



**OFFICE OF THE
COCONINO COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS**

SPECIAL SESSION AND EXECUTIVE SESSION MINUTES

**May 8, 2020
2:00 p.m. – Special Session**

The Board of Supervisors' meeting was held via webinar technology using Zoom. with url: <https://zoom.us/j/98496800945> and Call in #: 833 548 0282, Webinar ID: 984 9680 0945.

Present: Chairwoman Elizabeth C. Archuleta, Vice Chairwoman Lena Fowler, Supervisor Matt Ryan and Supervisor Art Babbott were present virtually and Supervisor Jim Parks was present via telephone.

Also Present: County Manager James Jayne, Deputy County Manager Lucinda Andreani, Deputy County Manager Marie Peoples, Deputy County Manager Joanne Keene, Special Initiatives Director Kim Musselman, Public Affairs Director Eric Peterson, Mayor Coral Evans, Deputy County Attorney Rose Winkeler, Clerk of the Board of Supervisors Lindsay Daley were present virtually via Zoom software.

Chairwoman Archuleta called the meeting to order at 2:01 p.m. and led the pledge of allegiance.

Discussion and Possible Action Items:

1. Update, discussion, and possible action regarding the novel (new) coronavirus.
County Manager

Chairwoman Archuleta introduced County Manager Jimmy Jayne. County Manager Jayne spoke about some of the items to be discussed under this agenda item. He introduced Deputy County Manager/Incident Commander Dr. Marie Peoples.

Dr. Peoples went over the amount of positive cases of coronavirus to date and the breakdown of geographic areas. She explained that there were 16 new cases reported yesterday as well as 5 new deaths. She gave the results of the testing blitz from last Saturday- 287 people were tested

with 29 positive test results. Dr. Peoples spoke about the rapid testing machine, the training for staff on the machine and the additional 150 testing kits received last week.

Dr. Peoples stated that at the Board meeting this past Tuesday, the Board directed staff to give notification to Hotel Aspen that the County will end the contract with the hotel, which is being used as a quarantine site. She stated that the cost for the hotel contract was high as well as the cost for cleaning and security. She stated that since Tuesday, there has been a spike in cases.

Chairwoman Archuleta spoke about the recent visit to the area by the Director of the Arizona Department of Emergency and Military Affairs (DEMA), Major General Michael McGuire. She explained that she spoke with General McGuire about the recent spike of positive coronavirus cases in the community and in the Flagstaff Shelter Services facility, as well as the County's uncomfotableness with not knowing whether there will be reimbursement for the Hotel Aspen expenses. She stated that General McGuire expressed to them that the setup the County has with Hotel Aspen is an ideal facility and that money should not play a role in whether the Board continues the setup, as he was confident there will be a 75% reimbursement from the state and that this reimbursement may be acquired quickly through a new process they are putting in place. Chairwoman Archuleta also stated that the state may also assist with the additional 25% cost.

Supervisor Matt Ryan also spoke about his discussion with General McGuire, which included the issue regarding personal protective equipment. Supervisor Ryan stated that the General explained that DEMA's focus has been on Navajo County and Apache County and on congestive living, like what has been seen recently at the Flagstaff Shelter Services facility.

Dr. Peoples spoke about her discussion with General McGuire and how he was impressed with the isolation quarters setup by the county and the he did not want the process to be shuttered due to the cash flow issue. She explained that staff has submitted paperwork to the state this morning for reimbursement and hope to get a response within the next two weeks.

Mayor Coral Evans thanked Supervisor Archuleta for being included in the meeting with General McGuire. She stated that she and Sedona City Manager Justin Clifton were present for the General's visit. She explained that she expressed her concern to General McGuire about the safety of the people in Flagstaff and her concern regarding the outbreak in the homeless shelter. She spoke about the City's willingness to support the County in being made whole in seeking full reimbursement for providing the Hotel Aspen isolation service. She stated that Flagstaff Shelter Services has now occupied two other hotels for people that are not positive for coronavirus to allow for isolation. She stated the General was clear that we have a problem and the best way to minimize that problem is through the continual use of the Hotel Aspen setup. She expressed the need for the use of Hotel Aspen.

Dr. Anne Newland who is the Board President for Flagstaff Shelter Services provided a background of her work in the past and her involvement with Flagstaff Shelter Services. She explained that she convened a small group discussion with people from the hospital, county, city Flagstaff Shelter Services and North Country Healthcare, to make sure that those who are unsheltered become sheltered to help protect the community from the coronavirus. She stated that North Country Healthcare has been able to offer primary care services and did screening of

the medically vulnerable first and conducted screenings at the Flagstaff Shelter Services. She stated she knows there are discussions about shifting those at Flagstaff Shelter Services to a different location and doing a deep cleaning of the shelter. She explained there are numerous challenges to limit the spread of the virus.

