



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

SPECIAL SESSION MINUTES

April 3, 2020

10:00 a.m. – Special Session

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

Present: Supervisor Elizabeth C. Archuleta and Vice Chair Lena Fowler present, Supervisor Matt Ryan, Supervisor Art Babbott and Supervisor Jim Parks were present telephonically.

Also Present: County Manager James Jayne and Deputy County Manager Marie Peoples, Deputy County Manager/Public Works Director Lucinda Andreani, Public Affairs Director Eric Peterson, Deputy County Attorney Rose Winkeler, Clerk of the Board of Supervisors Lindsay Daley.

Chairwoman Archuleta called the meeting to order at 10:05 a.m. and led the pledge of allegiance.

Call to the Public:

There were no comments from the public for items not on the agenda.

Discussion and Possible Action Items:

1. Consideration and possible action to approve the FY20 funding agreement #528-20 between the Arizona Department of Housing and Coconino County Community Services program for Housing Trust Fund – Rental/Eviction prevention program for \$75,000. **Health and Human Services**

Health and Human Services Director Thomas Pristow presented this item. He explained that Health and Human Services has received 500 completed applications for rental assistance and have assisted 74 residents. The average cost of utility assistance is \$380 and rental assistance is \$1000.

Health and Human Services Deputy Director Michele Axlund spoke about assisting people that are seeking help. \$55,000 has been spent on the 74 people that have been assisted. Deputy Director Axlund explained that most people applying are not employed.

Chairwoman Archuleta stated that because time is of the essence, staff may need to be deployed to assist with the applications. Deputy Director Axlund stated that they have taken over career services staff and front desk staff to help with the applications. Chairwoman Archuleta asked County Manager Jayne to see what can be done to increase capacity to help with applications.

Director Pristow stated that at the current rate, there will not be enough dollars to cover all applicants. Deputy Director Axlund explained that the rest of the counties will start accepting applications next week and she is hoping that since they started early they will be early in getting dollars from the state.

Director Pristow stated that they can put together a weekly report with the numbers of where they are at each week. Vice Chair Fowler asked if the rental and utility assistance is a one-time assistance or if it can be provided each month. Deputy Director Axlund stated applicants are eligible every month for up to \$2000 a month and the federal program is once per year. Deputy Director Axlund explained that the assistance from the Department of Housing is only for rental assistance and does not include utility assistance.

Chairwoman Archuleta stated that they are working on creating a coalition of organizations as a safety net to assist. She thanked the staff.

Motion: To approve item #1, **Action:** approve, **Moved by:** Supervisor Matt Ryan, **Seconded by:** Vice Chair Fowler. The motion passed unanimously.

2. Update, discussion and possible action regarding the novel (new) coronavirus, COVID-19, and response and advocacy efforts. **County Manager**

The discussion on this item started at 10:28 a.m.

County Manager Jimmy Jayne thanked the Board and participants for their engagement in response to the events. He stated that Deputy County Manager/Incident Commander Dr. Marie Peoples is on the phone and Sheriff Jim Driscoll is present and Forest Service Flagstaff District Ranger Matt McGraff is also on the phone.

Chairwoman Archuleta thanked everyone for working on the COVID-19 response. Deputy Manager Peoples stated there is not a blueprint in how to handle this; however, the county has been a leader in the state. She stated that the drive thru test sites were initiated, as well as a quarantine site for individuals. She provided statistics: 116 confirmed cases, widespread transmission, 19.5% result for testing which is high, 27 positive cases in Flagstaff, 69 positive cases on tribal land, 19 positive cases in Page, and then 1 in another city and 8 deaths.

Deputy County Manager Peoples spoke about the hotel operations and having partnership and that the numbers are fluid with those people utilizing the hotel. She explained that they have needed to hire security for the hotel, as well as biohazard disposal.

Supervisor Parks left the meeting at 10:35 a.m. and rejoined by phone again at 10:37 a.m.

Deputy County Manager Peoples stated that the state of Arizona has received the last federal distribution of personal protective equipment (PPE) and is not allocating any more of it. She stated that they are continuing to work with Arizona Department of Health Services (ADHS), and they are pursuing other channels, but everyone is competing for PPE.

Supervisor Ryan stated that during the mayor/manager meeting there was confusion as to how Hotel Aspen is being used. He asked Dr. Peoples to explain it. Dr. Peoples stated that the hotel is for quarantine. The goal was to slow or stop the transmission in congregate settings, mostly within our shelters. It is specifically targeted to those that do not have shelter. Supervisor Ryan thanked Dr. Peoples.

Deputy County Manager Peoples explained that they will continue to do the test site and quarantine site and need to maintain that as the peak may not hit for another two weeks. She spoke about people from various organizations volunteering their time, specifically the Epidemiologists from Northern Arizona University. She stated they are helping with forecasting. Deputy County Manager Peoples stated they are working on having more days where the Emergency Operations Center is entirely virtual, and they are working on having their first day of being virtual on Saturday. The goal is to have one day a week where it is virtual. She stated the Call Center is all virtual now.

Special Initiatives Director/Deputy Incident Commander Kim Musselman provided an update on the alternative care site. She stated that the National Guard was on site analyzing the infrastructure and the preliminary work for an alternative care site is still pending state approval; however, is looking very good at this point. Chairwoman Archuleta thanked Director Musselman.

Director Musselman explained that for the alternative care site, local resources will be solicited to help with staffing; however, if not, then the National Guard will be filling that role. She stated she hopes to have more information. She stated they have been reaching out among the community to retirees and those who may have training to register to be able to help.

