



OFFICE OF THE COCONINO COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

SPECIAL SESSION MINUTES

**Friday, March 27, 2020
11:00 a.m. – Special Session**

**First Floor Board Room
219 E. Cherry Ave., Flagstaff, AZ, 86001**

Present: Chair Elizabeth C. Archuleta, Vice Chair Lena Fowler via phone, Supervisor Matt Ryan via phone, Supervisor Art Babbott via phone, Supervisor Jim Parks present.

Also Present:

Clerk of the Board Lindsay Daley, Deputy County Manager Joanne Keene, Deputy County Manager Jimmy Jayne via phone, Public Affairs Director Eric Peterson, Program Manager Erica Shaw, Deputy County Manager Marie Peoples via phone, Special Initiatives Director Kim Musselman via phone and Deputy County Attorney Rose Winkeler via phone.

Chair Archuleta called the meeting to order at 11:04 a.m.

Call to the Public: There was no one from the public at the meeting.

Discussion and Possible Action Items:

1. Consideration and possible action to canvas the Election Results for the March 17, 2020 Presidential Preference Election. **Recorder**

Recorder Patty Hansen went over the election results for the Presidential Preference Election. She went over the democratic voter turnout of 49.04% and total votes by candidate with the top two candidates being Bernie Sanders at 43.66% and Joe Biden at 37.54%. She went over the total number of votes done early, on election day as well as provisional ballot votes. Recorder Hansen went over the number of voters that voted on election day at the various polling locations, the number of early ballots issued, counted, rejected, and the reasons why some were

rejected. She also went over the number of provisional and conditional ballots not counted and the reasons why.

Recorder Hansen spoke about her concern with not being able to recruit poll workers for future elections or contract for polling locations due to the current pandemic. She spoke about her and her colleagues' advocacy to try to have all mail elections.

Supervisor Babbott spoke about supporting the Recorder and advocating for what is needed for future elections to be conducted.

Recorder Hansen answered questions from the Supervisors.

Vice Chair Fowler spoke about people not coming out to vote because they weren't sure if polls were open. She thanked staff and volunteers for their work during the election.

Recorder Hansen spoke about the difficulty of determining whether the election should proceed due to the pandemic, because they did not want to put people at risk. She stated that although our country has gone through difficult times, elections have still always been conducted.

Motion: Approve the March 17 Presidential Preference Election results, **Action:** approve, **Moved by:** Supervisor Jim Parks, **Seconded by:** Vice Chair Lena Fowler. The motion passed unanimously.

2. Update and discussion regarding the novel (new) coronavirus, COVID-19, and preparation efforts being made. **County Manager**

Supervisor Art Babbott entered the room at 11:36 a.m.

County Manager Jimmy Jayne introduced Deputy County Manager Marie Peoples who is also the Incident Commander for the COVID-19 pandemic.

Deputy County Manager Peoples stated it is week two of the COVID response. She went over the timeline of response to the virus. She went over the statistics including: 36 positive test results in Coconino County, 15 in Flagstaff, 10 in Page and 11 in other County areas, as well as 2 deaths due to the virus. There are currently 9 people sheltering at Hotel Aspen, the quarantine housing unit setup by the County.

Deputy County Manager Peoples spoke about Arizona now being considered a community transmission state. She provided the positive test result numbers by County in the state.

Supervisor Ryan stated he is getting inquiries as to where people testing positive are- which neighborhoods and people are concerned that information is not being provided. Deputy County Manager Peoples explained that staff is not allowed to share geographic information until there are 6 or more people in certain locations with the virus. She explained that staff is contacting people to let them know they have been exposed.

Deputy County Manager Peoples spoke about an emergency call they received at the Emergency Operations Center regarding the Tuba City Regional Hospital and that they are approaching critical status. She stated they are looking at how they go about a crisis standard of care emergency declaration, which goes through the Arizona Department of Health Services and the Arizona Department of Emergency Management. She also stated that there is a need for alternative care sites to handle the surge of people with the virus.

Deputy County Manager Peoples spoke about the Intensive Care Unit and critical care will be full tomorrow. She stated that they have reached out to the various medical facilities to get information as to how many ventilators they have. She stated that the Navajo Nation must have their own request to the Arizona Department of Health Services and Arizona Department of Emergency Management.

Chair Archuleta stated that there are people that can assist with requests to those state departments, such as Supervisor Fowler, Supervisor Parks, and other Supervisors.

Supervisor Babbott asked what the regional perspective is as to whether facilities are at capacity. Deputy County Manager Peoples explained that is the information they are trying to receive from the various facilities and are hoping to get that information today. Supervisor Babbott asked if there is a place for people who may be retired from the medical field to call in and offer assistance. Deputy County Manager explained that Wendy Roberts is coordinating that and that they have been open to using volunteers and have been using nursing students as well.