Executive Director for Flagstaff Shelter Services Ross Altenbaugh explained that there were 30% positive cases that came back from the screening that was done and those who tested positive were immediately moved to Hotel Aspen and two staff members were part of those numbers. She explained that they are seeing about 70 people a night still and can achieve 6 feet of distance because they have moved people to two hotels. Those who were moved into the two hotels are medically vulnerable or at a certain age. She explained what they are doing at the shelter to try to prevent the spread of the virus.

Vice Chair Lena Fowler asked Ms. Altenbaugh if she is seeing an increase in the number of people coming into the shelter and if it is new people coming in. Ms. Altenbaugh answered that it is a mixture of both and that every day they see a consistent number of people that they know. Ms. Altenbaugh explained that there has been a significant increase in people coming from the Navajo Nation, 16-20%, who are new to Flagstaff and the shelter service and have also had people coming up from Phoenix as well. She stated that there have been people coming to them to try to get into the hotel rooms and that they have criteria for who gets a hotel room.

Supervisor Art Babbott stated he appreciates Anne and Ross sharing their explanation on the business side. He asked what the issues are with taking congregate care facilities and mixing them with a medical referral facility. Ms. Altenbaugh stated they are having success at hotel 1 and 2 because they are allowing occupants to communicate, and the facility is managed and there are some occupants who are undergoing chemotherapy. Dr. Newland explained that physically separated sites is optimal as people need connection; however, what they need in place is far more extreme than what they have for the medically vulnerable. Supervisor Babbott asked if people in quarantine at Hotel Aspen are allowed to come and go and Dr. Peoples answered yes that people are allowed to come and go.

The Director of Northern Arizona Healthcare, Dr. John Mouglin, gave information on his background. He explained the challenges of congregate settings for the shelter and detention centers during a virus outbreak. He spoke about the need and importance for people to be able to physically isolate with room and bathroom to reduce the risk of the virus spreading. He explained that Northern Arizona Healthcare wants to be a collaborative partner with cleaning or funding. He stated that the intensive care unit got hit harder with coronavirus patients than the emergency room. He stated that his concern is that some people may not be forthcoming about their symptoms in order to try to get back into the shelter.

Supervisor Matt Ryan spoke about the need to approach this into the future so the quarantine site can continue.

Mayor Coral Evans stated that it is her understanding that the Board of Supervisors is the Board of Directors of the Health District and that the Health District Board has jurisdiction and if Hotel

Aspen is not going to continue to be used as a quarantine site then there needs to be something done on how people are sheltered with COVID-19.

Dr. Marie Peoples stated that there are 123 beds at Hotel Aspen and they have hotel security that are staying at the hotel because they are not from, or do not want to expose their family. She stated there are people here who are positive with the virus and people who are waiting for their test results. She explained that not all 123 rooms will be used at the same time, because after someone exits the hotel they have to do biohazard cleaning and then let the room sit for three days before it can be used again.

Dr. Peoples stated that they were not told until yesterday that there is a 75% coverage of cost by the state. She stated that what she was told before was that only the rooms are reimbursable not the whole hotel. Mayor Evans stated that General McGuire shared that with a change of operation the hotel would be covered. While Dr. Peoples stated that the authority lies with the cities, Mayor Evans stated her understanding is that it lies with the County.

Deputy County Manager Joanne Keene spoke about getting clarity from General McGuire on the 75% reimbursement and that paperwork was submitted this morning. She stated that they are working on options for the 25% local cost share. She stated the General did express his concerns with shutting down the Hotel Aspen quarantine site.

Chairwoman Archuleta went over the action steps the county took after the visit with the General yesterday.

Deputy County Attorney Rose Winkeler stated the authority of the Health District is to isolate and quarantine individuals and if necessary get court orders to isolate individuals. She stated that to the extent it limits the cities authorities it does the same to the County.

Ms. Altenbaugh explained that they will want to move people out of the shelter and is thankful for having somewhere for those with the virus to go. She stated that the rate the County is getting for Hotel Aspen is good and would encourage the County not to let it go.

Supervisor Babbott stated that money for real property acquisition can be utilized and accessed and asked how to keep opportunities open for that. Deputy County Manager Joanne Keene stated they did not specifically talk about property acquisition with General McGuire; however, her understanding is it may be an opportunity through the Cares Act.

Supervisor Parks asked Ms. Keene how long the state is willing to pick up the cost of the facility. Ms. Keene stated it will be 1-2 weeks until the County hears back regarding those expenses. Dr. Peoples stated that during General McGuire's visit he recognized this will go on until November. Chairwoman Archuleta stated that General McGuire said funding should not be an issue.

Mayor Coral Evans explained that General McGuire was very clear that the health care decisions should not be based off the cost of the facility as the facility was still needed.

Supervisor Ryan spoke about the General committing to 75% reimbursement and additionally trying to get the County the 25% as well. He stated they are getting reassurances from the state that if money becomes an issue they will work with the county.

County Manager Jimmy Jayne thanked everyone for attending the meeting and thanked Dr. Mouglin for offering advice on how to clean the shelter facility. He stated they will reach out to Ms. Altenbaugh soon on what the County will do.

