

SPECIAL BOARD MEETING MINUTES
Monday, November 21, 2011 at 10:00 a.m.
Board of Supervisors Hearing Room

A special meeting of the Cochise County Board of Supervisors was held on Monday, November 21, 2011 at 10:00 a.m. in the Board of Supervisors Hearing Room regarding redistricting. In attendance were Patrick Call, Chairman; Ann English, Vice Chairman; Richard Searle, District 3 Supervisor; Dave Fifer, Civil Deputy County Attorney; Mike Ortega, County Administrator; Jody Klein, Consultant; and Gussie Motter, Deputy Clerk of the Board.

The meeting was called to order at 10:00 a.m.

Roll Call: All three Board Members were present.

PUBLIC HEARINGS

Mr. Klein began his presentation by introducing the redistricting team: Walter Domann, GIS Coordinator; Lara Beach, Voter Election Tech; Christine Rhodes, County Recorder; Sylvia Gruhn, Deputy County Recorder; Juanita Simmons, Elections Director; and Pat Viverto, Voter Outreach and Special Districts Coordinator.

1. Consider the proposed Cochise County Precincts

Mr. Klein cautioned that the Independent Redistricting Committee (IRC) will be meeting again this week and their Congressional and Legislative maps may require some adjustment to any maps the Board approves today. Some precincts have been eliminated due to the increase of mail-in voting. The County currently has 64 precincts and this variation recommends that precincts be combined to 49 precincts.

Chairman Call opened the Public Hearing. There was no response and the Public Hearing was closed.

2. Consider the 4 scenarios for the Board of Supervisors' Districts.

Each scenario meets the requirements for equality in population under Arizona Revised Statutes and meets the other criteria for redistricting.

Scenario 1. Those residents in the Palominas area south of Sierra Vista (current Palominas Precinct) would be moved from District 1 into District 2. Those residents west of 7th Street who are currently in District 1 (current SV Central Business, SV Carmichael, and SV Fry precincts) would move from District 1 into District 3.

Scenario 2. Same as Scenario 1, except that only the southeast portion of Palominas, rather than the entire precinct, would move from District 1 into District 2. In other words, Palominas precinct would be split into two precincts. The area west of 7th Street would again be moved from District 1 into District 3.

Scenario 3. Residents north of Fry Blvd. and Highway 90 East, who are east of Coronado Drive but west of Moson Road (in proposed SV College Precinct), excluding those in Mountain Mesas Estates, would move from Supervisors' District 1 into District 2. Once again, those residents west of 7th Street who are currently in District 1 (current SV Central Business, SV Carmichael, and SV Fry Precincts) would move from District 1 into District 3.

Scenario 4. Residents in Sierra Vista Estates and Golden Acres Subdivision (current precinct SV Estates) would move from District 1 into District 2. Also those voters in Mountain Mesa Estates in Sierra Vista would move from District 2 into District 1. Once again those residents west of 7th Street (currently in SV Central Business, SV Carmichael, and SV Fry precincts) would move from District 1 into District 3.

Mr. Klein explained that scenario number 2 could be problematic as it splits a precinct in half.

Chairman Call opened the Public Hearing. There was no response and the Public Hearing was closed.

3. Consider the three scenarios for the Cochise Community College District

Mr. Klein noted that the redistricting team had met with the College Board and the Board is in favor of Scenario two.

Scenario 1. Move those residents in the greater Tombstone area (Tombstone Precinct) from College Precinct 5 into Precinct 2. Move those residents residing east of Avenida del Sol and south of Hwy 90 East, plus those in Mountain Mesa Estates (proposed SV Avenida del Sol precinct) from College Precinct 4 into Precinct 5. Move those residents south of Snyder Blvd. and east of Hwy. 92 (current SV Snyder Precinct) from College Precinct 5 into Precinct 4. Move those residents west of 7th Street and South of Fry Blvd. (current SV Central Business and SV Busby precincts) from College Precinct 4 into Precinct 3.

Scenario 2. Move those residents in the greater Tombstone area (Tombstone Precinct) from College Precinct 5 into Precinct 2. Move those residents residing south of Yaqui Blvd but north of Ramsey Canyon Road and West of Hwy. 92 (current SV Yaqui and SV Village 1 Precincts) from College Precinct 4 into Precinct 5. Move those residents south of Snyder Blvd and east of Hwy 92 (current SV Snyder Precinct) from College Precinct 5 into Precinct 4. Move those residents who are east of Avenida del Sol but south of Hwy. 90 (proposed Avenida del Sol Precinct) from College Precinct 4 into Precinct 3.

