



OFFICE OF THE COCONINO COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

SPECIAL SESSION AND EXECUTIVE SESSION MINUTES

February 4, 2021

9:00 a.m. – Special Session

Present: Chair Matt Ryan, Vice Chairwoman Lena Fowler, Supervisor Judy Begay and Supervisor Patrice Horstman were present virtually via Zoom meeting technology.

Also Present: County Manager James Jayne, Deputy County Manager/Public Works Director Lucinda Andreani, Deputy County Manager Joanne Keene, Deputy County Attorney Rose Winkeler, Public Affairs Director Eric Peterson, Clerk of the Board of Supervisors Lindsay Daley and Deputy Clerk of the Board Valerie Webber were present virtually via Zoom meeting technology.

Chair Ryan called the Special Session meeting to order at 9:03 a.m.

Call to the Public:

There were no comments from the public for items not on the agenda.

Discussion and Possible Action Items:

1. Update, discussion and possible action regarding the Coconino County Response to the COVID-19 pandemic, including testing, vaccine distribution and partnership opportunities. **County Manager**

Interim Health and Human Resources Director Kim Musselman introduced the item.

Information Technology Deputy Director Helen Costello introduced Amanda Lusk with Arizona Department of Health Services.

Arizona Department of Health Representative Amanda Lusk provided a presentation on how to create an account on the Arizona Department of Health Services website in order to schedule an appointment for a vaccine.

Interim Director Musselman answered questions asked by individual Board members related to various current registration sites and challenges with completing the application, the request to capture health insurance information on the website.

Information Technology Director Matt Fowler noted this is a follow up to Tuesday's demonstration. Staff has been working to explore IT solutions to the registration challenges.

The Board provided feedback on the information presented.

Chair Ryan called for a break at 9:52 a.m. and reconvened open session at 10:00 a.m.

2. Discussion and presentation of the Public Works Stimulus Plan for Fiscal Year 2021. **Public Works**

Deputy County Manager Lucinda Andreani introduced a Public Works Department stimulus plan that proposed a long recovery model revenue forecast, which included pushing out Capital Improvement Plan Pavement Preservation and other investments.

Deputy Public Works Director Eslir Musta continued with the presentation, highlighting conservative planning efforts and current status of Highway User Revenue Funds (HURF).

County Engineer Chris Tressler provided an overview on the status of funding for various road projects.

Deputy County Manager Andreani and County Engineer Tressler answered questions asked by individual Board members related to the information presented.

The Board provided feedback on the information presented.

Chair Ryan called for a break at 10:40 a.m. and reconvened open session at 10:59 a.m.

3. Consideration and possible action to accept the resignation of Elizabeth C. Archuleta, District 2 County Supervisor. **Board of Supervisors**

Chair Ryan introduced the item and opened discussion for public comments.

Public Affairs Director Eric Peterson displayed the letter of resignation submitted by former District 2 Supervisor Elizabeth Archuleta.

Phyllis Schiller (*unknown spelling*) spoke about Supervisor Archuleta, commending her on her new appointment to President Biden's administration.

Clerk of the Board Lindsay Daley read the letter of resignation into the record.

Motion: Accept the resignation of Elizabeth C. Archuleta, District 2 County Supervisor, **Action:** approve, **Moved by:** Supervisor Patrice Horstman, **Seconded by:** Supervisor Judy Begay. The motion passed unanimously.

4. Discussion regarding and possible appointment to fill the vacancy of District 2 County Supervisor. Pursuant to A.R.S. 38-431.03(A)(1), the Board may vote to enter executive session on this item. **Board of Supervisors**

Chair Ryan noted the Board has received many emails related to the new vacancy of District 2 Supervisor. He added that he will open the matter for public comment.

County Manager Jayne read Arizona Revised Statute 11-213 into the record, which allows the Board of Supervisors to fill a vacant seat of a supervisor into the record.

Deputy County Attorney Rose Winkeler affirmed it is the Board's authority to appoint someone to the vacancy, and the individual must be of the same political party. Today the Board will discuss how they would like to proceed.

Chair Ryan opened public comment at 11:18 a.m.

Matt Capalby requested that the Board allow an application process to fill the District 2 Supervisor vacancy.

Michelle Jane felt an open and transparent process should be considered, allowing for an application process.

Marilyn Weissman requested the Board hold an open process to fill the open seat, similar to the process used by the City of Flagstaff when former Councilman Art Babbott resigned.

