

MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL BOARD MEETING
MONDAY, AUGUST 1, 2011 AT 10:00 A.M.

A Special Meeting of the Cochise County Board of Supervisors was held on August 1, 2011 at 10:00 a.m. in the Board of Supervisors; Hearing Room, 1415 Melody Lane, Bisbee, AZ. In attendance were Pat Call, Chairman; Ann English, Vice Chairman; Richard Searle, Supervisor; Britt Hanson, Chief Civil Deputy Attorney; Mike Ortega, County Administrator; and Gussie Motter, Deputy Clerk of the Board.

ANY ITEM ON THE AGENDA IS OPEN FOR DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION

ROLL CALL– All three Supervisors were present

PUBLIC HEARINGS

1. Adopt Resolution 11-31 to adopt the Final County Budget for Fiscal Year 2011-2012 in the amount of \$192,006,819 (this amount is composed of \$80,872,542 in the General Fund and \$111,134,277 in Special Revenue Funds) and approve the Decision Packages as set forth in the attached exhibits.

Supervisor English made a motion, seconded by Supervisor Searle, to adopt Resolution 11-31 to adopt the Final County Budget for Fiscal Year 2011-2012 in the amount of \$192,006,819 (this amount is composed of \$80,872,542 in the General Fund and \$111,134,277 in Special Revenue Funds) and approve the Decision Packages as set forth in the attached exhibits.

Mr. Ortega pointed out that the Primary Property Tax rate of \$2.6276 remains the same as last year but the Total Levy is up about \$205,000 due to new construction. He also stated that 1 cent is roughly \$105,000. The only change in the Final Budget from the Tentative Budget is that JP 4 has asked to use just under \$3,500 out of the JP Court Enhancement Funds for new security cameras.

Asked to compare this budget to last year's, Mr. Ortega stated that this year's budget shows a \$17 million reduction. Because CASS will continue into September of the fiscal year, next year's budget will show an even greater reduction.

Answering questions about next year, Mr. Ortega cautioned that even though the state and local sales tax are holding steady and JLBC projections are positive, the County may be down on property taxes due to an expected drop in assessed values. On the plus side, the Fort is holding strong and we need to continue to band around them to keep them from losing missions. It is a stabilizing force in our economy. The single biggest issue to be faced next year will be the inmate shift. The cost of that shift is being revised from \$30 per prisoner per day up to \$60 to \$80 per day. CSA will be working on this issue as it will be the number one problem for Counties of Arizona.

Last year the County had 1107 Full Time Employees(FTE's). There are 978FTS in this budget but not all of those positions will be filled. The true reflection of number of employees is anywhere from 930 to 950 FTE's. The County is down \$3.1 million in terms of staffing.

Chairman Call opened the meeting to the public. There was no response and the meeting was closed to the public.

Chairman Call called for the vote. The motion carried unanimously.

ACTION:

2. Approve the Letter to the Editor from the Supervisors regarding he recent fires in Cochise County.

Supervisor Searle made a motion, seconded by Supervisor English to approve the Letter to the Editor from the Supervisors regarding he recent fires in Cochise County.

Mr. Ortega explained that this letter was crafted by CSA regarding the impacts of natural disasters and the cost of the County's response. It also sends the message to the State that additional cost shifts and reductions of revenues from the State will make it impossible to provide services to the citizens of Cochise County. The letter will get Statewide coverage.

Chairman Call called for the vote and the motion passed unanimously.

3. Appoint Patrick K Greene to the District 2 Board of Adjustment.

Supervisor English made a motion, seconded by Supervisor Searle to appoint Patrick K Greene to the District 2 Board of Adjustment. The motion carried unanimously.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 10:25.

APPROVED

ATTEST

Patrick G. Call, Chairman

Gussie Motter, Deputy Clerk