

OFFICE OF THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS  
COCONINO COUNTY, FLAGSTAFF, ARIZONA  
WEDNESDAY, JUNE 12, 2012

The Board of Supervisors met in Budget Session on Tuesday, June 12, 2012, at 8:00 am, First Floor Meeting Room, 219 E. Cherry Ave., Flagstaff.

**Roll Call.**

**Present:** Chairman Carl Taylor, Supervisor Matt Ryan, Supervisor Mandy Metzger, Supervisor Lena Fowler and Vice Chairwoman Liz Archuleta telephonically until she arrived in person at 8:35 am.

**Also Present:** Interim County Manager Mike Townsend, Chief Financial Officer Sandra Schulz, Clerk of the Board of Supervisors Wendy Escoffier, Budget Manager Megan Zickerman, Senior Budget Analyst Misty Drye, Budget Analyst John Comer, Assistant County Manager/ Government Relations Director Joanne Keene, Deputy County Manager Larry Dannenfeldt, and Recording Specialist Jonathan McIntosh.

Chairman Taylor called the meeting to order at 8:20 am.

**Coconino Plateau Water Advisory Council (CPWAC)**

Coconino Plateau Water Advisory Council (CPWAC) Coordinator Ron Doba provided an overview of their department's budget, community involvements and progress. Mr. Doba spoke with the Board of Supervisors about water laws, the CPWAC responsibilities and grant information. Chairman Taylor noted the importance of CPWAC since the southwest is in a drought condition.

**Family and Community Teaming for Students (FACTS) Program**

FACTS Director Sylva A. Johnson provided an overview of their department's program, FACTS' successes, and the necessity of the program for many children

In response to questions from Supervisor Metzger, Sylvia A. Johnson brought up a budgetary difficulty: paying license fees for all sites. The Board commended the group for their work and discussed FACTS' desire to start other centers throughout the County and noted the difficulty in this task. Chairman Taylor spoke on the high amount of stress that many communities have in maintaining schools.

**Flagstaff Cultural Partners**

Flagstaff Cultural Partners Executive Director John Tannous spoke on investments in culture and the large amount of revenue that culture generates on the state and county level. Mr. Tannous stated a review of services his department provides: workshops, exhibitions, entertainment, organizational collaborations, and financial assistance to artists, professional development, and support for other arts organizations.

The Board discussed impressive revenue numbers, the impact of the arts on the community and the possibility of integrating other communities and ideas into the Cultural Partners' exhibits

Chairman Taylor called for a break at 10:14 a.m. and reconvened the meeting at 10:30 a.m.

### **NAU Rural Policy Institute**

Assistant Dean and Director of the Rural Policy Institute Wayne Fox went over the Rural Policy Institute's projects for Coconino County. Wayne Fox also went over County trends and highlighted a study on median household income. Wayne Fox also provided an overview of the demands of the future. The Board of Supervisors discussed various projects Wayne Fox engaged in that related to their various interests.

### **Cooperative Extension**

County Cooperative Extension Director Beth Tucker provided an overview of the program, which included the mission, the variety of groups their program serves, and program changes and prominent trends.

The Board of Supervisors asked Beth Tucker about different plans that the Cooperative Extension has. Vice Chairwoman Elizabeth Archuleta asked about the Cooperative Extension's study on the children of incarcerated parents. Ms. Tucker discussed the state of her organization's budget with the Board of Supervisors.

### **The Guidance Center**

Guidance Center CEO Karissa Nisted reviewed her organization's budget, statistics of who stays in the Guidance Center and goals for The Guidance Center.

Vice Chairwoman Archuleta discussed collaborations with the Guidance Center and other entities' statistics of people housed at the Guidance Center with Ms. Nisted.

The Board spoke to Ms. Nisted about an alcohol tax distribution for The Guidance Center as well as an overview of partners and contributing groups, and the Flagstaff Medical Center's referral process with The Guidance center.

Chairman Taylor called for a break began at 12:02 p.m. and reconvened the meeting at 1:02 pm.

### **Northern Arizona Intergovernmental Public Transportation Authority (NAIPTA)**

NAIPTA General Manager Jeff Meilbeck and NAIPTA Planning Manager Erika Mazza reviewed the agency's programs and leadership. The Board and NAIPTA representatives discussed the Coconino County Taxi Voucher program, including the qualifications of the program and how to provide the service to outlying communities.

