



**OFFICE OF THE COCONINO COUNTY  
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS**

**SPECIAL SESSION AND EXECUTIVE SESSION (*PUBLIC PORTION*) MINUTES**

**March 29, 2022**

**2:00 p.m.**

**Present:** Chair Patrice Horstman, Vice Chair Jeronimo Vasquez, Supervisor Judy Begay, Supervisor Matt Ryan, and Supervisor Lena Fowler were present virtually via Zoom technology.

**Also Present:** County Manager Steve Peru, Deputy County Manager/Public Works Director Lucinda Andreani, Deputy County Manager Sue Brown, Public Affairs Director Trey Williams, Deputy County Attorney Yvonne Vieau, Clerk of the Board of Supervisors Lindsay Daley and Deputy Clerk of the Board Valerie Webber were present virtually via Zoom meeting technology.

Chair Horstman called the Special Session meeting to order at 2:03 p.m. and noted County staff has been busy reaching out to the public and stakeholders and facilitating public meetings for input on the redistricting maps that have been created, based on the new census. She explained the guidelines the Board is using to make decisions on the drawing of new district boundaries.

**Discussion Item and Possible Action:**

1. Presentation, discussion, and public input regarding proposed county redistricting maps, redistricting process and outreach. **County Manager**

County Manager Steve Peru spoke about the Board's responsibility to create supervisory districts pursuant to guidelines established by state and federal law to use in the creation of the map scenarios. He highlighted final data released by the U.S. Census Bureau and the chronology of the steps taken by staff in the process of addressing County redistricting to date, the Equal Protection Clause that demands no less than substantially equal state representation, the Voting Rights Act of 1965 Section 5 and Section 2 and the Guidelines for Redistricting. He explained

the process of the raise your hand function in zoom in order for the public to provide public comment as well as, other ways the public can find information on the County's website and to make public comment.

Deputy County Manager Sue Brown and County GIS Analyst Nate Renn displayed maps and highlighted the demographics under the current district boundaries and the newly proposed redistricting scenarios.

County Manager Peru opened the item for public comment at 2:50 p.m.

Martina Gast, Attorney for the Havasupai Tribe, stated that members of the Havasupai Tribe have been patiently waiting to provide comment. Tribal Council Member Stuart Chavez is also on and he will be the one providing the comments for the Havasupai Tribal Council.

Tribal Council Member Stuart Chavez noted the Havasupai Tribe requests the Coconino County Board of Supervisors reject the redistricting maps of C, D2 and E. The Tribe supports redistricting scenario maps F or E1. The County should not separate Supai Village, South Rim and Flagstaff as all these communities should be kept in District 1. Our Tribe has been connected to the Grand Canyon South Rim since time of memorial. Our relationship with the South Rim is separate and distinct from the North Rim. We have a strong relationship with the Grand Canyon Park South Rim including working together to maintain access to our traditional, cultural property, the development and expansion of Supai Camp. Supai Village is very remote and we struggle with housing shortage and lack of reliable and adequate health and educational services. The Grand Canyon National Park South Rim worked with us to establish Supai Camp to alleviate some of these struggles. We have worked in Supai Village and Supai Camp to remain as close as possible, at no point did we ever believe that the Tribe's two communities would be separated into different districts. We also have several close ties with the Flagstaff community. We have no high school on the reservation and many of our tribal families send children to live in the Flagstaff Kinlani Dorm so their children can attend high school in Flagstaff. Our tribal members frequently travel to Flagstaff for shopping, working and medical services and we also have an office space in Flagstaff. We have developed close relationships to District 1 over the years and have heavily relied on these relationships, especially in times of need. Most recently in February 2022, two years after the initial outbreak of COVID-19 within the U.S. the Tribe experienced its first community outbreak of COVID-19 and after one phone call, District 1 responded immediately providing the Tribe with access to donations and much needed medical supplies and personal protective equipment to our tribal members in Supai Village and Supai Camp. We are so thankful that District 1 and simply cannot imagine having to coordinate with two separate Districts, including a District we have no history with or established relationships. To assure that our tribal members have equal and immediate to assistance in times of need. For those reasons we ask that you approve map F or E1 and reject maps C, D2 and E or any other map or maps that separate Supai Village and Supai Camp from the South Rim and Flagstaff.