Scenario 3. Move residents in the Portal area (Portal Precinct) from College Precinct 1 into Precinct 2. Move those residents in Mountain Mesa Estates (will be a part of new Avenida del Sol Precinct) from College Precinct 5 into Precinct 4. Move the residents who are west of 7th Street and south of Fry Blvd (current SV Central Business and SV Busby Precincts) from College Precinct 4 into Precinct 3.

Chairman Call opened the Public Hearing. There was no response and the Public Hearing was closed.

4. Consider the Justice of the Peace Precincts Map

Mr. Klein explained that unlike other redistrictings, equality of population is not taken into account for JP Precincts but if a JP Precinct has over 10,000 registered voters, statute requires that a paid Constable be elected. All three scenarios eliminate the need for additional paid Constables.

Scenario 1. Move Hereford Precinct from JP1 (Bisbee) into JP5 (Sierra Vista). Move Tombstone Precinct from JP1 (Bisbee) to JP3 (Benson). Move McNeal Precinct from JP2 (Douglas) into JP1 (Bisbee). Move Webb Precinct (Elfrida area) from JP2 (Douglas) to JP4 (Willcox). Move Portal Precinct from JP2 (Douglas) into JP6 (Bowie).

Scenario 2. The same effect would be accomplished by moving both McNeal and Webb precincts into JP1 (Bisbee area) from JP2 (Douglas) and moving Hereford Precinct from JP1 into JP5 (Sierra Vista) and Tombstone Precinct from JP1 into JP3 (Benson).

Scenario 3. The least amount of change that would accomplish the same result is to move Hereford Precinct from JP1 (Bisbee) to JP5 (Sierra Vista) and McNeal Precinct from JP2 (Douglas) into JP1 (Bisbee).

Chairman Call opened the Public Hearing.

Christine Rhodes, Cochise County Recorder asked how JP's salaries are determined.

Judge Joe Knoblock, Benson Justice Court 3 and presiding JP for the County, explained that a JP's salary is based on a somewhat complicated system of filings with the Court. For example, 10 civil filings equal 1 JPC, 60 civil traffic filings equal 1 JPC and 10 criminal filings equal 1 JPC. The only court that may be affected by these redistricting changes is Douglas Justice Court 2.

Vice Chairman English asked for some clarification regarding salaries and Judge Knoblock obliged saying that if your JPC's are over 500, the annual salary is \$101,000. 65% of that results in a salary of 94,250 and 55% is roughly \$80,000.

Judge Alma Vildosola, Douglas Justice Court Number 2, made a case for a Constable for her JC precinct. We have an issue with serving papers in Douglas as we only have a Sheriff substation in Douglas. She also argued that her filings would drop as most of the filings are from the Davis Road/McNeal area.

Chairman Call closed the Public Hearing and introduced the Action Items.

Action Items.

5. Approve the new Cochise County Precincts: Supervisor Searle made a motion, seconded by Vice Chairman English to approve the new County precincts as presented. The motion carried unanimously.

6. Approve scenario ___ for the Board of Supervisor Districts: The Supervisors discussed the pros and cons of the various scenarios. Supervisor Searle made a motion, seconded by Vice Chairman English, to approve scenario 4 for the Board of Supervisor Districts. The motion carried 2 – 1 (English opposed).

7. Approve scenario ___ for the Cochise Community College Districts: Supervisor Searle made a motion, seconded by Vice Chairman English, to approve scenario 2 for the Cochise Community College Districts. The motion carried unanimously.

8. Approve Justice of the Peace precincts map: The Supervisors agreed that they would prefer to see Justice of the Peace precincts to remain under 10,000 registered voters, thus negating the need to hire another Constable. They also agreed that the judge's salary should not be part of their decision-making process. Vice Chairman English made a motion, seconded by Supervisor Searle, to approve scenario 3 for the Justice of the Peace precincts maps. The motion carried unanimously.

Chairman Call offered his thanks and praise to the redistricting team for all of their hard work.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 11:20 a.m.

APPROVED:

ATTEST:

Patrick G. Call
Chairman

Gussie Motter
Deputy Clerk of the Board