Supervisor Parks spoke about people offering to make face masks and can they be donated or are they welcome. Deputy County Manager Peoples stated that Wendy Roberts has coordinated with sewing groups for face masks and people can go through the Emergency Operations Center email to donate and volunteers.

Deputy County Manager Peoples spoke about getting calls that grocery stores not being stocked- such as Kaibab Estates West and the Bashas in Tuba City and that they do not have food and goods in the stores. She stated that calls by Supervisors to store CEOs would be helpful. Supervisor Babbott spoke about getting the National Guard to help with stocking. Deputy County Manager Peoples stated that they made that request; however, because the Bashas in Tuba City is on Navajo Nation land that they are not able to restock the store. Supervisor Fowler stated that they have had staff check the Bashas in Tuba City and that the store has not been empty.

Deputy County Manager Peoples spoke about the testing site being closed today (Friday) and Saturday and will re-open Sunday. They currently have 153 test kits in stock and have ordered 2,000 more kits.

Supervisor Ryan asked if they have found out whether saline can be used for the test kits. Deputy County Manager stated she will know by Monday and if it can be used that will help; however, they still need personal protective equipment and are continuing to order more even though they did get a stock yesterday. She went over what they have distributed.

Deputy County Manager Peoples explained that the County may not get a high spike until mid-April, she also explained that the Northern Arizona University epidemiology staff is helping to look at mid-term and long-term planning.

Special Initiatives Director Kim Musselman went over the financial information related to the pandemic response. She spoke about the contract with Hotel Aspen to be used as a quarantine site and they do need to pay the owner for the services already provided. They are also in a contract with Flagstaff Shelter Services. Hotel Aspen is going to cost \$190,000 per month. The County is responsible for laundry, biohazard pickup and Flagstaff Shelter services is agreeing to provide staffing. The monthly cost to Flagstaff Shelter Services will be \$30,000 and they will also need to supply personal protective equipment. Director Musselman explained that she expects the overall costs for shelter services will be approximately \$300,000 a month.

Director Musselman answered questions as to who is using the quarantine site currently.

Supervisor Babbott asked if we are getting support from other jurisdictions or organizations. Deputy County Manager Peoples explained that the City of Flagstaff has contributed \$10,000 and that is all currently. She stated that most people at the quarantine site likely qualify for Medicaid so they have been in contact with the state regarding that.

Director Musselman went over the general financials of the response for employee pay, shelter services, security and personal protective equipment and estimates the response is currently costing approximately \$1 million a month.

Supervisor Ryan spoke about \$1 million a month consuming the County budget beyond what is set aside for emergencies and asked how the Arizona Department of Emergency Management (DEMA) is linked in. Director Musselman explained that DEMA is being informed as to what they are doing- she stated DEMA is aware; however, it doesn't mean it comes with money.

Chair Archuleta expressed her appreciation for staff and appreciates knowing how the Board can support.

Public Affairs Director Eric Peterson gave an update on the legislative advocacy and talked about what do they do if the state legislature returns from their break. He provided a handout of listed issues they should advocate for. This included:

1. Treasurer's Office moving property tax due date from May 1 to June 1.
2. Suspend TPT collections until June 1 and issue no interest on monthly collections that are late but paid by that time.
3. Due to and during the economic emergency, prohibit Sheriff seizures of personal property that is delinquent on personal property tax.
4. Authorize the county Board of Supervisors to determine if August Primary and November General elections will be conducted completely by ballot-by-mail.

Director Peterson explained that the state will face a revenue challenge just like the County so we will expect raids by the state. He also spoke about how the federal relief is going to the large

urban counties and they receive direct allocations. He also stated there is likely going to be additional phases of relief.

The Supervisors discussed the request regarding TPT. Supervisor Babbott spoke about the legislature coming back and being ready to provide the requests of what is needed and would like support from the Board to have legislature do needed work instead of just adjourn. Supervisor Parks stated he agrees with Supervisor Babbott's comments.

Supervisor Ryan stated that what he is hearing on the Governor's conference calls is that every county is short personal protective equipment and these conference calls are an opportunity to express needs.

Chair Archuleta checked in with Vice Chair Fowler, who was on the phone; however, there was no response at 12:54 p.m., so Vice Chair Fowler was no longer in the meeting.

Chair Archuleta stated that they did get support of the temporary closure of the Flagstaff area monuments.

Chair Archuleta adjourned the meeting at 12:57 p.m.

COCONINO COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

(SEAL)



Elizabeth C. Archuleta, Chair

ATTEST:



Lindsay Daley, Clerk of the Board of Supervisors