Ann Heitland thanked the Board for their work, largely unreported and unseen. The work that the 5 of you do is vital to the well-being of the people of our County. I suspect that redistricting is one of your more unpleasant tasks but we will all be thankful that it happens only every 10 years

and we can hope that it will not detract from all the good work you do year end and year out. As Chair of the Coconino County Democratic Party I have had the opportunity to contrast the quality of your work with that of other rural counties in Arizona. Your response to the pandemic was superior to other counties, some of which reacted frankly with terrifying disregard for science and the welfare of their people. Regarding other issues as well, this Board of Supervisors evaluates evidence and acts with the good of our citizens in mind. I urge you to reflect on the value of this contrast with other counties as you work through the redistricting process, and to do your best to assure that the Supervisors elected for our County over the next 10 years will continue to serve our citizens as well and as honestly as you have. That is the goal toward which my comments about specific maps will be directed. You established 9 criteria for evaluating new maps. Some of these speak directly to what I've just said, specifically that new districts be based on old districts, that the districts maintain traditional boundaries, that they account for incumbency and that they do not create a substantial negative effect on any specific political party. Let me say simply that I think the scenarios that are most likely to achieve the goal that the electing Supervisors who will best serve our citizens are scenarios D1 and F. None of the proposed maps is perfect. I must reject scenarios C, D2 and E because they break up the historic and substantial community of interest, that is the Grand Canyon and Flagstaff. I reject E for that reason and then also for the additional reason in that it removes representation from Northeast rural suburbs. The nature of redistricting is compromise, not perfection. Finally, I'd like to comment on a process. Last Thursday, Leonard Gorman from the Navajo Human Rights Commission asked for a private meeting with County staff. I suggest that all public input for this redistricting process come in open public meetings. If Mr. Gorman gets a private meeting, I want one too. As to his map submissions, his proposal for divisions within the City of Flagstaff were clearly made by someone who was just drawing lines on a piece of paper, without any real knowledge of Coconino County, its politics or the City Flagstaff. Thank you and I hope you'll consider the written comments that I'll be submitting soon.

Maury Herman said he had a side comment and then he wanted to do his comment. The side comment was I think all of us are aware that the Census process was really flawed and that the former guy kind of had it in for that process and it ended a week early and other things so he sort of view this process now as taking a very broad set of numbers and trying to do the best you can. I don't know that there's a good solution, I don't know that there's a challenge at this point but looking at this has made it much more difficult by that original flawed process. So I have submitted an email asking you to support option F and I have three quick points on it. One is, I think it's a good carry forward from tradition and the tradition has, in the County, and I have more experience in the city than the County but my feeling when I deal with the County is that there's stability and pretty consistent information and I appreciate that and I'd like to see that stability continue. I'm a resident of the area off of 180 North of Schultz Pass and I felt that even though the highway is a state highway, that we have really benefitted from attention from our Supervisors on keeping that congestion down and keeping that highway from Flagstaff to Tusayan open, and so having that single representative to be able to go to talk to is really nice. Finally, I a business owner downtown and it's real important for us to have that area around the Courthouse with one person we can talk to. It's a historic area, it's an area of greatness with

activity and potential and having it split up, and so there's no one really focused on it would be a real loss. Thank you for your attention.

County Manager Peru noted while staff is waiting to see if there are any more raised hands, he encouraged the public to go to the County website and submit comments and share their observations and thoughts. The next meeting will be on April 12<sup>th</sup> in the evening to allow the public to witness the conversation and deliberations.

Chris Wannie, 11770 Rope Arabian Road in Flagstaff, said he just wants to commend all of you for your hard work, I know it is kind of a thankless job sometimes and you're open to criticism and all kinds of people coming back and saying well I didn't get what I wanted or whatever and those kinds of situations but I really think it's important that you do receive the strokes and so I'm passing those along now, thank you very much for your service.

Chair Horstman noted the Board will continue to take written comments from the public up until April 12, 2022, the Board would like to hear from everyone.

Kenny Welch, Leupp Chapter grading official in this area, thanked the Board for inviting him to speak and said he would like to speak with a County Supervisor maybe later in the day, maybe I can talk with her, and I have some issues like with roads, like with my livestock going through roads. I'd like to address that about who is the contact person on the maintenance of some of the rights-of-way. At the same time, I have an issue sometimes where people come in and throw trash out on the road and see how that can be addressed. Those are some things that I had in mind and maybe this is not quite what the meeting is for.

