

**BOARD OF SUPERVISORS MINUTES
GILA COUNTY, ARIZONA**

Date: December 31, 2010

MICHAEL A. PASTOR
Chairman

JOHN F. NELSON
Clerk of the Board

TOMMIE C. MARTIN
Vice-Chairman

By: Marian Sheppard
Chief Deputy Clerk

SHIRLEY L. DAWSON
Member

Emergency
Operations Center
Globe, Arizona

PRESENT: Michael A. Pastor, Chairman; Tommie C. Martin, Vice-Chairman (via phone conference call); Shirley L. Dawson, Member (via phone conference call); Don McDaniel, County Manager (via phone conference call); John Nelson, Deputy County Manager (via phone conference call); Matt Bolinger, Health and Emergency Services Division Director; Steve Stratton, Public Works Division Director; and Marian Sheppard, Chief Deputy Clerk.

Item 1 – Call to Order

The Gila County Board of Supervisors met in Emergency Session at 2:00 p.m. this date at the Emergency Operations Center at the Central Heights County Complex in Globe. The meeting was called to order by Chairman Pastor.

Item 2 - Information/Discussion/Action to adopt Resolution No. 11-01-03 declaring a state of emergency within Gila County as a result of heavy rain and snowfall causing flood conditions, power outages, and isolated conditions.

Matt Bolinger, Health and Emergency Services Division Director, provided a brief summary of the effects of the snowstorm in both northern and southern Gila County. In southern Gila County some flood damage and isolation issues occurred. There was a power outage for awhile; however, Arizona Public Service Company worked with the County road crews and has since reestablished power. The Tonto Creek crossings are open. He also stated that emergency services can be provided to Mackey's Camp. Of most concern in northern Gila County is the Pine, Strawberry and Christopher Creek area as Mr. Bolinger estimates that there are approximately 500-600 residents that are snowed in and cannot leave their homes. At present all major roads are open in northern Gila County, with some of them having chain restrictions. He mentioned that many of the residents in Pine, Strawberry and Christopher

Creek live off of private roads, which have not yet been cleared. John Nelson, Deputy County Manager, who lives in the Pine area, was concerned that it may take until Monday before any of the residents would be able to leave their homes and he was concerned if any of them had an emergency situation. He is receiving many phone calls from residents and by New Year's Day (Saturday) or Sunday, he expects that he and other County staff would be receiving a lot more phone calls from residents if they can't leave their homes. Steve Stratton, Public Works Division Director, said that as of tomorrow all primary and secondary roads will have been bladed at least once with County equipment. His primary concern was that his road crews have been working around the clock so they are over-tired and if it they don't get some relief in the next day or two, they will become unsafe. He requested permission to hire contractors to provide blade and backhoe equipment to clear the roads in northern Gila County. He can provide a list of contractors. Supervisor Dawson inquired about the status of County buildings and Mr. Bolinger replied that the Michaelson building, located in southern Gila County, incurred some minor leaking, which was not previously present. Vice-Chairman Martin was concerned about the extreme cold temperatures in northern Gila County, which would cause freezing of the snow tonight with even more ice conditions. She said that rain was predicted for Monday through Wednesday, which would most likely result in flooding issues. Further discussion was held on the number of calls from residents in northern Gila County and the concern was that those calls could increase dramatically if roads weren't cleared by Monday. Vice-Chairman Martin stated that traffic was backed up on all major roads in Payson and it was a "big mess." Mr. Nelson stated that if the Board declares an emergency, the County would be "on its own" financially because it is doubtful that the State will provide financial aid due to the State's current financial crisis. Any funds expended by the County would be drawn from HURF (Highway User Revenue Funds) funds and from the County's General Fund. Don McDaniel, County Manager, joined the meeting at this time by phone and he asked Mr. Stratton his estimation of the expected costs. Mr. Stratton replied that the cost would be in the thousands; however, he would have a better estimate tomorrow afternoon when his road crews finish blading all primary and secondary roads. Mr. McDaniel concurred that the help of contractors would be needed as it would be unsafe for the County road crews to continue working such long hours without rest. After a discussion of the amount of money the Board should authorize spending of County funds on this effort, it was agreed that the amount should not exceed \$25,000. If that amount is reached and there was more work to be done, it was mentioned that matter should be brought to the Board to consider authorizing the expenditure of additional County funds. There was also detailed discussion about blading private driveways and blading roads within incorporated areas of Payson. All agreed that all inaccessible private roads located within unincorporated Gila County must be bladed, but not those located within incorporated areas, and that no driveways should be bladed.

As the discussion was coming to a close, Chairman Pastor recapped the agreement that was reached between Board members and County staff. Everyone confirmed that the Board would authorize spending up to \$25,000 on this effort; grading of inaccessible private roads located within unincorporated Gila County; and that no private driveways would be graded. At this time Chairman Pastor asked for a Board motion. Supervisor Dawson made a motion to adopt Resolution No. 11-01-03 with an emergency cap on funding of \$25,000 to take care of northern Gila County roads and opening those roadways that are now closed. Vice-Chairman Martin seconded the motion with the condition that if \$25,000 is expended and there is more work to be done, that the Board agreed to reconsider authorizing an additional amount of funds. Both Chairman Pastor and Supervisor Dawson nodded in agreement with this condition and the motion passed with a unanimous vote of the Board. **(A copy of the Resolution is permanently on file in the Board of Supervisors' Office.)**

Mr. McDaniel recommended that Jacque Griffin, Assistant County Manager/Librarian, immediately issue a press release so that the public is made aware of all the efforts being made by the County. Vice-Chairman Martin advised that she would be talking on the local radio on Monday and she assured those present that she would update the public on the County's efforts. Mr. Bolinger advised that he and his staff have updated local radio stations and he offered to issue a public service announcement to those stations. Later in the day, a press release was issued by Ms. Griffin.

There being no further business to come before the Board of Supervisors, Chairman Pastor adjourned the meeting at 2:31 p.m.

APPROVED:

Michael A. Pastor, Chairman

ATTEST:

Marian Sheppard, Chief Deputy Clerk