

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

Date: March 25, 2014

MICHAEL A. PASTOR
Chairman

MARIAN E. SHEPPARD
Clerk of the Board

TOMMIE C. MARTIN
Vice-Chairman

By: Laurie J. Kline
Deputy Clerk

JOHN D. MARCANTI
Member

Gila County Courthouse
Globe, Arizona

PRESENT: Michael A. Pastor, Chairman; Tommie C. Martin, Vice-Chairman (via ITV); John D. Marcanti, Supervisor; Don E. McDaniel, Jr., County Manager; Jacque Griffin, Assistant County Manager/Librarian; Bryan B. Chambers, Deputy Attorney Principal; Marian E. Sheppard, Clerk of the Board; and Laurie J. Kline, Deputy Clerk.

Item 1 – CALL TO ORDER - PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Gila County Board of Supervisors met in a work session at 10:00 a.m. this date in the Board of Supervisors' hearing room. Jacque Griffin led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Item 2 – REGULAR AGENDA ITEMS:

A. Report on the status of correcting the incorrect property tax bills and the status of collecting the 2013 property taxes.

Debora Savage, Treasurer, advised that since she last provided an update to the Board of Supervisors on November 5, 2013, her staff has been working diligently with Tyler Technologies and RealWare to make the necessary corrections to the software systems to ensure that the tax bills are correct. The Treasurer's Office has collected \$2,356,000 thus far for the first half of the property taxes assessed for 2013. The parcels which need tax corrections are located throughout the County and are not in one area. There are 13 parcels that have been identified as not having maps, no starting or ending point, and require adjustments. These issues are being addressed by Tyler Technologies.

The adjustments to be made to the tax bills increase the exemption amount which equates to a difference of \$217; therefore, the majority of tax payers will see an increase in property taxes and it is unlikely there will be refunds made to the tax payers.

Chairman Pastor inquired if the software systems companies are working together with the County IT staff and Ms. Savage affirmed that was correct. Chairman Pastor then asked if the 2nd half taxes would be affected, to which Ms. Savage replied that the 2nd half taxes are payable now and become delinquent May 1, 2014, and are unaffected.

Kelly Riggs, Information Technology Director, provided additional information stating that once this issue with the 13 parcels has been corrected and the software systems programs interface properly, the problem should not reoccur.

Vice-Chairman Martin asked for clarification that the problem is isolated to the 13 parcels previously mentioned, to which Mr. Riggs affirmed that was correct. She then advised that it is imperative that the County execute a “dry run” to test the accuracy of the data and to ensure that the tax bills will be sent out accurately and in a timely fashion. Chairman Pastor advised that it would be beneficial to do a “dry run” in the near future with approximately 50 parcels to verify that the data is correct and to ensure the software programs are in fact working together. Mr. Riggs agreed and confirmed with IT staff that a “dry run” *can* be done.

The Board thanked Ms. Savage for this update.

B. Presentation of information from The Industrial Development Authority of the County of Gila, Arizona, regarding a proposal to form a countywide partnership with regard to economic development.

Cliff Potts, President of the Industrial Development Authority (IDA), introduced the IDA Board of Directors, those who were present and not present. He read aloud the IDA’s Mission Statement and outlined the functions and key strategies of the IDA. Mr. Potts stated that the IDA is committed to Gila County; expanding employment opportunities; improving the quality of life for its citizens; pursuing grants to help small businesses; being actively engaged in enhancing a marketing plan; eventually putting revenues back into the IDA; and finally, promoting tourism which creates more opportunities for economic development in the County. Additional key points are as follows:

1) The County has a commitment to economic development as does other stakeholders such as the chambers of commerce in northern and southern Gila County; economic development corporations in northern and southern Gila County; cities, towns and community colleges; Gila-Pinal Counties’ Workforce Investment Board; businesses; and federal and local trade organizations; however, they all seem to be operating independently. A major gap that exists with these stakeholders is to provide a channel of communication to the County so there is an interface.

2) A conduit is needed to outside resources, particularly with the State of Arizona and the federal government. As an example, on the Arizona Department of Tourism's website, the only restaurant listed for Globe is Little Caesar's Pizza. Another example provided by Mr. Potts is collaborating with the Town of Payson. He advised that recently funds were granted by Gila County to the Town of Payson to create a website for their economic development efforts. In discussions with Mayor Kenny Evans, Mr. Potts stated that with some additional funding that website can be created into a "countywide" website.

3) Mr. Pott's requested that the County invest in the manpower to collaborate, coordinate, support, and promote the various parties that promote economic development in Gila County.

