

**PROCEEDINGS OF THE COCHISE COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS  
WORK SESSION HELD ON  
Tuesday, May 10, 2016**

A work session of the Cochise County Board of Supervisors was held on Tuesday, May 10, 2016 at 3:00 p.m. in the Health Department Conference Room, 1415 Melody Lane, Building A, Bisbee, Arizona.

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

Staff Present: James E. Vlahovich, County Administrator  
Edward T. Gilligan, Deputy County Administrator  
Arlethe G. Rios, Clerk of the Board  
Mary Gomez, Health & Social Services Director  
Ray Falkenberg, Health & Social Services Department  
Belvet Elsouhag, Health & Social Services Department  
Norm Sturm, Emergency Services Coordinator  
Brigitta Hodges, Health & Social Services Department  
Mike McGinnis, Budget Manager, Finance Department

Attendees: Peggy Judd

Chairman Searle called the meeting to order at 3:00 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**

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***INTRODUCTIONS***

***ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION***

**Board of Supervisors**

1. Budget Work Session - Discussion of County budget for Fiscal Year 2016-2017 specifically: the Public Support Services group - Health & Social Services, Housing Authority, Library District, Emergency Services.

Ms. Mary Gomez, Health & Social Services Director & Public Support Service Administrator, gave the background and noted that the Housing Department was not present, but she would ensure the Board received a summary of their budget. She then covered the Library District budget and noted that the first order of business was to recruit a new Library Director and balance the budget for the upcoming fiscal year.

Chairman Searle asked how much reserves were in the Library District budget.

Mr. Mike McGinnins, Budget Manager, Finance Department, said there was a \$600,000 reserve.

Ms. Gomez noted that reserves would no longer be used for operations. She noted that the Health & Social Services was assisting the Library with some administrative and financial tasks. She added that she would try to partner with cities to address services provided and look into the services provided by the Bookmobile.

Mr. Ed Gilligan, Deputy County Administrator, said there would be a meeting to discuss doing a complete system assessment.

Chairman Searle thanked staff for the Library District update and asked that Emergency Services give their budget presentation.

Mr. Norm Sturm, Emergency Services Coordinator, said there were no significant changes and noted he was working on increasing the volunteer base as well as integrating with the Health & Social Services Department.

Ms. Belvet Elsouhag, Health & Social Services Department, went over the goals for Aging Services and the Public Fiduciary. She noted that staff was reorganizing the office structure to better serve citizens and save money.

Supervisor English asked for the number of case managers.

Ms. Elsouhag said there were currently five staff members who were handling about 825 cases. She noted that although the County's population has decreased the case loads have continued to increase.

Vice-Chairman Call asked what type of licensing was required to conduct public fiduciary services.

Ms. Elsouhag said that there was a test involved and each staff member had to renew their credentials every two years as well as have 20 continued education hours. She continued the presentation and said that revenues do not amount to very much since most clients do not have any assets or funds.

Mr. Ray Falkenberg, Health & Social Services Department, went over the Health portion of the Department's expenses and noted that 90% of the budget covered personnel/support and care. He noted that staff is frugal and focuses on cost savings whenever possible and will continue with this model. He added that vacancies are held for at least six months and duties are constantly being assessed to ensure high efficiency and productivity. He said that jail costs are a huge impact to the budget as well as jail medical staff turnover. He moved on to the goals and said staff would focus on preventative measures, education of the public, youth involvement efforts, immunizations, and partnerships in the community to ensure the general public's health.

The Board thanked staff for the update and commended them for the hard work and dedication to providing good services for the County's citizens.

Chairman Searle adjourned the meeting at 3:59 p.m.

APPROVED:

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Richard R. Searle, Chairman

ATTEST:

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Arlethe G. Rios, Clerk of the Board