



**OFFICE OF THE COCONINO COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS**  
**SPECIAL SESSION AND PUBLIC PORTION OF EXECUTIVE SESSION MINUTES**

**February 12, 2021**

**7:50 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 7:50 a.m.

Public Affairs Director Eric Peterson provided a brief explanation of the process to be used to conduct interviews for the District 2 Supervisor appointment. He explained to the public how they may access the meeting to watch the live streaming process.

**Discussion and Possible Action Items:**

1. Discussion regarding and consideration of candidates seeking appointment to fill the vacancy of District 2 County Supervisor, and possible selection of candidates for second interviews or possible appointment. Pursuant to A.R.S. 38-431.03(A)(1), the Board may vote to enter executive session on this item.

### **8:00 a.m. - Carole Mandino**

Public Affairs Director Eric Peterson asked candidate Carol Mandino a series of interview questions as follows:

1. What is the role of County Supervisor, why are you applying for this position, and why should the Board select you?

Carole Mandino spoke about the length of time she has lived in Flagstaff, in District 2, and provided an overview of her professional career. She described the role of a County Supervisor as one who supervises the County Manager, who supervises staff, and makes financial decisions and considers various issues that affect services to the community. She described the reason she believes the Board should appoint her as Supervisor.

2. How would you represent District 2 and the entire County, what do you see as the greatest challenges facing District 2 and the entire County, and what would you do to meet those challenges?

Ms. Mandino explained that the greatest challenge currently facing the County is the COVID-19 pandemic situation. She spoke about many challenges resulting from the pandemic and others such as employment, vaccination distribution, transportation, housing, forest mitigation, sustainability, budget, etc.

3. Describe your experience serving on any boards and commissions and how do you see yourself working with members of the Board of Supervisors.

Ms. Mandino continued by describing her experience on various boards and committees and her ability to have a good working relationship with the Board.

4. What is your connection to district 2 and what is your commitment to inclusion, diversity, and cultural awareness to the district and to the County?

Ms. Mandino spoke about various diversity trainings she has participated in and her work experience with diverse cultures. She provided closing comments.

Public Affairs Director Peterson called for a recess at 8:28 a.m. and reconvened at 8:35 a.m.

### **8:35 a.m. - Carmenlita Chief**

Public Affairs Director Eric Peterson asked candidate Carmenlita Chief a series of interview questions as follows:

1. What is the role of County Supervisor, why are you applying for this position, and why should the Board select you?

Carmenlita Chief spoke about the length of time she has lived in Flagstaff, in District 2, and described the role of a County Supervisor as one who provides administrative direction and has a lot of responsibility to oversee the important services that are provided to citizens. She spoke about her professional background and her qualifications and caring nature that will help to evaluate issues that come to the forefront of the County.

She spoke about her experience listening, speaking and collaboration in her work with non-profit boards to ensure peoples voices are heard.

She stated the Board should select her due to her environmental knowledge, scientific values and ability to investigate with care. She spoke about the importance of understanding and navigating the current pandemic.

2. How would you represent District 2 and the entire County, what do you see as the greatest challenges facing District 2 and the entire County, and what would you do to meet those challenges?

Ms. Chief spoke about various issues due to the current pandemic; transportation issues, health care and vaccinations.

3. Describe your experience serving on any boards and commissions and how do you see yourself working with members of the Board of Supervisors.

Ms. Chief continued by describing her experience interacting with people on various boards such as Native Americans for Community Action (NACA) and Indigenous Circle of Flagstaff. She spoke about the importance of working in collaboration in order to allow everyone to contribute their knowledge and experience. There are additional effects downstream as a result of the pandemic.

*There was an approximate 10-minute break due to intranet technical difficulties during question #3.*

4. What is your connection to district 2 and what is your commitment to inclusion, diversity, and cultural awareness to the district and to the County?

Ms. Chief spoke about diverse cultures and different needs in the community and the importance of awareness to have discussions to increase a person's sense of belonging. It is important to continue to learn and seek new knowledge. She stated she is interested in diversifying and seeking new ways to connect with people in order to make sure citizens can be assured they are heard.

Ms. Chief provided closing statements.

Public Affairs Director Peterson noted that the Board will need to leave the meeting and re-open the link in order to re-join the meeting, due to technical difficulties.

He stated for the record that Abel Estrella has withdrawn as a candidate.

