



OFFICE OF THE COCONINO COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

SPECIAL SESSION MINUTES

March 18, 2020

10:00 a.m. – Special Session

First Floor Board Room
219 E. Cherry Ave., Flagstaff, AZ, 86001

Present: Chairwoman Lena Fowler, Vice Chair Jim Parks, Supervisor Matt Ryan, Supervisor Art Babbott and Supervisor Elizabeth C. Archuleta.

Also Present: County Manager James Jayne, Deputy County Manager Marie Peoples, Deputy County Manager/Public Works Director Lucinda Andreani, Deputy County Attorney Rose Winkeler, Public Affairs Director Eric Peterson, Health and Human Services Director Thomas Pristow, County Attorney Bill Ring, Sheriff Jim Driscoll, Clerk of the Board of Supervisors Lindsay Daley and Deputy Clerk of the Board Valerie Webber.

Chairwoman Fowler called the meeting to order at 10:05 a.m. and led the pledge of allegiance.

County Manager James Jayne spoke about county partnerships and collaboration being done on the COVID-19 virus. He spoke about the effects the virus is having on the community, economy and the County's budget with respect to the current cost of the County's response to same.

Discussion and Possible Action:

1. Discussion and possible action to approve Resolution 2020-23, Declaring a Local Emergency, pursuant to A.R.S. 26-311, due to a natural calamity, the novel coronavirus, COVID-19. **Emergency Management**

Deputy County Manager Dr. Marie Peoples read the Declaration of Emergency into the record. She provided an update on the novel coronavirus, COVID-19; which included statistics on cases statewide. The Health and Human Services Department (HHS) has set up of a testing site at Fort Tuthill. Citizens must have a doctor's referral to take the test however, if there are citizens that do not have a personal provider, they can go to the local emergency room or contact the call center to take a risk assessment for possible referral for testing.

Upon inquiry from Supervisor Archuleta, Deputy County Manager Peoples further explained the risk assessment provided by the call center and explained that the testing site only tests for the COVID-19 virus, not the flu. Health and Human Services is diligently working to try to limit the number of citizens from exposure.

Upon inquiry from Supervisor Ryan, Dr. Peoples clarified that citizens need to use reasonable discretion when calling for the risk assessment. Rapid testing for strep throat, the flu, etcetera, are swabs usually take from the throat or nostril.

Upon inquiry from Supervisor Babbott, Dr. Peoples explained that HHS will not turn people from other counties away however, they are trying to discourage people from driving and exposing themselves to additional possibility of transmission.

Upon inquiry from Supervisor Parks, Dr. Peoples clarified that the HHS will accept electronic submissions of doctor referrals.

She affirmed that part of the criteria related to where a person has traveled is being updated daily. At this time, the HHS as well as local laboratories have no shortages of specimen collection kits on site. Currently the Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) guidelines recommend that events of fifty or more people should be avoided. Arizona Department of Health Services is recommending that events of ten or more people should be avoided. The County does not have a positive test so we are following the Center for Disease Control guidelines, but that could change any day.

Upon inquiry from Supervisor Ryan, Dr. Peoples stated local businesses have provided positive feedback with respect to the impacts of the virus. If there is still concern from business owners as the situation changes, HHS will provide information and continue dialogue.

Public Affairs Director Eric Peterson noted County Economic Development Manager Mr. Pasterz and Workforce Development Specialist Cindy Wilson have been posting available resources on the County website and scheduling upcoming meetings with leaders, via virtual technology, to discuss the overall impact on the economy. In addition, the Federal government may be passing a massive relief package in response to the impacts of COVID-19.

County Manager Jayne explained that staff will continue to work to provide essential services.

Dr. Peoples noted staff is tracking costs associated to the pandemic. Also, there is a temporary closure at HHS in order to allow time to order additional personal protection equipment, heaters at the specimen collection site, etc.

Upon inquiry from Supervisor Babbott, Deputy County Attorney Rose Winkeler provided clarification on the County's ability to enforce restrictions set in place against private businesses and/or entities. In addition to today's Declaration of Emergency, the Chair of the Board would need to make additional orders via proclamation in order to enforce CDC or ADHS guidance.

County Manager Jayne explained the resolution gives staff flexibility however, the proclamation would be in concert with the declaration of emergency.