Phil Zonnie said the comment he wanted to make regarding the efforts or redrawing the lines is that historically the native community, Hopis, Navajo in this area have always been misrepresented. I think part of this proposal is kind of going back in history and just as we're about to make some kind of lead way into that, trying to make things different and more conducive to being good neighbors. He said there has been a lack of development and attention by the County. Just an example is there is a lot of dirt roads in the region on the Navajo Reservation side and Hopi side and I would refer to the N-67 and 20 which connects Coal Mine community down to Tolani Lake area. I think we have a number of Chapter Resolutions from Coal Mine requesting to better that road. I've been talking to Commissioner Parks when he was there. It's that kind of example where we keep asking to improve that road and that's a short cut from Northern Kayenta area down to Winslow, Holbrook and if that's not improved then people have to go spend an extra hour on the road just to get to the destination point. What has been improved, I don't want to see it going backwards, that's part of the negative side of what's going on and history speaks for itself, so I just want to make those comments and hopefully things work better as it's supposed to. Thanks a lot for those comments and thank you for what you're doing.

Chair Horstman thanked members of the public for their comments and for being present. She closed the public hearing portion of the meeting at 3:13 p.m.

Upon inquiry from Chair Horstman, County Manager Peru recommended the Board enter executive session.

**Motion:** Enter executive session, **Action:** approve, **Moved by:** Supervisor Matt Ryan, **Seconded by:** Supervisor Jeronimo Vasquez. The motion passed unanimously.

Chair Horstman asked for a motion to enter executive session on items 2 and 3.

**Motion:** Enter executive session on items both 2 and 3 as set forth on the agenda, item 3 for discussion of purchase, sale or lease of real property. The Board of Supervisors may convene in executive session pursuant to Ariz. Rev. Stat. -38-431.03(A)(7), **Action:** approve, **Moved by:** Supervisor Jeronimo Vasquez, **Seconded by:** Supervisor Matt Ryan. The motion passed unanimously.

Chair Horstman called for break to allow time for the Board to conduct executive session at 3:17 p.m.

2. Presentation and possible action following legal advice regarding Hualapai Indian Reservation Water rights. Pursuant to ARS 38-431.03(A)(3) & (4) the Board may enter executive session to receive legal advice and give instruction and direction to legal counsel. **County Manager**

**Present:** Chair Patrice Horstman, Vice Chair Jeronimo Vasquez, Supervisor Judy Begay, Supervisor Matt Ryan and Supervisor Lena Fowler were present virtually via Teams technology.

**Also Present:** County Manager Steve Peru, Deputy County Manager Lucinda Andreani, Deputy County Manager Sue Brown, Deputy County Attorney Yvonne Vieau, County Attorney William Ring and Clerk of the Board of Supervisors Lindsay Daley were present via Teams technology.

Chair Horstman began the executive session discussion at 3:20 p.m.

The discussion regarding item #2 ended at 3:54 p.m.

County Attorney William Ring left the executive session at 3:54 p.m. and Parks and Recreation Director Cynthia Nemeth joined the executive session at 3:54 p.m.

3. Discussion of purchase, sale or lease of real property. The Board of Supervisors may convene in executive session pursuant to Ariz. Rev. Stat. -38-431.03(A)(7) to discuss or consult with designated representatives of the public body in order to consider its position and instruct its representatives regarding negotiations for the purchase, sale or lease of real property.

**Present:** Chair Patrice Horstman, Vice Chair Jeronimo Vasquez, Supervisor Judy Begay, Supervisor Matt Ryan and Supervisor Lena Fowler were present virtually via Teams technology.

**Also Present:** County Manager Steve Peru, Deputy County Manager Lucinda Andreani, Deputy County Manager Sue Brown, Parks and Recreation Director Cynthia Nemeth, Deputy County Attorney Yvonne Vieau and Clerk of the Board of Supervisors Lindsay Daley were present via Teams technology.

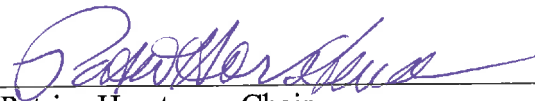
Chair Horstman began the executive session discussion at 3:54 p.m.

Chair Horstman adjourned the executive session at 4:20 p.m.

Chair Horstman reconvened open session at 4:24 p.m. there being no further discussion, Chair Horstman adjourned the Special Session meeting at 4:25 p.m.

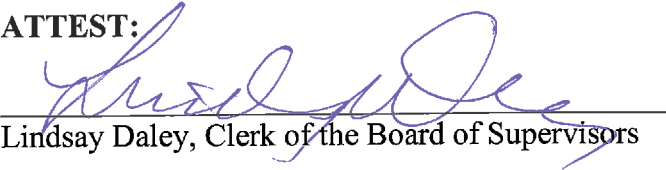
**COCONINO COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS**

(SEAL)



Patrice Horstman, Chair

**ATTEST:**



Lindsay Daley, Clerk of the Board of Supervisors