

**PROCEEDINGS OF THE
COCHISE COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS SPECIAL BOARD MEETING
HELD ON MONDAY, MARCH 8, 2012 at 1:30 P.M.
IN THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS CONFERENCE ROOM
LOCATED AT 1415 MELODY LANE, BISBEE, ARIZONA**

Chairman Searle called the Special Meeting of the Board of Supervisors to order at 1:30 p.m. All three Supervisors were in attendance. Also in attendance were Jim Vlahovich, Deputy County Administrator; Juanita Simmons, Elections Director, Britt Hanson, Chief Civil Deputy County Attorney; and Katie Howard, Clerk of the Board.

ACTION

ITEM 1

Approve sales from the March 1, 2012 Tax Deed Land Auction of parcels and units listed on Exhibit A in the total amount of \$16,503 and authorize the Clerk to post the remaining unsold properties for sale on an over-the-counter basis (see Exhibit B).

Ms. Howard presented the item reporting that on March 1, 2012, the annual Tax Deed Land Auction was conducted, resulting in property sales of \$15,228 and administrative fees of \$1,275. A total of 142 parcels were sold. Total single parcel sales were \$9,453 and total multiple parcel-unit sales were \$5,775, as shown on the attached Exhibit A (Parcels Sold). All funds were collected the day of the auction and deposited with the County Treasurer the following day. A listing of the Parcels Sold was also provided to the County Treasurer to update the tax roll.

Ms Howard continued, saying that Exhibit B shows the remaining unsold properties still available for over-the-counter (OTC) purchase. Staff is requesting the Board authorize posting of the OTC list immediately, together with the updated interactive map. Some sealed bid bidders who were unsuccessful in obtaining all of the properties they bid on have asked Board staff to retain the excess funds to be applied toward possible OTC purchases.

Vice-Chairman Call made a motion to approve the sales from the March 1, 2012 Tax Deed Land Auction of parcels and units listed on Exhibit A in the total amount of \$16,503 and authorize the Clerk to post the remaining unsold properties for sale on an over-the-counter basis, per Exhibit B.

Supervisor English seconded the motion and it was approved, unanimously.

ITEM 2

Accept the elections results certified and submitted by the Cochise County Elections Department as the official canvass for the Presidential Preference Election held on February 28, 2012.

Ms. Juanita Simmons, Elections Director reported that the Presidential Preference Election (PPE) was held on February 28 and explained that for a PPE, election costs are reimbursed by the Secretary of State at a fixed rate of \$1.25 per registered voter. She stated that there were no equipment issues during the election. She added that in Sierra Vista, the phone line did not work at one central election

center. The results for that center were sent via another central voting location, and that worked okay. She added that Elections will test phone lines before the next election.

Ms. Simmons also reported that there had been one issue with the polling location maps. After the Board meeting at which the PPE location maps were updated, although legend was updated the map was not updated. This led to some confusion by voters as to where their polling place was.

Another problem Ms. Simmons reported was that certain precincts did not receive sample ballots. She added that there was no prior check and balance for that function. To avoid future issues where people do not receive Sample Ballots, she said they will do a comparison of the number of households Sample Ballots are being sent to against the database.

Ms. Simmons also reported that the new high speed ballot tabulation machine and the new letter opening machine were put in use for the first time for the PPE election and that these worked very well. The result was that fewer early boards were required and results took less time to count.

She reminded the Board that a hand count is required for this election, which was conducted successfully. The Green Party declined to participate, so she invited the Democratic Party to participate. Both Democrat and Republican representatives, four each, participated in the hand count.

Ms. Simmons then advised the Board that for the PPE there was a 39.7% turnout of which 52% were early ballots. She provided the Board with additional statistics regarding the election results and observed that there was an increase in provisional ballots, some due to ineligible voters insisting on voting a provisional ballot. This election, she reminded the Board was strictly for Republicans and the Green Party, as per state law. Elections fielded many calls ahead of time about this issue and produced Press Releases, etc. Of the 376 provisional ballots, 70 of them were for people not registered either as a Republican or Green Party.

She also discussed the problem that occurred, statewide, with one Motor Vehicle Division unit where people were getting licensed, incorrectly marking "Party Not Designated" which prevented them from eligibility to vote in this election. This affected all counties and the Secretary of State issued information about this situation to voters.

Additional discussion was held regarding Benson area problems. Some living in Benson had to go to St. David to vote. Ms Simmons reminded that when the PPE polling locations were presented at the Board meeting, only one location was designated for Benson. It was upon a request from the Board that this be split separated into two precincts; however, for the PPE, the State also has a minimum number of registered voters in a PPE polling location.

Supervisor English made a motion to accept the elections results certified and submitted by the Cochise County Elections Department as the official canvass for the Presidential Preference Election held on February 28, 2012. Vice-Chairman Call seconded the motion and it was approved unanimously.

There being no further business before the Board, Chairman Searle adjourned the meeting at 1:50 p.m.

APPROVED: _____
Richard Searle, Chairman

ATTEST: _____
Katie A. Howard, Clerk of the Board