



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

SPECIAL SESSION AND EXECUTIVE SESSION MINUTES

April 24, 2020

9:30 a.m. – Executive Session

10:00 a.m. – Special Session

Present: Chairwoman Elizabeth C. Archuleta, Vice Chairwoman Lena Fowler, Supervisor Matt Ryan and Supervisor Art Babbott were present virtually via Microsoft Teams technology; Supervisor Jim Parks joined the meeting at 9:34 a.m.

Also Present: County Manager James Jayne, Deputy County Attorney Brian Furuya, Deputy County Attorney Rose Winkeler Treasurer Sarah Benatar and Clerk of the Board of Supervisors Lindsay Daley were present virtually via Microsoft Teams technology.

Chairwoman Archuleta called the meeting to order at 9:32 a.m.

Motion: Enter executive session, **Action:** approve, **Moved by:** Supervisor Vice Chair Lena Fowler, **Seconded by:** Supervisor Matt Ryan. The motion passed unanimously.

Executive Session:

1. Executive session pursuant to A.R.S. § 38-431.03(3) and/or (4), in order to receive legal advice, and/or consider its position and instruct its attorneys regarding the County's position regarding Transwestern v. ADOR et al. TX2017-000531 (Consolidated) in order to consider litigation position and strategies, including possibility of settlement. **County Attorney**

The Board entered executive session at 9:33 a.m.

There being no further discussion, Chairwoman Archuleta adjourned executive session at 9:43 a.m.

Chairwoman Archuleta called the special session portion of the meeting to order at 10:00 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.

Proclamation:

2. Consideration and possible action to approve a proclamation celebrating April 2020 as County Government Month. **Public Affairs**

Supervisor Ryan read the proclamation into the record.

Motion: Approve a proclamation celebrating April 2020 as County Government Month, **Action:** approve, **Moved by:** Supervisor Matt Ryan, **Seconded by:** Supervisor Jim Parks. The motion passed unanimously.

Discussion Items:

3. Discussion and update from Deputy County Manager/Incident Commander Dr. Marie Peoples and Northern Arizona University regarding the novel (new) coronavirus, COVID-19, and response efforts. **County Manager**

Presenter: Deputy County Manager Marie Peoples,

Powerpoints: NAU Epidemiology Team – Special Session on COVID-19 and, Coconino County Coronavirus Response Report.

Chairwoman Archuleta presented opening statements regarding the multiple contributions Northern Arizona University provides to the community as well as, their ongoing partnership and collaboration with Coconino County, specifically in response to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Northern Arizona University (NAU) President Rita Cheng thanked the Board for their partnership in navigating the COVID-19 pandemic. She highlighted efforts being made by the NAU Epidemiologist Team with regards to testing as well as, their collaboration with various members of the Health and Human Services Department.

Dr. Joseph Mihaljevic provided a presentation that highlighted data and models used to estimate how the novel coronavirus might spread in northern Arizona and potential impacts to regional hospitals as well as, the positive impacts of social distancing and current intervention variables and how to move forward with preparation and guidance in decision making.

Department of Health Sciences Center for Health Equity Research Associate Professor Dr. Samantha Sabo continued with a presentation that identified the County's goals in responding to the virus and how to plan for moving forward and transitioning out of strict social distancing.

Department of Health Sciences Center for Health Equity Research Assistant Professor Dr. Ricky Camplain continued with a presentation that explained the four phases established to respond to the COVID-19 pandemic; Phase 1 – Slow the Spread, Phase 2 – Reopen, State by State, Phase 3 – Establish Protection then Lift All Restrictions and Phase 4 – Rebuild our Readiness for the Next Pandemic.

Deputy County Manager Marie Peoples thanked all the partners and guest speakers for their leadership and expertise.

Chairwoman Archuleta requested information as to what is considered high-risk jobs and cross referencing as far as health and equities such as the disproportionate Native American community that has been most affected by the virus.

Dr. Champlain stated that for example, people who work in close contact with many people, such as grocery store employees and health care providers.

Deputy County Manager Peoples noted staff will respond to all the questions they are unable to answer today at the next Board update.

Chairwoman Archuleta inquired about the new estimated date of May 30, 2020 to maintain social distancing.

Dr. Mihaljevic explained that based on modeling estimations, it is better to exercise caution. May 30th is an optimistic date, since the virus could potentially infect 80 percent of the population without pharmaceutical interventions.

Vice Chair Fowler inquired about studies on economic impacts.

Dr. Mihaljevic noted they would consider addressing the impacts and bring back further information.

Supervisor Ryan said everyone is dealing with the unknown, especially since there is no vaccine available. The dilemma is the need for testing availability; only one percent of the state has been tested.

