



OFFICE OF THE COCONINO COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

SPECIAL SESSION AND EXECUTIVE SESSION MINUTES

February 25, 2021

3:00 p.m. – Special Session

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

Also Present: 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 3:06 p.m.

Chair Ryan highlighted the reason for continued discussions on the recruitment process for County Manager.

Upon inquiry from Chair Ryan, Deputy County Attorney Rose Winkeler recommended the Board enter executive session.

Motion: Based on legal counsel's recommendation, I move at this point to go into executive session pursuant to the Arizona Open Meeting Law, both exceptions under personnel and also advice from legal counsel, **Action:** approve, **Moved by:** Supervisor Patrice Horstman, **Seconded by:** Supervisor Jeronimo Vasquez. The motion passed unanimously.

Chair Ryan called for a break at 3:10 p.m. to allow time for the Board to enter executive session.

Discussion and Possible Action Items:

1. Discussion and possible direction regarding recruitment for and options to fill the position of County Manager, including possible action regarding the contract with the recruitment firm Strategic Government Resources and the contract with the current

County Manager. Pursuant to A.R.S. 38-431.03(A)(1)(3)(4), the Board may vote to enter executive session on this item. **Board of Supervisors**

Present: Chair Matt Ryan, Vice Chair Lena Fowler, Supervisor Patrice Horstman, Supervisor Jeronimo Vasquez and Supervisor Judy Begay were present virtually.

Also Present: Human Resources Director Erika Philpot, Deputy County Attorney Rose Winkeler and Clerk of the Board Lindsay Daley.

The Executive Session discussion started at 3:19 p.m.

Vice Chair Lena Fowler joined the executive session at 3:23 p.m.

Chair Ryan adjourned the executive session at 4:46 p.m.

Chair Ryan reconvened open session at 4:53 p.m.

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

Also Present: Deputy County Attorney Rose Winkeler, Public Affairs Director Eric Peterson, Deputy County Manager Joanne Keene, Deputy County Manager Lucinda Andreani, Human Resources Director Erika Philpot and Deputy Clerk of the Board Valerie Webber were present virtually via Zoom meeting technology.

Chair Ryan noted the Board has discussed the process being used to recruit a county manager during three meetings and there were questions related to the speed of the process. As of this time, there is a unique opportunity to re-think the process and the Board would like to interview former County Manager Steve Peru.

Supervisor Horstman spoke about the challenges being faced at this time and there is a unique opportunity to interview the former county manager, who left in good circumstances and has continued to be an excellent public servant. At this time, the Board should look at Mr. Peru and determine what is in the best interest of the County and he should be interviewed as he knows the state, county and staff.

Vice Chair Fowler said the Board has taken the time to really consider the options and think about the challenges facing the County. After some time in many discussions and thinking about the challenges the Board is facing, such as the pandemic, fire and flood season, the economy, etc., it is in the best interest of the public to interview someone in that previously served as County Manager during the great recession and Schultz Fire. She said Mr. Peru sincerely cares about the County and she supports interviewing him for the position.

Supervisor Vasquez stated he supports interviewing Mr. Peru for manager as his leadership and experience will be a benefit for the County. During troubled times he could be an asset.

Supervisor Begay agreed with everything the Board said.

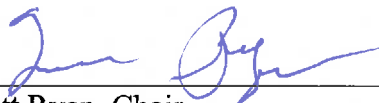
Motion: Approve Mr. Peru to be interviewed on March 2, 2021 for the County Manager position for Coconino County, **Action:** approve, **Moved by:** Supervisor Judy Begay, **Seconded by:** Supervisor Jeronimo Vasquez. The motion passed unanimously.

Chair Ryan noted there will be an executive session on Tuesday to conduct the interview of Mr. Peru. The County directors and elected officials will also be having a discussion following executive session.

There being no further discussion, Chair Ryan adjourned the meeting at 5:08 p.m.


COCONINO COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

(SEAL)



Matt Ryan, Chair

ATTEST:



Lindsay Daley, Clerk of the Board of Supervisors