Supervisor Parks asked about the Walgreens facility and asked if this going to be a facility for non-COVID patients or for COVID patients. Director Musselman stated that has not been specified.

County Manager Jayne introduced Matt McGraff, the Flagstaff District Ranger from the Forest Service, who was on the phone. Mr. McGraff stated they are encouraging people to stay healthy and stay home. He explained that the Forest Service has implemented closures in the Sedona area due to the high use rate. He provided an update on what they are doing regrading recreation sites and trying to reduce the impact during what normally is a busy season.

Supervisor Parks stated that the Game and Fish Department has about 1300 turkey hunters that will be hunting and Game and Fish is concerned about roads being closed. Mr. McGraff said they have been talking to the Game and Fish Department and want to make sure people have the opportunity to hunt. Mr. McGraff also spoke about having a fire ban as well.

Supervisor Ryan stated that there are areas of heavy visitation and said from a public health perspective it is a good approach to close those areas. He said it is good to have sites where people can use them dispersed. Supervisor Ryan suggested reviewing the County ordinance and allow for some level of BBQ but not having open fires. He stated the disbursed camping has changed because

the amount you can have in a camp is not consistent with the social distancing order. He stated he likes the recommendations but doesn't agree with dispersed camping in heavy camps.

Supervisor Babbott stated that he is not in favor of a blanket approach and that some opportunities need to stay open. Vice Chair Fowler stated that she is not in support of a full closure. Chair Archuleta asked if propane grills would be allowed to be used. Mr. McGraff stated that those would be allowed to be used. Chair Archuleta stated that he sees where there are cramped quarters where social distancing can't happen at camping sites and that overnight camping if dispersed would be great, however, is difficult to monitor. She requested that messaging to go out that explains what is closed and what people can still do.

Sheriff Jim Driscoll spoke about having to be careful not to create limitations, where we then create behaviors that have the opposite effect. He stated that if we continue closures then the shift becomes a law enforcement problem. He stated he supports the fire ban. He explained that people will continue to recreate, and that people get mixed messages from what the Governor states and then what local government states. Sheriff Driscoll stated that with closures happening in Oak Creek that will increase impacts in other areas, such as Ft. Tuthill and then it becomes an issue for the Sheriff's Office. Chair Archuleta thanked District Ranger Matt McGraff for calling in.

Public Affairs Director Eric Peterson provided an update on advocacy issues regarding the COVID-19 issue. He stated that they talked about property tax extension, suspending TPT collections and the ballot by mail issue. He stated that sister counties are not looking highly on the property tax and TPT collection push back. The Arizona Association of County (AACo) has made it a priority to get the ballot by mail issue done. Director Peterson explained it would be local control and the County's decision whether to do all mail if legislation passes. Director Peterson explained that time is an issue on this matter, as elections is approaching. Vice Chair Fowler stated that she is concerned about all mail ballot elections and she feels it needs to be local control.

Director Peterson spoke about state and federal funding. He explained that from the state side, \$5 million has been provided to shelters and \$1 million for food. He explained that on the federal side, the Cares Act will provide approximately \$4.2 billion to Arizona and Tribes have their own allotment- \$8 billion to tribes. Director Peterson went over the various funds and where the County may see money. He went over where the \$4.2 billion dollars will go. Chairwoman Archuleta stated we should be asking what formula is being used to give the County its allocation. Director Peterson explained it is clear in the law that this is a cost recovery program, he also went over the timeline.

Supervisor Ryan stated that the Governor's weekly calls are good to advocate for what is needed. Vice Chair Fowler stated that Congress is working on the next bill, so a list should be put together of the County's requests.

Director Peterson introduced Economic Development Manager Chris Pasterz who was on the phone. Manager Pasterz presented a powerpoint titled *Board of Supervisor Special Meeting*. Manager Pasterz went over the immediate economic response activities; including three ongoing webinars. He went over the information provided in the webinars and stated that the webinars are where people can get access to the latest information and interact. He spoke about the website they currently have for employers and employees. He explained that a survey tool is being developed to understand the impact. Manager Pasterz also spoke about the paycheck protection program. He stated that all applications are on the County website under employer resources. Manager Pasterz also went over

the anticipated impacts. He explained the travel industry is going to take a hit six times greater than the September 11 (9/11) event aftermath.

Supervisor Parks left the meeting at 12:25 p.m.

Supervisor Ryan stated that people appreciate the meetings Manager Pasterz has been doing. Vice Chair Fowler thanked Manager Pasterz for his work. Vice Chair Fowler also stated it is even more important now that the O'Halleran bill get through Congress.

Chairwoman Archuleta read an email from a resident that was just sent from Joanne Parkes. Ms. Parkes requested the forests to close and expressed her reasoning for that request. She stated in her email that the message is to stay home and that not closing the forest is a contradiction to that.

Chairwoman Archuleta said a letter should be sent to NAU President Rita Cheng recognizing and thanking her for supporting the Epidemiologists efforts that they are providing. She also spoke about having an incredible leadership and committed department heads and elected officials who are modifying work to serve the public. She stated everyone has been working hard to provide services to the public.

Chairwoman Archuleta adjourned the meeting at 12:38 p.m.

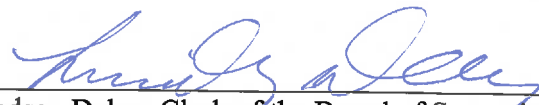
COCONINO COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

(SEAL)



Elizabeth C. Archuleta, Chair

ATTEST:



Lindsay Daley, Clerk of the Board of Supervisors

