

Special Session

August 13, 2014

Video recording and presentations for this meeting are available at www.pinalcountyaz.gov.

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

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

Supervisor Cheryl Chase participated telephonically until 10:30 A.M.

Meeting of the Desert Vista Sanitary District Board of Directors.

9:30 A.M. – Chairman Smith recessed the regular session of the Board of Supervisors and convened as the Desert Vista Sanitary District Board of Directors.

9:37 A.M. – Chairman Smith adjourned the Desert Vista Sanitary District Board of Directors meeting and re-convened as the Pinal County Board of Supervisors

Presentation of Pinal County's tax levies and rates compared to other Arizona counties.

Assistant County Manager of Administrative Services, Leo Lew, appeared before the Board. As part of the Board's strategic plan, the performance measure under Strategic Priority 4, Financial Stability and Health, states that the Board of Supervisors will not raise the primary property tax rate through fiscal year 17/18. Mr. Lew noted that it does not preclude the Board from lowering the tax rate. This year the tax rate was held steady at \$3.7999. He presented the tax levies and rates and how they compare to other Arizona counties. Pinal County has the 3rd highest primary property tax rate in the State at \$3.7999 and the 4th highest combined property tax rate in the State at \$4.0669. Pinal County's primary property tax levy per capita at \$193 is the median, which was \$20 or 11% higher than the State average. Pinal County has the lowest income per capita in the State at 31% lower than the State as a whole. Pinal County has the 5th highest primary property tax burden as a percent of 2012 personal income at 0.79%. Mr. Lew's presentation can be viewed on the Board of Supervisor's website.

Chairman Smith said that the Board has held the line with regard to the tax rate and the challenge ahead is to control spending.

Fiscal year 2014-2015 property tax levies and rates for all governmental entities of Pinal County.

Supervisor Rios said that approval of the levies and rates was a formality and asked staff to explain to the public what would happen if the Board did not approve the document.

Mr. Lew said that the boards for the different taxing districts adopt their own rates and budgets. The Board of Supervisors must adopt the levies and rates overall in order for the Treasurer to send out the tax bill and collect on the levies.

Chief Civil Deputy County Attorney, Chris Keller, said that with regard to not approving the levies and rates, the County would very likely be in court being challenged by those districts claiming that what the Board does is a ministerial act and that the Board has no discretion after those entities have already adopted what they believe is their appropriate tax rate.

Chairman Smith pointed out that the County's portion of the tax bill has made great progress and is not the main contributor to the overall tax bill. He encouraged the other taxing districts to take an aggressive stand to live within their means as well.

Motion was made by Supervisor Rios and seconded by Supervisor Miller to approve the fiscal year 2014-2015 property tax levies and rates for all governmental entities of Pinal County. Motion carried by unanimous vote.

Presentation of Open Space and Trails Department update and Conservation Funding Survey Results.

Open Space and Trails Director, Kent Taylor, presented the open space and trails update and survey results. Mr. Taylor's presentation can be viewed on the Board of Supervisor website.

The Open Space and Trails Master plan has a cost associated with it and Chairman Smith wondered if the results of the survey precluded staff from advancing towards the goals of the master plan. He would like to see the master plan goals and action items advance, but unless general fund monies are used, it needs to advance by other means of funding.

Mr. Taylor said that there is a missing education piece in that the general public does not know the department exists and therefore is not aware of the plan. Staff will be looking for partnership and collaboration opportunities in order to implement the master plan.

Supervisor Rios felt that basic needs do not include open space and trails and with such a high un-employment rate, this is the type of response he anticipated. Education is a good idea, but he was not sure that, within the next two years, it would change a substantial amount of opinions. People are sensitive to the issue of water and he suggested narrowing the next attempt to developing areas that have something to do with water such as sites along the Gila where water flows.

Supervisor Miller would like the survey to show what percentage of residents actually use the park facilities.

The Board would like staff to look at what can be done to tailor the message being sent to the residents.

Presentation by Strategic Research Initiatives (SRI) to the BOS to discuss the results of the Workforce Skills Assessment Survey conducted in May, 2014 in the San Tan Valley, Gold Canyon and Apache Junction area. Mr. Tim Grainey of SRI will present the results.

Tim Kanavel, Economic Development Program Manager, explained that in March of 2014, the County contracted with Strategic Research Initiatives to conduct a workforce skills assessment research study. With the amount of diverse projects happening in the County in the last two years, it is important to know the County's workforce skill set, especially as it correlates to economic development. San Tan Valley, Gold Canyon and Apache Junction areas were surveyed first. Mr. Kanavel introduced Tim Grainey, with SRI, to present the final report of that first area. The County is further ahead in the education department than what was initially thought. SRI will be conducting the study in the remaining Pinal County communities with a goal to have them completed by the end of November 2014. Moving forward, staff would like to conduct all of these area studies on a two year cycle. The presentation can be found on the Board of Supervisors website.

Executive Sessions:

11:09 A.M. – Motion was made by Supervisor House and seconded by Supervisor Miller to recess into executive session. Motion carried by unanimous vote.

Executive session for discussion related to the evaluation of the Clerk of the Board pursuant to A.R.S. 38-431.03(A).

Present: Chairman Anthony Smith; Vice-Chair Todd House; Supervisor Pete Rios; Supervisor Stephen Q. Miller and Clerk of the Board, Sheri Cluff.

12:10 P.M. – The above executive session ended and the next one began.

Executive session for discussion related to the evaluation of the County Manager pursuant to A.R.S. 38-431.03(A).

Present: Chairman Anthony Smith; Vice-Chair Todd House; Supervisor Pete Rios; Supervisor Stephen Q. Miller and County Manager, Greg Stanley.

The meeting stood adjourned at 1:02 P.M. The next regular meeting of the Pinal County Board of Supervisors will be on Wednesday, August 20, 2014 at 9:30 A.M.

PINAL COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

AmberLee Mudd

AmberLee Mudd. Deputy Clerk of the Board