Director Peterson called for a recess at 9:25 a.m. and reconvened the meeting at 9:35 a.m.

**9:35 a.m. - Chad Moore**

Public Affairs Director Eric Peterson asked candidate Chad Moore a series of interview questions as follows:

1. What is the role of County Supervisor, why are you applying for this position, and why should the Board select you?

Chad Moore spoke about

He stated the number one challenge facing the Count.

2. How would you represent District 2 and the entire County, what do you see as the greatest challenges facing District 2 and the entire County, and what would you do to meet those challenges?

Mr. Moore stated

3. Describe your experience serving on any boards and commissions and how do you see yourself working with members of the Board of Supervisors.

Mr. Moore noted he has not served on any boards but has worked at the hospital working with patients in sub-acute care. He welcomes the opportunity to work with the Board adding that he works well with others and would like to work with the Board to make things better for the citizens of Coconino County and make the County successful.

4. What is your connection to district 2 and what is your commitment to inclusion, diversity, and cultural awareness to the district and to the County?

Mr. Moore stated he worked with diverse cultures at a skilled nursing home in Winslow serving 95% Native American culture. He added that he is sensitive to different cultures and beliefs and it is important to acknowledge their beliefs and values. It is rewarding working with diverse cultures.

Mr. Moore provided closing statements.

Director Peterson called for a recess at 9:56 a.m. and reconvened the meeting at 9:35 a.m.

10:35 a.m. - Jeronimo Vasquez

Public Affairs Director Eric Peterson asked candidate Jeronimo Vasquez a series of interview questions as follows:

1. What is the role of County Supervisor, why are you applying for this position, and why should the Board select you?

Mr. Vasquez spoke about his residence in Flagstaff and his professional career and service to the community. He stated this is an opportunity to serve the community in a broader spectrum. The role he played at North Country provides an opportunity to use his experience and serve the citizens of Coconino County.

2. How would you represent District 2 and the entire County, what do you see as the greatest challenges facing District 2 and the entire County, and what would you do to meet those challenges?

Mr. Vasquez stated that representing District 2 would allow him to advocate for issues in Sunnyside and lower Greenlaw; described various issues. The greatest challenges for the County are COVID-19 as it affects citizens, revenue streams and resources, climate change causing more forest fires, redistricting issues every 10 years and selection of a new County Manager.

3. Describe your experience serving on any boards and commissions and how do you see yourself working with members of the Board of Supervisors.

Mr. Vasquez described his role on the North Country Healthcare Board and spoke about his experiences on various other boards and committees. He stated he is a team player and listens and respects other's views and opinions to find common ground to meet the goal. He said his strong suit is reaching out to the community and listening to their needs. He added that his experience managing the North Country Healthcare Board of Directors during COVID will assist in his working well with the Board as he is open and honest and listens in order to learn about other cultures.

4. What is your connection to district 2 and what is your commitment to inclusion, diversity, and cultural awareness to the district and to the County?

Mr. Vasquez stated he lived and went to school in District 2 since 1989. He has worked in the heart of Sunnyside for the last 14 years and is very involved in the community. He spoke about the importance of diversity and cultural awareness and taught classes regarding cultural diversity at Northern Arizona University. It is important to focus on the common good and find out what issues resonate with people and build on that. Diversity inclusion is very important. He spoke about his participation in establishing the Cultural Competency Committee and continued to provide examples of diversity needs that are serviced and addressed at North Country Healthcare.

Mr. Vasquez provided closing statements.

Director Peterson called for a recess at 10:44 a.m. and reconvened the meeting at 10:50 a.m.

**10:50 a.m. - Anthony Garcia**

Public Affairs Director Eric Peterson asked candidate Anthony Garcia a series of interview questions as follows:

Mr. Garcia noted he is a lifelong resident of District 2 and spoke about his current community engagement.

1. What is the role of County Supervisor, why are you applying for this position, and why should the Board select you?

Mr. Garcia described his experience and beliefs in holding a leadership role. He spoke about the importance of being able to focus on personal relationships with personal interface with people at local, state and regional levels. District 2 has a diverse culture and it is important to receive input from the community. It is important to have a good relationship with County staff and provide respect and understanding.

2. How would you represent District 2 and the entire County, what do you see as the greatest challenges facing District 2 and the entire County, and what would you do to meet those challenges?

