

**PROCEEDINGS OF THE
COCHISE COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS SPECIAL BOARD MEETING
HELD ON MONDAY, APRIL 23, 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. In attendance were Chairman Richard Searle and Supervisor Ann English. Vice Chairman Patrick Call attended telephonically. Also in attendance were Mike Ortega, County Administrator; Jim Vlahovich, Deputy County Administrator; Juanita Simmons, Elections Director, Britt Hansen, Chief Civil Deputy County Attorney; and Katie Howard, Clerk of the Board.

CALL TO THE PUBLIC (MATTERS RELATED TO COUNTY GOVERNMENT - LIMIT OF 3 MINUTES PER PERSON OR AT THE DIRECTION OF THE CHAIRMAN)

ACTION

ITEM 1

Accept the election results certified and submitted by the Cochise County Elections Department as the official canvass for the Special Primary Election for Congressional District 8 held on April 17, 2012.

Supervisor English made a motion, seconded by Vice-Chairman Call, to accept the election results certified and submitted by the Cochise County Elections Department as the official canvass for the Special Primary Election for Congressional District 8 held on April 17, 2012.

Ms. Simmons, Elections Director, reported very low voter turn-out with only 21% voting. Of those voters, a record number (64%) were Early Voters. Five parties participated in the election and Ms. Simmons reviewed the results as set forth on the canvass. She said two Sierra Vista locations were changed for the Special Election. The sample ballots had the new locations and a post card mailing reminder was also sent to voters in those two precincts. No problems were encountered as a result of the new locations. Parking at Old Bisbee High School was not a problem and Ms. Simmons expressed her thanks for the work the Facilities Department had done to reserve parking places for the voters.

She continued there were a few equipment problems. The tabulator at Palominas failed and needed to be replaced during the day. Other machine problems can be explained by the learning curve of the new poll workers, many of whom were brand new for this Special Election. Twelve machines were not operable for this election despite maintenance three times before the election. Ms. Simmons speculated that the problems may be related to the age of the machines or from sitting idle for too long. She borrowed two machines as back up from Graham County for this election. Fortunately they were not needed.

Ms. Simmons said the process went fairly smoothly with the canvass done over the weekend. The State will canvas complete results this afternoon in order to get the Uniformed and Overseas Citizens Absentee Voting Act (UOCAVA) ballots by the statutory deadline.

Vice Chairman Call inquired about improving the reliability of the machines and wondered if there was a plan in place for setting aside money to replace the machines.

Ms. Simmons responded that from all three services she received helpful information to prolong the life of the machines. She has also scheduled a full preventive maintenance on all equipment for July.

There was a discussion about how sample ballots are determined for each address. When a voter is registered independent or party not chosen, all sample ballots will be sent. In an election like this with five different ballots it can be confusing, time consuming and costly. Ms. Simmons also reported that Old Bisbee High School will be used again in June. Now that the redistricting has been completed, locations for all 49 polling places will be presented after the June election. The Department of Justice must also approve the polling places.

Chairman Searle Called for the vote, approved, 3-0.

There being no further business, Chairman Searle adjourned the meeting at 1:42 p.m.

APPROVED: _____
Richard Searle, Chairman

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