Mayor Evans stated her appreciation and that people who are unsheltered are valuable. She stated that if Hotel Aspen is not the appropriate place then an appropriate place will need to be determined or if it is just cleaning the shelter.

Dr. Anne Newland thanked Mayor Evans for her compassion for the unsheltered population and the staff that support the shelters in town. She stated that one of the challenges is that we are #51 out of the states including Washington DC for testing of the virus. She stated that she is concerned about the people at the shelter and they are committed to finding a safe, reasonable pathway and that was her intent in bringing people together.

Chairwoman Archuleta stated that everyone involved is concerned about the unsheltered population and the whole community. She stated that it is up to the Flagstaff Shelter Services Board to determine the best path forward for their organization and the County is ready to assist. Chairwoman Archuleta asked what Ms. Altenbaugh and Dr. Newland recommend the path is moving forward.

Ms. Altenbaugh explained that Flagstaff Shelter Services is the only agency taking in new people and she would like to see people go into a hotel setting. She is not certain that Hotel Aspen is the best place for them to go and there are people who will have a hard time following what they need to do.

Chairwoman Archuleta stated there are different buildings at Hotel Aspen where there can be different programs and opportunities and she will leave it up to the managers and group that has been in discussions to determine that.

Vice Chair Fowler stated that the County is working with the Navajo Nation and helping them to provide service in communities. She stated they are reaching out throughout Northern Arizona.

Chairwoman Archuleta asked Ms. Altenbaugh if Flagstaff Shelter Services is eligible for funding. Ms. Altenbaugh explained they have received \$135,000 from the Arizona Department of Housing.

Supervisor Babbott recognized the work that has been done by Flagstaff Shelter Services and the City of Flagstaff stated it is important that this is being addressed with all the players in the room. He stated that Supervisor Ryan's work with the Arizona National Guard is critical. He thanked people for being in the conversation and for the work that is being done.

Deputy County Manager Keene stated that the express pay from the state will be announced on Monday and this is a new option to get reimbursements to entities right away. She stated they have been able to chase that down over the last 24 hours.

County Manager Jayne stated that we are in this together to serve the people of the entire county. He thanked Ms. Altenbaugh, and Dr. Mouglin for their partnership.

Chair Archuleta thanked Mayor Evans and the City of Flagstaff for the money they put in for eviction prevention and for their CDBG funding. Mayor Evans stated the City of Flagstaff has dedicated funds to eviction prevention program that will go to the County.

Chair Archuleta thanked all those in the discussion.

2. Discussion and possible action regarding the continuation of active contracts for services and goods related to the COVID-19 pandemic, including but not limited to contracts associated with the use of Hotel Aspen as an isolation and quarantine facility, the board may enter executive session pursuant to A.R.S. 38-431.03 (A)(4).
County Manager

Deputy County Rose Winkeler stated it is her recommendation to enter executive session to discuss item #2 on the agenda.

At 4:11 p.m. the Board made a motion to go into executive session.

Motion: Enter executive session, **Action:** approve, **Moved by:** Supervisor Matt Ryan, **Seconded by:** Supervisor Jim Parks. The motion passed unanimously.

Present: Chairwoman Elizabeth C. Archuleta, Vice Chairwoman Lena Fowler, Supervisor Art Babbott, Supervisor Matt Ryan, Supervisor Jim Parks present via Teams software.

Also Present: County Manager Jimmy Jayne, Deputy County Dr. Marie Peoples, Special Initiatives Director Kim Musselman, Public Affairs Director Eric Peterson, Deputy County Manager Joanne Keene, Deputy County Attorney Rose Winkeler.

Chairwoman Archuleta began the executive session discussion at 4:23 p.m.

Chairwoman Archuleta ended the executive session discussion at 5:14 p.m.

The Board went back to the open special session discussion at 5:21 p.m.

County Manager Jimmy Jayne stated the Board's direction is clear and stated they will keep the Board informed and continue to find the right size solutions dealing with this pandemic.

Chairwoman Archuleta thanked County Manager Jayne and Deputy County Manager Dr. Peoples. Chairwoman Archuleta stated that the Board has determined that they will not exercise a 30-day termination of Hotel Aspen at this time, due to the increase in cases and cases at

Flagstaff Shelter Services. She stated they look forward to working with the Arizona Department of Emergency and Military Affairs in seeking reimbursement. She thanked the various partners for working with the County during this challenging time.

Supervisor Matt Ryan stated he supports the direction. Vice Chairwoman Fowler thanked those that joined the conversation for the important discussion.

Chairwoman Archuleta expressed her appreciation for those who participated in the discussion and reminded people of the testing blitz that will occur tomorrow.

Chairwoman Archuleta adjourned the meeting at 5:25 p.m.

COCONINO COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

(SEAL)



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Elizabeth C. Archuleta, Chairwoman

ATTEST:

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Lindsay Daley", is written over a horizontal line.

Lindsay Daley, Clerk of the Board of Supervisors