Mr. Garcia stated that one of the greatest challenges in District 2 is to garner relationships with the State in order to be recognized to represent the community. There is a need to focus on the effects of climate change and focus on building the local economy. It is important to get COVID vaccinations into peoples arms and continue coordination to do so. It is also important to have personal and stronger relationships with local partners such as the City of Flagstaff. He stated he is the right type of person to fix and mend relationships. All partners in Northern Arizona should be included to create an alliance in order to have a stronger stance in getting a fair share of the vaccinations.

3. Describe your experience serving on any boards and commissions and how do you see yourself working with members of the Board of Supervisors.

Mr. Garcia described his role participating as Commission Chair for Beautification and Public Art Commission (BPAC). He spoke about challenges the Commission faced in coming up with an emergency plan to help local artists while they were out of work during the pandemic.

4. What is your connection to district 2 and what is your commitment to inclusion, diversity, and cultural awareness to the district and to the County?



Mr. Garcia stated he lived in District 2 his whole life and it is important to be able to see where you came from to see where you are going. Having grown up in a culturally diverse school and neighborhood he has connections to the earth, environment and mixed-race ethnicities. Community involvement at all levels is possible. It is important to reach out to those who are not computer savvy or have the technology. In the past serving in various events, he learned that some people feel their voices are never heard. His goal as a community activist is to let everyone know they do belong and need to get involved in local community committees and processes.

Mr. Garcia provided closing statements.

Director Peterson called for a recess at 11:22 a.m. and reconvened the meeting at 11:30 a.m.

*10:55 a.m. - Abel Estrella – application was withdrawn.*

**11:30 a.m. - Joe Washington**

Public Affairs Director Eric Peterson asked candidate Joe Washington a series of interview questions as follows:

1. What is the role of County Supervisor, why are you applying for this position, and why should the Board select you?

Joe Washington introduced himself and spoke about his activism in the County and described the Board's role and spoke about the reason he should be selected as District 2 Supervisor. He spoke about his past experience working with the Democratic Party and described the importance of facing challenges such as climate change, challenges with the pandemic and economic impacts. Having served on the Flagstaff City Council, he has experience performing many of the same functions.

2. How would you represent District 2 and the entire County, what do you see as the greatest challenges facing District 2 and the entire County, and what would you do to meet those challenges?

Mr. Washington stated it is important to listen and make sure constituents are being consulted. The greatest challenges are the COVID pandemic and it's economic effects and flooding from wildfires. He spoke about the importance of listening to fellow Board members and to convey the needs of District 2. He stated he has a lot of respect for the other Board members and provided an example of his experience working with the former city council. Diversity and equality should be encouraged.

3. Describe your experience serving on any boards and commissions and how do you see yourself working with members of the Board of Supervisors.

Mr. Washington described his role participating on the Flagstaff City Council and various other boards and commissions. He stated he learned a lot about policy and leadership and service at the state level.

4. What is your connection to district 2 and what is your commitment to inclusion, diversity, and cultural awareness to the district and to the County?

Mr. Washington explained he moved to Flagstaff in 1976 and shortly after, moved to District 2. He stated his commitment to diversity and inclusion is absolute, he is a member of the Board of the Indigenous Persons and it is absolutely necessary to work hard to support diversity.

Mr. Washington provided closing statements.

Director Peterson called for a recess at 12:00 p.m. and reconvened the meeting at 12:30 p.m.

### **12:30 p.m. - Jacqueline Gencarelle**

Public Affairs Director Eric Peterson asked candidate Jacqueline Gencarelle a series of interview questions as follows:

1. What is the role of County Supervisor, why are you applying for this position, and why should the Board select you?

Jacqueline Gencarelle introduced herself and spoke about her heritage, residency in Flagstaff and her education and experience.

She described her understanding of the role of a County Supervisor and her interest in taking on the role of Supervisor in order to help her neighbors and the community, specifically the underrepresented citizens. She noted she is a people person with a wealth of knowledge having worked with representatives in the federal government.

2. How would you represent District 2 and the entire County, what do you see as the greatest challenges facing District 2 and the entire County, and what would you do to meet those challenges?

Ms. Gencarelle stated District 2 is economically, demographically and environmentally diverse community with different needs and challenges such as economics and water supply.