Mr. Potts stated that the IDA Board is asking the County to include in its budget hiring an Economic Development Director. In doing so, the IDA offered to serve as an advisory board to interface with the Board of Supervisors in furthering the economic growth in Gila County. The person hired for this position would be expected to get results, leverage resources, and be a person with a successful track record, and who is able to improve the tax base in the County by utilizing their talents. Currently the IDA has a staff person designated to directly assist the person who may be hired for the position of Economic Development Director.

Mr. Potts provided two video presentations to illustrate how economic development is possible and would be beneficial to Gila County.

Vice-Chairman commented that she would converse with Mr. Potts at another time.

Supervisor Marcanti stated that he thought this was a good idea as long as the Director of Economic Development's activities were limited to a set budget and was paid based on producing positive results for the community. He also added that the County has committed to this effort in this past; however, it had no say in the actual goals for economic development.

Chairman Pastor thanked Mr. Potts and the IDA Board. In recent discussions with IDA Board members, Chairman Pastor commented that he believes the IDA now has a much better focus on its responsibilities for economic development. He also commented that the report was very detailed and informative. Chairman Pastor mentioned that there are other entities within Gila County that are also putting forth the same type of effort toward economic development. He believes that this is a first step in a positive direction.

Don McDaniel, County Manager, stated that it was an excellent presentation and he agreed that is was more focused than in past presentations to the

Board. He referenced a report he provided to the Board of Supervisors during a work session at the beginning of this year, and one of the items of discussion was for the County to consider taking more of a leadership role in economic development. At that time, the Board agreed that possibility should be considered further. Mr. McDaniel is not opposed to hiring an Economic Development Director; however, he believes that expectations and a performance plan need to be outlined to clearly define the role of this position. Mr. McDaniel stated that hiring a director and “turning him loose” will not likely change the direction as in the past. He emphasized the importance of having a structure in place with regard to that position, before anyone is hired.

C. Information/Discussion/Action to adopt Resolution 14-03-08 supporting the Southern Gila County Economic Development Corporation Copper Circle WayFinding and Signage Project which will build the region's capacity in economic/community development and cultural/historical preservation by providing a visually cohesive graphic communication system for visitors and residents in the Copper Circle Region.

Karalea Cox advised that she works for a company called Building Communities that has contracted with the Southern Gila County Economic Development Corporation (SGCEDC) to promote the Copper Circle Connections Wayfinding and Signage Project.

Mr. McDaniel stated that the SGCEDC group is requesting that the County provide in-kind support by adopting a resolution to support the project as stated above with signage and kiosks. He stated that this is a good first step to bring “branding” to Gila County.

Ms. Cox added that Freeport-McMoRan Copper & Gold approached the SGCEDC seeking a 501(3) (c) and the concept is to provide wayfinding and signage to visitors passing through Gila County. The project is designed to capitalize on funds that the Economic Development Corporation is already spending with branding and to leverage those funds as well as funds received from Freeport-McMoRan.

Supervisor Marcanti inquired as to the amount of the grant, to which Ms. Cox replied that the project total is \$155,790; the requested amount is \$77,540, and the SGCEDC is matching funds in the amount of \$78,250. The County would provide signage installation as an in-kind contribution.

Chairman Pastor clarified that the County is being asked to make an in-kind contribution in connection with grant funds made available through Freeport-McMoRan, to which Ms. Cox affirmed that was correct. She added that the SGCEDC will continue to work with Freeport-McMoRan in an effort to garner grant funding to promote economic development in Gila County. Upon motion

by Vice-Chairman Martin, seconded by Supervisor Marcanti, the Board unanimously adopted Resolution 14-03-08 supporting the Southern Gila County Economic Development Corporation Copper Circle Wayfinding and Signage Project which will build the region's capacity in economic/community development and cultural/historical preservation by providing a visually cohesive graphic communication system for visitors and residents in the Copper Circle Region. **(A copy of the Resolution is permanently on file in the Board of Supervisors' Office.)**

D. Information/Discussion to begin the process of building a new animal control building.

Michael O'Driscoll, Health and Emergency Services Division Director, provided a PowerPoint presentation and explained that the current location of the animal shelter is owned by the City of Globe (City) and that the City is planning to use that location to expand its cemetery. He emphasized that the large number of animals euthanized in the County is due to a lack of space for the animals. Additionally, there are structural deficiencies with the building owned by the Humane Society currently used to house stray animals picked up by Gila County Rabies Control personnel. Steve Stratton, Public Works Division Director, in consort with the City, has located a building that is properly zoned and is suitable for an animal control shelter building; however, the cost is approximately one million dollars.