Ann Heitland noted Supervisor Archuleta was a tremendous asset to the County. She recognized the work that she contributed during the Schulz Fire. As Chair of the Democratic Party in Flagstaff, she requested the Board appoint someone that is Democrat in values.

Christa Sadler agrees with what has been said so far. It would be a disservice to Supervisor Archuleta's district to not have an open process. She understands the person being considered ...

Mary Landahl stated she agrees with everyone who has spoken so far and understands how difficult the Board's job is but taking the time to provide a process for appointment of the vacancy will build confidence with the citizens.

Harriet Young urged the Board to consider the fact that this affects people's lives and they should take applications to find the best person for the difficult job.

Ruth Eaton spoke about Supervisor Archuleta's leadership and requested her position be filled with someone with the same companionship. She requested the Board be respectful of the process taken to choose a Supervisor.

Aubrey Saundereger, noted as a constituent of Supervisor Archuleta, her work was incredibly important and she would like to see someone appointed that will work well with the Board and constituents and represents District 2 very well. She requested the Board provide an open application process.

Dennis Chavez stated he's known Supervisor Archuleta and her family his entire life and he appreciates the work she did for the County and diversity issues.

Bea Cooley stated she lives in District 2 and has very fond memories of Supervisor Archuleta. She requested the Board take applications and carefully consider the applicants qualifications. There are many individuals in the district that qualify.

Clerk of the Board noted the Board received approximately 75 emails from the public with regards to this item.

Supervisor Horstman stated this is a decision the Board does not want to make but the vacancy has to be filled in order to move forward. The Board needs to move forward advocating for COVID-19 vaccines and the health safety and welfare of the citizens of the County. She requested the Board move forward with an open and transparent application process for qualified persons in District 2, with an interview process and Board deliberation in order to choose the best applicant and supervisor for District 2.

Chair Ryan outlined the process and timeline for the public to submit applications for the open supervisor vacancy.

Supervisor Begay commented on the importance of being open and transparent so there is fairness in selecting a supervisor for District 2.

Vice Chair Fowler agreed the Board needs to make sure the public's voices are heard. She spoke about various issues the Board faces and this position is very important. She spoke at length about the importance of appointing a strong leader to tackle the issues of the community.

Upon inquiry from Chair Ryan, Deputy County Attorney Winkeler clarified there is no need for the Board to make a motion to proceed in this matter, the Board may direct staff to start the application process.

Chair Ryan noted he received notification from Supervisor Archuleta that she will be assuming the position of Intergovernmental Affairs for the United States Department of Agriculture.

Supervisor Horstman moved that It is the intent of the Board of Supervisors to conduct and transparent, thoughtful, deliberant and vibrant process and open process for appointment of the Supervisor for District 2.

There was discussion on the motion.

Deputy County Attorney Winkeler affirmed there is no issue with a motion, it would be fine to just direct staff.

Chair Ryan Direct Public Affairs added that with that, there is direction direct Government Affairs to open the position and seek interested qualified candidates to submit their cover letter and resume to the County Manager's Office and open it up time certain this evening,

Vice Chair Lena Fowler stated she would like to add that the County does not have an application to fill out, that the applicant will submit a letter of interest with an attached resume and the Board will review and conduct interviews.

Supervisor Horstman stated she felt the Board should make it clear as a motion and moved that Government Affairs will open the position today and that County staff will proceed to carry out this directive: that we, the Board of Supervisors, are directing to move forward with a transparent, thoughtful, deliberate and vibrant process for the Board of Supervisors to appoint the Supervisor for District 2.

Supervisor Begay seconded the motion on the process and also on the, how the Board would like to see it through.

There was additional discussion on the motion.

Chair Ryan spoke about the comments provided and that they are special. The Board appreciates everyone reaching out on the importance of the process.

Vice Chair Fowler stated it is interesting that we are putting this to a vote when the Board could give staff direction.

Chair Ryan agreed and added that this is a unique time.

Chair Ryan called for the question; the motion passed unanimously.

Supervisor Fowler and Supervisor Begay provided closing comments.

There being no further discussion, Chair Ryan adjourned the meeting at 12:13 p.m.


COCONINO COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

(SEAL)



Matt Ryan, Chair

ATTEST:



Lindsay Daley, Clerk of the Board of Supervisors