



OFFICE OF THE COCONINO COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

SPECIAL SESSION MINUTES

May 13, 2021

8:00 a.m. – Special Session
(Budget Discussions)

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

Also Present: County Manager Steve Peru, Deputy County Manager/Public Works Director Lucinda Andreani, Deputy County Manager Joanne Keene, Deputy County Attorney Rose Winkeler, Finance Director Siri Mullaney 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 10:03 a.m.

County Manager Peru outlined discussions for the day.

1. 8:00 a.m. -5:00 p.m. – FY22 County Budget Discussion and Wrap-Up.

County Manager Peru reviewed follow-up items for the Board's consideration today and tomorrow, such as Secure Rural Schools Title I Allocation and Flood Control District Tax Rate and revised recommendations regarding FTEs, compensation, and American Rescue Plan funding. He explained that there are also longer-term budget discussions that will need to be had that include Training and Certification for Recorder Retention, Court Fee strategy, Facilities self-performance, the Parks Master Plan and Grant Writing Resource.

County Manager Peru then went over each issue that need to be addressed at this time in the FY22 budget.

Secured Rural Schools Title I Allocation:

Finance Director Siri Mullaney outlined Secure Rural Schools Act (SRS) funding and distribution recommendations for FY22.

Superintendent of Schools Cheryl Mango-Paget clarified the Accommodation District money was given extra funding, this was taken back down to the regular funding this year.

Chief Deputy Superintendent of Schools Tina Wells further explained the history behind funding for the Accommodation School.

The Board and staff discussed funding elements of the recommended distribution of SRS funding.

Flood Control District Tax Rate:

Deputy County Manager Lucinda Andreani highlighted recommended budget allocations for the Flood Control District and related 10-Year Plan, as well as investments in various forest restoration and flood mitigation projects.

Upon inquiry from Chair Ryan, Forest Restoration Director Jay Smith explained the funding that remains from the Readiness and Environmental Protection Integration (REPI) Grant.

Compensation Strategies and FTE Recommendations/American Rescue Plan funding:

County Manager Peru highlighted recommendations for employee pay market increases, compression and market adjustments and recommendations to fund Full-Time Employee (FTE's) requested by various departments.

County Manager Peru reviewed recommendations to possibly use America Rescue Plan (ARP) funding to provide various investments in Health and Human Services, Criminal Justice System, Information Technology and Mental Health. ARP may fund expenses budgeted in the General Fund, moving qualified General Fund expenditures to ARP may allow the County to direct that General Fund capacity towards projects not specifically eligible under ARP funding. Recommendations will continue to be developed with the Board and discussed through the ARP decision-making process.

The Board and County Manager Peru briefly discussed community initiative funding and travel expenses allocated to the Board of Supervisors.

County Manager Peru answered questions asked by individual Board members related to various aspects of the recommended funding.

FY22 Departmental Funding Requests/Service Improvement Recommendations

County Manager Peru went over each of the FY22 Departmental Funding Requests. Manager Peru went through what each department's request is and what is being considered regarding the requests, whether it is a budget increase and or additional FTEs. He explained whether one-time funding or recurring funds are being recommended and whether the funds would be provided from the General Fund or the American Rescue Plan funding

The Supervisors spoke about the Board of Supervisors budget. Supervisor Horstman spoke about the need for funds for advocacy travel in which County Manager Peru said they have accounted

for in the County Administration/Public Affairs budget. Supervisor Begay spoke about the need for funds for temporary employees for the Districts. Chair Ryan spoke about how those positions have historically been funded out of the District budget and this may need to be discussed in the future.

Vice Chair Fowler stated that for the positions that will be using ARP funding then there will need to be a plan on how to continue once the ARP funding goes away – whether the positions will need to continue or not.

County Manager Peru spoke about government affairs and the possibility of reorganizing that effort. He answered questions related to the Diversity Equity and Inclusion effort funding as well as the position for that effort.

Manager Peru spoke about the backlog in the justice system and the need for advocacy efforts to get the justice piece funded. They also spoke about ARP funding being through December 2024 and then they will need to be able to sustain what they created and supported with ARP.

Supervisor Begay spoke about her desire to provide the requested FTEs to IT. Supervisor Horstman spoke about the desire to have the Board meeting room equipped with the necessary equipment to continue virtual meetings from the Board room. Vice Chair Fowler spoke about the need to have all the licenses for zoom to be centralized and funded out of the budget. Manager Peru spoke about IT security being a part of the audit process and the need to invest in IT and utilizing ARP funds for that.

Deputy County Manager Lucinda Andreani made an announcement that there is a fire out near Highway 89 and that Highway 89 may be closing as they try to put the fire out.

Chair Ryan spoke about the need to centralize the zoom accounts as we currently have many different accounts. Manager Peru stated that he will check with Director Fowler and that it should be built into the cost of doing business.

Supervisor Horstman mentioned that she would like to discuss capital project funds for Parks and Recreation at some point.

Deputy County Manager Lucinda Andreani spoke about areas being developed and the need for transportation funding. She also spoke about the Resilient Communities Program effort and the request for funding to reduce the threat of fire.

Deputy County Manager Lucinda Andreani announced that the air support for the fire was cancelled so they may be getting the fire under control.

Chair Ryan and Supervisor Horstman spoke about the Sheriff's Office getting overwhelmed with need for services. Vice Chair Fowler spoke about the need to also seek federal aid with impacts from federal lands and recreation on those lands. Supervisor Horstman spoke about the Sheriff's Office needing to do more with less. Supervisor Vasquez asked a clarifying question regarding the FTEs and costs for those for the Sheriff's Office.

County Manager Peru went through all of the Sheriff's and jail funding requests and recommendations for funding.

Sheriff Driscoll joined the meeting to answer questions regarding the Sheriff's requests having to do with vehicle replacements. County Manager Peru and Deputy County Manager Andreani also answered questions. Sheriff Driscoll answered questions regarding the co-location responsibilities with the City of Flagstaff.

Supervisor Horstman brought up looking at whether funding FTEs would mean funding less overtime. Vice Chair Fowler spoke about needing to look at the Sheriff's Office services, needs and funding and try to develop a plan for the future to be able to provide them what is needed. Supervisor Begay spoke about the need to look at the departments and be fair and prioritize what is mandated. Chair Ryan spoke about the need to maintain a balance and allow staff more time to look at implications of FTEs.

County Manager Peru finished going through the Department funding requests and staff recommendations.

Supervisor Horstman stated that she is glad the Treasurer is getting an additional FTE. County Manager Peru explained that staff is looking at what the needs will be for the next 3-5 years and the resources necessary to invest in future FTEs.

Deputy County Manager Lucinda Andreani made an announcement that the fire near Highway 89 is contained and are working towards reopening Highway 89.

The Supervisors thanked County Manager Peru and staff for the information provided.

There being no further discussion, Chair Ryan adjourned the meeting at approximately 2:16 p.m.

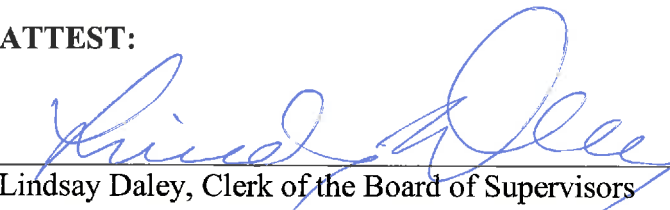
COCONINO COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

(SEAL)



Matt Ryan, Chair

ATTEST:



Lindsay Daley, Clerk of the Board of Supervisors