There was a discussion between staff and the Board regarding the hierarchy for issuing proclamations. Deputy County Attorney Rose Winkeler answered questions related to the legality of same.

HHS Director Thomas Pristow said all utilities in Arizona have suspended disconnections until further notice. The Health Team working with the incident command team that was set up in January, has allowed the County to be successful at this time.

Upon inquiry from Supervisor Archuleta, Director Pristow noted part of the assistance set aside by the Board is being used for overtime. Also, they have been able to provide meals for pick up and, if a senior citizen tests positive for COVID-19, staff will deliver food to their home.

Public Affairs Director Peterson highlighted the multiple methods being used to share information with the public via social media and County website.

Dr. Peoples spoke about various resources being considered by the logistics team to secure places to quarantine individuals testing positive for COVID-19 as required.

Supervisor Archuleta noted the CENSUS workers have suspended door-to-door operations at this time.

Superintendent of Schools Dr. Tommy Lewis said schools are currently shut down until March 27th, with other states having followed suit. This morning, Flagstaff Unified School District (FUSD) Board is considering keeping schools closed until April 6th. There are concerns that children do not have technology available to work from home. Priorities are seniors testing for college exams and, staff is waiting to hear about the status of state exams. He noted Navajo Nation President Johnathan Nez closed schools on the Navajo Nation.

Sheriff Jim Driscoll provided a brief update on the impacts of COVID-19 on the Sheriff's Office. There was a meeting with the FBI regarding protocols related to inmates; as the virus progresses briefings will continue. A group of local law enforcement leadership has begun to plan for the future of meeting services. They are trying to limit and manage the virus getting into jail facilities and have set up additional video court procedures in order to limit the amount of

transports in and out of the facility. They are working with HHS to obtain personal protection equipment for law enforcement and trying to address staff's child care needs.

County Attorney Bill Ring spoke about the need for the community to have confidence in leadership. County leaders have provided a lot of information to the public at today's meeting. The emergency declaration will support a decision the Court will make about management of the courthouse during this time. The County's leadership has taken positive actions to help ensure public safety.

Motion: Approve Resolution 2020-23, Declaring a Local Emergency, pursuant to A.R.S. 26-311, due to a natural calamity, the novel coronavirus, COVID-19, **Action:** approve, **Moved by:** Supervisor Matt Ryan, **Seconded by:** Supervisor Elizabeth Archuleta.

There was discussion on the motion.

Supervisor Ryan noted this is a time of need to take a measured approach, with potential for further approaches. These circumstances are not easy and we are dependent on our community members to make wise decisions. This is a one step at a time process but the County is here for the community.

Individual Board members expressed their appreciation of the work being done by staff and elected officials in response to the pandemic.

Chairwoman Fowler called for the question; the motion passed unanimously.

2. Discussion and possible action to approve Resolution 2020-24, providing for certain exceptions to the Coconino County Personnel Policy Manual regarding leave accruals during the Public Health Emergency created by the COVID-19 Illness. **Human Resources**

Human Resources Director Erika Philpot read the resolution into the record. She explained the need to provide for certain exceptions to the Coconino County Personnel Policy Manual with regards to leave accruals during the Public Health Emergency created by the COVID-19 Illness.

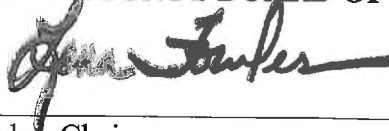
County Manager Jayne expressed his appreciation of leadership team members for their dedication and service in response to the current situation.

Chairwoman Fowler expressed her appreciation of staff for their support.

Motion: Approve Resolution 2020-24, providing for certain exceptions to the Coconino County Personnel Policy Manual regarding leave accruals during the Public Health Emergency created by the COVID-19 Illness, **Action:** approve, **Moved by:** Supervisor Elizabeth Archuleta, **Seconded by:** Supervisor Matt Ryan. The motion passed unanimously.

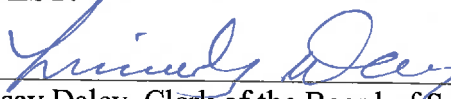
There being no further discussion, Chairwoman Fowler adjourned the meeting at 12:40 p.m.

COCONINO COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS



Lena Fowler, Chair

ATTEST:



Lindsay Daley, Clerk of the Board of Supervisors

(SEAL)