Dr. Mihaljevic noted they have informed the State that they are working on modeling and collecting data however, the State is overwhelmed at this time.

Deputy County Manager Peoples said staff will continue to share information with the State and the Board.

Supervisor Ryan expressed the need to expedite conversations with the State.

Supervisor Babbott thanked the presenters for the information. He spoke about the change in data collected since April 4, 2020 and inquired about consequences in the community due to the testing debacle, especially since people are doubting the positive testing data that is being given. Reports between the State and the County are very different and, we do not know for sure the number of private tests being done. Since the Governor ordered private, commercial labs to report, why is the County not receiving the information?

Upon inquiry from Supervisor Babbott, Dr. Mihaljevic affirmed we are making strong assumptions as to where test results are coming from. Antibody tests would inform the models and provide more accurate information.

Deputy County Manager Peoples stated they have been able to continue moving forward with testing but there is a bottleneck with availability to testing kits. Arizona Department of Health Services (ADHS) clarified today that there are more specimen kits however, that is not the case. Staff is continuing to work with ADHS on messaging. With regards to the lack of information on testing from commercial laboratories, Dr. Peoples noted there is not enough teeth behind the Governor's order to compel those laboratories to share the information, they provide it back to the ordering physician. As we move forward with legislative issues in the future, having a mechanism in place would help all of the Health Departments.

Vice Chair Fowler felt there are many ways we can help the health care industry by advocating on their behalf. For example, the Navajo Nation does not receive the right amount of funding and in addition, there is a need for water infrastructure improvements. We all need to look at how to help each other. She expressed her appreciation of the studies being done to help the Board make important decisions that affect the community and economy.

Supervisor Ryan noted one of the questions on the dashboard asks that if we do end up having a positive case in the jail, what is the plan in place.

Supervisor Parks felt there is a delicate issue in balancing community health and economy. The truth is we will all be exposed eventually, and our antibodies will have to be prepared to fight the virus. He spoke about the need to continue social distancing and wearing personal protection. He noted there are patients in Tuba City being transported for care, how has that affected bed availability at Flagstaff Medical Center and, is there information as to how patients are being released?

Dr. Ricky Camplain said that in doing contact tracing, they have found information related to ambulatory transfers but no other information related to bed capacity.

Deputy County Manager Peoples noted the window is the fourteen days which varies with regards to contagion. People are being released once they are no longer as ill as when they arrived.

Chairwoman Archuleta read questions being asked on the Microsoft Teams dashboard into the record.

Dr. Mihaljevic, Dr. Ricky Camplain, Dr. Samantha Sabo and Deputy County Manager Peoples answered questions related to health disparities across the region and modeling with respect to heterogeneous risk landscapes and low risk population components and low risk activities, personal protection equipment availability, elective surgical procedures, measures being taken to release people from jails, data regarding ventilators and ventilator availability and future testing related to demographic data.

Chairwoman Archuleta thanked everyone for the participation and information and called for a break at 12:52 p.m. She reconvened open session at 12:54 p.m.

4. Discussion, update and possible direction to staff regarding state and/or federal legislative and/or administrative matters. **Public Affairs**

Public Affairs Director Eric Peterson provided an update on federal actions passed in response to the COVID-19 pandemic and a letter from the Board to various United States House Representatives, regarding permanent, mandatory funding for the Payment in lie of Taxes and Secure Rural Schools programs in upcoming COVID-19 legislation. He presented various documents for the Board's potential advocacy.

Individual Board members provided feedback on the information presented.

5. Discussion and update from the County Manager regarding possible community, regional and/or administrative matters. **County Manager**

County Manager Jayne briefly spoke about staff's efforts and planning process related to COVID-19 response efforts.

6. Roundtable: To be discussed. Pursuant to A.R.S. § 38-431.02(H), these matters will not be acted upon: Reports from Supervisors; updates on new projects, district budgets, requests for services and initiatives, updated from county staff:
 - District 1 – Supervisor Art Babbott
 - District 3 – Supervisor Matt Ryan
 - District 4 – Supervisor Jim Parks


- District 5 – Supervisor Lena Fowler
- District 2 – Supervisor Elizabeth Archuleta
- Chair's Report

Individual Board members provided updates regarding various projects and meetings and their committee appointments related to their respective Districts.

There being no further discussion, Chairwoman Archuleta adjourned the meeting at 1:49 p.m.

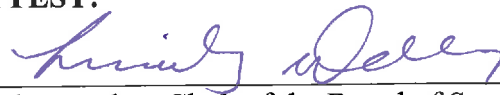
COCONINO COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

(SEAL)



Elizabeth C. Archuleta, Chair

ATTEST:



Lindsay Daley, Clerk of the Board of Supervisors