

The Pinal County Board of Supervisors convened at 9:30 A.M. this date. Chairman Smith called the meeting to order.

Video recording and presentations of the meeting can be found at www.pinalcountyz.gov

Present: Chairman Anthony Smith; Vice-Chairman Todd House; Supervisor Pete Rios; Supervisor Stephen Q. Miller; County Manager, Greg Stanley; Deputy County Attorney, Kevin Costello; Clerk of the Board, Sheri Cluff and Deputy Clerk of the Board, AmberLee Mudd.

Point of Personal Privilege

Supervisor Todd House extended his condolences to the Babeu family as Raymond Babeu passed away July 3, 2014.

Discussion/approval/disapproval of Resolution No. 070914-SDIS requiring financial assurance in the form of a bond, letter of credit or cash deposit to be submitted with all impact statements for the formation of special taxing districts under A.R.S. 48-261.

Deputy County Attorney, Kevin Costello explained that there are currently two pending requests to form fire districts. As part of that process, the Board of Supervisors has the authority to request the district proponents to submit a bond to cover the county's cost for notice publications and things of that nature. Due to the time frame, the notice to the public in the paper has to go out almost immediately and this resolution will require the proponents to develop an estimate of what those costs would be and to provide a bond to the County when they submit their impact statement. This will ensure the County is not put in a position of having to cover those costs without the assurance of a bond later.

Supervisor Rios asked what the County's recourse authority is if the current pending cases do not post a bond.

Mr. Costello stated that the Boards opportunity to exercise it's discretion in this process occurs at the time of the first hearing on the impact statement. At the second hearing, after the petition signatures have been collected, the decision of formation is determined by the numbers and if they have sufficient valid signatures, the district is formed.

Motion was made by Supervisor House and seconded by Supervisor Chase to approve Resolution No. 070914-SDIS requiring financial assurance in the form of a bond, letter of credit or cash deposit to be submitted with all impact statements for the formation of special taxing districts under A.R.S. 48-261. Motion carried by unanimous vote.

Public Hearing and discussion/approval/disapproval of the impact statement for the proposed San Tan Valley Fire and Medical District as required by A.R.S. 48-261A(2) and the circulation of petitions.

Chairman Smith opened the Public hearing and asked Mr. Costello to share his presentation.

Mr. Costello's presentation explained the process of forming a fire district. The County Attorney's office does not represent the proponents of the proposed district. The presentation is for informational purposes and does not constitute legal advice. The process is controlled by A.R.S. 48-261 and includes the filing of an impact statement, notice by mail, posting and publication, a public hearing, determination of the Board as to whether the district will serve the public health, comfort, convenience, necessity or welfare of the area. If the Board determines that it will serve those purposes, they authorize the circulation of the petitions by the proponents of the district. The proponents have one year to acquire a sufficient number of signatures. If the signatures are obtained, the petitions are submitted back to the county for verification and upon verification, the district is formed. Mr. Costello's presentation can be viewed on the Board of Supervisors website.

Travis Williams of San Tan Valley, Arizona, Chairman of the San Tan Valley Fire District organizing committee appeared on behalf of the applicant Bob Myer. The proposed fire district is a result of a public meeting held over a year ago to discuss the area's public safety. The formation of the STVFM district will significantly improve response times to fire and medical emergencies in the San Tan area. Property taxes will increase minimally, but in many cases, less than the subscription to Rural Metro. Mr. Williams explained the funding for the district through taxes and how the rates are governed by state statute. Mr. Williams stated that the District will hire the most qualified people using a neutral and un-biased approach. The goal is to ensure fire and medical service for years to come. San Tan Valley Fire will continue conversations with the Town of Queen Creek as a portion of the boundaries are included in the Town of Queen Creek's planning area. Mr. Williams requested a continuance of the public hearing to meet with Town of Queen Creek in an effort to resolve the boundary issue. It is vital to get along and work together with the surrounding communities.

Town of Florence Mayor Tom Rankin read into the record the letter submitted to the Board. The Town is not against the district, but has concerns regarding the proposed map as it encroaches on the voter approved planning area. The Town of Florence would like input on the boundary map prior to a decision being made. He requested the map be withdrawn, or continue the public hearing to meet with the proponent to modify the proposed map.

Melvin Scott of San Tan Valley, Arizona; Theodore Leach of San Tan Valley, Arizona; James Kerley of San Tan Valley, Arizona; Don Ackley of San Tan Valley, Arizona; Michael Allen of San Tan Valley, Arizona and Ryan Rivas of San Tan Valley, Arizona appeared in support of the proposed district.

Melvin Scott was in favor of the proposed district, but did not wish to address the Board.

Irvin Malcom of San Tan Valley, Arizona expressed concern regarding the budget as he did not feel the submitted budget would be adequate enough to cover the actual cost to implement.

Merle Pfeifer of San Tan Valley, Arizona; Sharon and Bill Szymanski of San Tan Valley, Arizona; John Flynn of San Tan Valley, Arizona; Ted Beam, Rural Metro Fire Chief; Bambi Sandquist of San Tan Valley, Arizona; Amanda DeMoss of San Tan Valley, Arizona; Court Rich of Rose Law Group and Adam Stevens of San Tan Valley, Arizona appeared in opposition of the proposed district.

Gordon Brown of San Tan Valley, Arizona did not think the planning areas should be valued over the County's responsibility to the residents in the rural areas who have chosen the County as their governing body.

Supervisor Rios asked legal if the item is continued and the entities meet and the map is modified, would that in turn modify the impact statement essentially requiring the proponent to start the process over.

Mr. Costello said that once the boundary changes, the numbers would change so the impact statement would have to be changed. If the Board continued the hearing and the proponent withdraws their proposal they would need to start the process over. However, they can re-apply right away. If the Board were to deny the proponents proposal, they would have to wait 6 months before they can start the process again.

Motion was made by Supervisor Chase and seconded by Supervisor Rios to continue the public hearing and consideration of the impact statement for the proposed San Tan Valley Fire and Medical District to September 17, 2014. Motion carried by unanimous vote.

The meeting stood adjourned at 11:35 A.M. The next regular meeting of the Pinal County Board of Supervisors will be on Wednesday, July 23, 2014 at 9:30 A.M. with a Work Session scheduled for July 16, 2014 at 9:30 A.M.

PINAL COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

AmberLee Mudd

AmberLee Mudd, Deputy Clerk of the Board