation with the fire district.

Robert Murray spoke on behalf of many taxpayers, advocating for the appointment of an administrator instead of new board members.

The Board discussed the appointment of an administrator for the Mescal J6 Fire District. Supervisor Judd gave the example of the Sonoita Fire District's appointment of Mr. John Flynn as an administrator. The Board had concern about the short-term nature of any appointments made, as dictated by statute, until the next election in November. The Board discussed whether to appoint three new board members or just one to ensure a quorum. They noted that appointing three members would provide stability, allowing the board to conduct business effectively and prepare for the upcoming election in November, while appointing only one could risk a quorum issue if any member is absent.

Chairman English polled the Board for their votes for board members from the provided names.

Vice-Chairman Crosby made a motion to appoint three board members to the Mescal J6 Fire District Board to fill vacancies pursuant to A.R.S. 48-803b effective immediately. Supervisor Judd seconded the motion.

Vice-Chairman Crosby stated their names, Mr. Michael Nervik, Alan Keith Rogers, and Sonja Salcido. Supervisor Judd seconded. Chairman English called for any further discussion.

Supervisor Judd encouraged the community members to take action by supporting their preferred candidates in the upcoming election. She emphasized that meaningful changes can be achieved through the electoral process and acknowledged the community's desire for change.

Vice-Chairman Crosby thanked all the community participants for their interest.

Chairman English expressed her gratitude to those who attended the meeting, acknowledging their expectations for the board to act in the community's best interest.

Chairman English called for the vote and it was approved 3-0.

Chairman English adjourned the meeting at 10:34 a.m.

APPROVED:

Ann English, Chairman

ATTEST:

Sharon Gilman, Interim Clerk of the Board