Chairman Pastor advised that a more detailed description of the building in question is needed for further discussion and consideration. Mr. O'Driscoll stated that he and John Castaneda, Animal Regulations Enforcement Manager, have visited several other counties in Arizona as well as the Payson Humane Society to see what type of facilities are currently in use. He and Mr. Castaneda plan to meet with the builder of a combined animal shelter/ rabies control facility in Santa Fe, New Mexico. Another consideration was partnering with the Humane Society in Gila County, but it was discovered that they are unable to partner with the County financially at this time; however, in the future the Humane Society may partner with the County by renting operating space to facilitate the adoptions of animals. Mr. Stratton offered to provide more information to the Board once the research has been completed.

Chairman Pastor stated that this has been an ongoing issue and then he inquired as to the Town of Payson's and the San Carlos animal control programs. Mr. O'Driscoll explained that the County pays \$36,000 for animal control services in Payson, and approximately \$6,000 for the Globe animal control services. He added that the City has its own animal control program; however, the Animal Control Officer is resigning and the City inquired of Mr. O'Driscoll if the County would consider assuming the duties of the City of Globe animal control program. He then stated that Payson has its own animal control officer, and San Carlos has its own program and two animal control

officers; however, a large volume of animals taken in by the County are from San Carlos.

Vice-Chairman Martin stated that the Animal Control Officer in Payson has been out of the office and may not return to work, which is an issue. She added that the cost of the partnerships in place is a quite a contrast to the proposed million dollar facility and that other options should be taken into consideration.

Chairman Pastor stated that at this time, this item is just an introduction to begin the process.

Supervisor Marcanti expressed that this has been a “pet peeve” of his and that exploration regarding this issue began about a year ago by talking with Brent Billingsley, Globe City Manager. Supervisor Marcanti stated that he and Mr. Stratton looked at some properties in the local community that may be suitable for an animal control shelter. The search produced a few options; there is a piece of property that the City owns that the County may be able to obtain at no cost. The property was donated to the City by Mrs. Shook, approximately 33-34 years ago and the property had a partial “shack” located on it. Since that time, the County has spent money on upgrades and maintenance of this “shack” to improve its condition. The structure is actually owned by the Humane Society and the land is owned by the City. He added that the issue of locating additional land for the City of Globe’s cemetery has been an ongoing issue. One option is to make some construction modifications to a metal building that is *already* owned by the County in order to provide a larger animal control facility at a much lower cost.

Chairman Pastor agreed and stated that the Board will keep this topic on a “front to mid burner” for further discussion.

Item 3 – CALL TO THE PUBLIC: Call to the Public is held for public benefit to allow individuals to address the Board of Supervisors on any issue within the jurisdiction of the Board of Supervisors. Board members may not discuss items that are not specifically identified on the agenda. Therefore, pursuant to Arizona Revised Statute §38-431.01(H), at the conclusion of an open call to the public, individual members of the Board of Supervisors may respond to criticism made by those who have addressed the Board, may ask staff to review a matter or may ask that a matter be put on a future agenda for further discussion and decision at a future date.

Forrest McCoy of Pine, Arizona, stated that the position of the Pine Strawberry Water Improvement District (PSWID) is aggressive with regard to moving forward with the Special Election to be held on May 20, 2014, to elect a Board of Directors. He stated that the PSWID has prepared a flyer for the purpose of

inviting rate payers to a meeting on April 19, 2014, in an effort to increase awareness and participation of the voters and to allow the 8 candidates to “meet and greet” the voters. He added that the flyer is not intended to influence voters, but to inform voters of the candidates for the PSWID Board of Directors. Mr. McCoy then asked that the Board of Supervisors serving in the capacity of the PSWID Board of Directors to make a decision with regard to the distribution of the flyer by the end of this week.

Vice-Chairman Martin clarified that after reviewing the proposed flyer she advised that it was more than an announcement and that the County Attorney would need to approve the flyer before it is sent to the rate payers.

Chairman Pastor asked Vice-Chairman Martin to forward a copy of the flyer from Mr. Potts to the County Manager, Supervisor Marcanti and himself for review. He then directed the County Manager to review the meeting minutes from today to determine and follow up with issues.

There being no further business to come before the Board of Supervisors, Chairman Pastor adjourned the meeting at 11:07 a.m.

APPROVED:

Michael A. Pastor, Chairman

ATTEST:

Marian Sheppard, Clerk of the Board