3. Describe your experience serving on any boards and commissions and how do you see yourself working with members of the Board of Supervisors.

Ms. Gencarelle described her participation and experiences sitting on various boards and commissions. She stated she is ready to take the next step and bring her experience in working with the Board.

4. What is your connection to district 2 and what is your commitment to inclusion, diversity, and cultural awareness to the district and to the County?



Ms. Gencarelle described the changes that have happened in District 2 of the years, such as business growth, beautification, and economic downturns. She spoke about issues she has seen with diversity as a Native American woman and has taken diversity training in various positions. It is important to look at things through another lens.

Ms. Gencarelle provided closing statements.

Director Peterson called for a recess at 12:57 p.m. and reconvened the meeting at 1:05 p.m.

**1:05 p.m. - Jesus DeMolina**

Public Affairs Director Eric Peterson asked candidate Jesus Molina a series of interview questions as follows:

1. What is the role of County Supervisor, why are you applying for this position, and why should the Board select you?

Jesus Molina spoke about his family and recent events resulting from the currently divided country. He talked about growing with parents that worked in the fields and having moved 14 times as a child; those experiences have shaped who he is today.

Mr. DeMolina stated the role of a supervisor is to advocate at state and federal levels to meet the needs of the communities and create a vision for the future while working with the community to establish the vision. As son of a migrant farm worker, he recalls the struggles his family faced trying to navigate various obstacles. There is a need to help people navigate said obstacles.

He described his experience lobbying on behalf of non-profit organizations to help support the most marginalized groups.

2. How would you represent District 2 and the entire County, what do you see as the greatest challenges facing District 2 and the entire County, and what would you do to meet those challenges?

Mr. DeMolina spoke about the importance of advocating to increase the supply of vaccinations for the community and to sustain services for the residents. A majority of the residents in District 2 are renters and once the moratorium expires, there is a concern with their ability to pay rent. He stated there are a lot of small businesses suffering due to the pandemic and as a supervisor, he would continue to advocate at state and federal levels. District 2 deserves someone who can commit full time. He added that he will research, serve on committees and work on partnerships. The next District 2 Supervisor needs to be a champion in advocating for the citizens.

3. Describe your experience serving on any boards and commissions and how do you see yourself working with members of the Board of Supervisors.

Mr. DeMolina described his role participating as on various committee's at the state level. He has experience knocking on doors and speaking with people and through that, has witnessed the diversity of District 2.

4. What is your connection to district 2 and what is your commitment to inclusion, diversity, and cultural awareness to the district and to the County?

Mr. DeMolina stated he lives in Sunnyside and it reminds him of the neighborhood he grew up in. It is economically and ethnically diverse and he realizes the importance of experiencing the issues the community faces. He expressed the importance of seeing the children play in the neighborhood and how hard it is for some of the issues the citizens face.

He provided closing statements.

Director Peterson called for a recess at 1:35 p.m. and reconvened the meeting at 1:40 p.m.

#### **1:40 p.m. - Bill Pribil**

Public Affairs Director Eric Peterson asked candidate Bill Pribil a series of interview questions as follows:

1. What is the role of County Supervisor, why are you applying for this position, and why should the Board select you?

Bill Pribil introduced himself and described the role of a County Supervisor as leaders. He stated that as a retired former employee of the County, he brings experience and does not intend to run for the position at election time as it will allow people that do intend to run to put together their platform.

2. How would you represent District 2 and the entire County, what do you see as the greatest challenges facing District 2 and the entire County, and what would you do to meet those challenges?

Mr. Pribil stated the largest challenge facing everyone is the COVID-19 pandemic, which has greatly affected humans and the economy. It is important to get vaccinations to people in rural areas. Other challenges include the cost of housing, unemployment, poverty and economy. He spoke about the importance of expanding services to a wider group of citizens in the County in rural areas.

3. Describe your experience serving on any boards and commissions and how do you see yourself working with members of the Board of Supervisors.

Mr. Pribil described his role participating on various boards, specifically the commission to help with the establishment of the Jail District. He spoke about the importance of getting everyone's point of view in order to make the best decisions possible.

4. What is your connection to district 2 and what is your commitment to inclusion, diversity, and cultural awareness to the district and to the County?

