

**PROCEEDINGS OF THE COCHISE COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
WORK SESSION HELD ON
Tuesday, July 8, 2014**

A work session of the Cochise County Board of Supervisors was held on Tuesday, July 8, 2014 1:30 p.m. in the Board of Supervisors' Executive Conference Room, 1415 Melody Lane, Building G, Bisbee, Arizona.

Present: Patrick G. Call, Chairman; Ann English, Vice-Chairman; Richard R. Searle, Member

Staff Present: Michael J. Ortega, County Administrator
Jim Vlahovich, Deputy County Administrator
Arlethe G. Rios, Clerk of the Board
Norm Sturm, Emergency Services Coordinator
Tyson Mock, Information Technologies Director

Chairman Call called the meeting to order at 2:35 p.m.

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

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

THE ORDER OR DELETION OF ANY ITEM ON THIS AGENDA IS SUBJECT TO MODIFICATION AT THE MEETING

INTRODUCTIONS

ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION

Information Technologies

1. Discussion and possible direction on: 1) the completed Cochise County Community Wildfire Protection Plan, 2) a proposed County Employee Emergency Personnel Policy, 3) a County Open Burning Ordinance, and 4) a demonstration of the new County Emergency Operations Center.

Mr. Norm Sturm, Emergency Services Coordinator, presented several topics to the Board to obtain direction from them. He stated that the first topic he wanted to discuss was the Cochise County Community Wildfire Protection Plan and added the process that had been followed to complete the plan.

Supervisor Searle asked how the communities had been notified of the plan.

Mr. Sturm explained that all relevant entities had been given the opportunity to review the document and ensure they found value in it. He added that this was a live document and that it would be reviewed annually.

Vice-Chairman English commented that the document should be readable to all citizens so that they can share their input and encouraged Mr. Sturm to suggest that fire districts have community meetings to educate citizens.

Mr. Sturm said the second topic was the Cochise County Burn Restriction Ordinance, which served to place restrictions on outside open burning during times of high wildfire threats.

Mr. Ortega gave some background information on why this had not been adopted previously due to the Board's concern with the restrictions of open burns. He noted that the State had a policy and the Board had been comfortable in the past to have the County abide by that.

Supervisor Searle noted that due to the lack of a County ordinance fire chiefs were having a difficulty dealing with open burns in the unincorporated areas of the county.

Mr. Sturm clarified that the ordinance would not change current procedures drastically; just give the Board more oversight and the ability to make the final decision on fire prohibitions.

Vice-Chairman English stated that she appreciated getting input from the experts, but wanted the Board to have the final say.

Mr. Sturm moved to the third topic of discussion, which was the Emergency Personnel Policy. He stated that the policy would enable the county administrator to alter work schedules, duties, and location of employees to meet the needs of the County during an emergency.

Mr. Ortega clarified that he could alter things now, but the document would give more latitude without being penalized by the Fair Labor Standards Act (FLSA) and noted that employees would be moved into areas where their skill sets could be used, not doing anything that they have not received training for.

Mr. Sturm said the fourth topic of discussion was the County Emergency Operations Center (EOC). He noted that this facility was set up to support response operations during a large scale emergency event, but would also be used by the Information Technologies (IT) Department for other purposes. He added the remote location does not impact the effectiveness of the EOC, that it had telecommunication capabilities, and worked in conjunction with the Sheriff's Mobile Command Center.

Chairman Call asked about the emergency notification system.

Mr. Sturm said that the system was web based and would send out messages countywide and to specific distribution groups.

The Board thanked Mr. Sturm for the updates.

Chairman Call adjourned the meeting at 3:37 p.m.

APPROVED:

Patrick G. Call, Chairman

ATTEST:

Arlethe G. Rios, Clerk of the Board