Supervisor Fowler expressed her goal to see transportation services extended to all areas of the County to provide connectivity to those who cannot afford it.

Mr. Townsend said there is more work to be accomplished with other agencies to provide extended transportation service to other areas.

Supervisor Ryan added that Supervisor Fowler could help form partnerships.

### **Sustainable Economic Development Initiative (SEDI)**

SEDI Executive Director Carol Bousquet listed goals for the next fiscal year, accomplishments for the past fiscal year, provided information about an upcoming entrepreneurial summit, the results of a workforce training study, and background on the Sustainable Teacher of the Year Award.

SEDI President and Board Chairman Ron Hubert provided an update on the ranchers program regarding local processing of locally grown beef. Ms. Bousquet explained the duties of each organization and how the two groups coordinate and support each other.

The Board and SEDI representatives discussed upcoming events and activities of SEDI.

### **Economic Collaborative of Northern Arizona (ECoNA)**

ECoNA Director Rich Bowen reviewed the business and economic climate in the area and discussed their impacts to the economic development in the County and provided specific examples of businesses and their activities in the area. Mr. Bowen provided examples of how ECoNA has assisted businesses and spoke about the impact cultural tourism at the Twin Arrows Casino will have on the area.

He provided information on businesses relocating to the area and said the I-40 is an effective distribution point and said there is a lot of interest ‘up and down the I-40 corridor.’ He provided information about the landowners along the I-40 corridor, specific activities related to forest restoration, and provided requirements of specific businesses that could locate in the County. Mr. Bowen stated the various organizations and government departments are working well with each other.

Chairman Taylor called for a break at 2:30 pm and reconvened the meeting at 2:45pm.

### **Flagstaff Shelter Services**

Executive Director Alyce Louise Bertsche provided an overview of Flagstaff Shelter Services progress and budget. Ms. Bertsche discussed the health clinic that they use, substance abuse, the segment of the homeless that are mentally ill, and the logistics of rooming people at the shelter. Ms. Bertsche made the point throughout her presentation that the homeless are a heterogeneous group. In response to questions from the Board of Supervisors, Alyce Bertsche talked about communication with departments and collaborations with other departments.

### **United Way/ VITA**

Board of Directors Member Susanna Maxwell shared the successes of United Way with the Board and went over the importance of the County support.

The Board discussed the ability of organizations that have not been considered for funding, how to empower organizations and enable organizations to benefit community members as well as helping facilitate partnerships between agencies.

Eric Wolverton provided an overview of activities for Saint Mary's Food Bank Alliance: they collaborate with many food providers to provide for aid for citizens at or below the poverty line. Mr. Wolverton noted the amount of effectiveness that the Board's support had through United Way. Mr. Wolverton went over the large number of visits to satisfy the needs of Northern Arizona.

The Board spoke on qualifications to be a partner agency with Mr. Wolverton, who explained requirements, which include having recording structure. Mr. Wolverton emphasized that there are not a large number of elements to their criteria.

Supervisor Fowler commended Mr. Wolverton for his work throughout the County.

Sarah Benatar reviewed budget numbers for the Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) Program and reviewed the earned income tax credit. Ms. Benatar stated that when their group assists citizens with taxes and they receive large tax returns, it can empower them to escape from poverty.

The Board discussed how VITA has grown and noted their successes. They thanked Ms. Benatar for her leadership and in response to a question from the Board Ms. Benatar replied that travel, rental and materials are all factors that cost money in funding although everything is volunteer-based. The Board discussed access to Fredonia and virtual service delivery.

A VITA volunteer identified as Gretchen said she became certified and that it was an amazing and rewarding experience. She relayed a story of a client who did not want to file taxes at first but received a tax refund which provided money he would not have had.

### **Board Discussion**

The meeting concluded with the Board and staff discussed budget items to bring back for further review and discussion.

There being no further discussion, Chairman Taylor adjourned the meeting at 4:16 pm.

**COCONINO COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS**

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S/A  
Carl Taylor, Chairwoman

(SEAL)

**ATTEST:**

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S/A  
Wendy Escoffier, Clerk of the Board