Mr. Pribil stated he has lived in District 2 for 23 years. He noted as Sheriff of the County he spent a lot of time working with the Navajo Nation and Hopi Nation on various programs and trainings. With regards to diversity, he stated that there needs to be meaningful, open dialogue to find solutions, not just look at the problems. He provided closing statements.

Director Peterson called for a recess at 2:05 p.m. and reconvened the meeting at 2:15 p.m.

**2:15 p.m. - Tomas "Tommy" Hernandez**

Public Affairs Director Eric Peterson asked candidate Tomas Hernandez a series of interview questions as follows:

1. What is the role of County Supervisor, why are you applying for this position, and why should the Board select you?

described

2. How would you represent District 2 and the entire County, what do you see as the greatest challenges facing District 2 and the entire County, and what would you do to meet those challenges?

stated

3. Describe your experience serving on any boards and commissions and how do you see yourself working with members of the Board of Supervisors.

described his role participating as

4. What is your connection to district 2 and what is your commitment to inclusion, diversity, and cultural awareness to the district and to the County?

provided closing statements.

Director Peterson called for a recess at 2:34 p.m. and reconvened the meeting at 2:55 p.m.

**2:50 p.m. - Albert White**

Public Affairs Director Eric Peterson asked candidate Albert White a series of interview questions as follows:

1. What is the role of County Supervisor, why are you applying for this position, and why should the Board select you?

Albert White introduced himself, noting he has been a resident of District 2 since 1989. Stated he has experience working in groups and constituents and feels he will work well with the Board.

2. How would you represent District 2 and the entire County, what do you see as the greatest challenges facing District 2 and the entire County, and what would you do to meet those challenges?

Mr. White spoke about his ability to work with the Board on challenging issues with his experience in governance and constituent services. He added that he is ready to review projects and get busy working to help the County recover.

3. Describe your experience serving on any boards and commissions and how do you see yourself working with members of the Board of Supervisors.

Mr. White described his role participating on various boards and commissions.

4. What is your connection to district 2 and what is your commitment to inclusion, diversity, and cultural awareness to the district and to the County?

provided closing statements.

Chair Ryan noted the Board will be going into executive session for deliberations. He outlined the next steps in selection of a District 2 Supervisor.

Individual Board members provided feedback on the process used to conduct the interviews.

**Motion:** Enter executive session for discussion on deliberation of candidates, **Action:** approve, **Moved by:** Supervisor Patrice Horstman, **Seconded by:** Supervisor Lena Fowler. The motion passed unanimously.

Chair Ryan called for a break 3:29 p.m. to allow time for the Board to enter executive session.

Chair Ryan reconvened open session at 6:39 p.m. *All members of the Board were present.*

Chair Ryan explained that he contacted the finalists to encourage them to join the meeting via Zoom. He spoke about the impressive, qualified candidates that applied for the District 2 Supervisor position and noted the Board spent the last four hours deliberating the candidates.

**Motion:** Move to appoint the next District 2 County Supervisor to be Jeronimo Vasquez, appointed to this position immediately, to be affective immediately, **Action:** approve, **Moved by:** Supervisor Lena Fowler, **Seconded by:** Supervisor . The motion passed unanimously.

Individual Board members welcomed Jeronimo Vasquez as the new Supervisor of District 2.

Supervisor Vasquez thanked the Board for the appointment.

Individual Board members thanked all the qualified candidates for their applications.

Supervisor Horstman thanked former Supervisor Elizabeth Archuleta for all her service to the community.

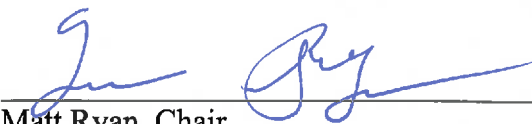
Chair Ryan thanked the community for all their comments related to the process and applicants.

County Manager Jayne welcomed Supervisor Vasquez and stated he looks forward to meeting with him soon.

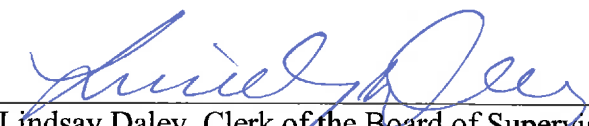
There being no further discussion, Chair Ryan adjourned the meeting at 6:58 p.m.

**COCONINO COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS**

(SEAL)

  
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Matt Ryan, Chair

**ATTEST:**

  
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Lindsay Daley, Clerk of the Board of Supervisors