



OFFICE OF THE COCONINO COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
SPECIAL SESSION MINUTES

Tuesday, June 14, 2022

**12:00 p.m. – Special Session Meeting with the Flagstaff City Council
Regarding the Pipeline and Haywire Fires
Flagstaff City Hall, 211 W. Aspen Ave., Flagstaff, AZ 86001**

Present from the Board of Supervisors: Chair Patrice Horstman, Vice Chair Jeronimo Vasquez, and Supervisor Lena Fowler were in person for the meeting and Supervisor Judy Begay was present virtually via TEAMS software.

Absent/Excused: Supervisor Matt Ryan.

Present from Flagstaff City Council: Mayor Paul Deasy, Vice Mayor Miranda Sweet, Councilmember Regina Salas, Councilmember Khara House, Councilmember Jim McCarthy, were in person and Councilmember Austin Aslan and Councilmember Adam Shimoni were present virtually via TEAMS software.

Also Present: County Manager Steve Peru, Deputy County Manager/Flood Control Administrator Lucinda Andreani (present virtually), Deputy County Manager Sue Brown, Deputy County Manager, 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.

Call to Order

Mayor Paul Deasy called the meeting to order at 12:04 p.m. and the Flagstaff City Clerk did a roll call of the City Council and Board of Supervisors to see who was present for the meeting.

Chair Patrice Horstman led the pledge of allegiance.

Vice Mayor Miranda Sweet read the City of Flagstaff's mission statement.

Councilmember Jim McCarthy read the acknowledgement of the ancestral homelands.

Discussion Item:

1. Update, discussion and possible direction regarding the Pipeline and Haywire fires in the Greater Flagstaff area, including updates from various agencies working on the fires.
Emergency Management

Chair Horstman provided some opening remarks. She spoke about the important of the support and partnership of local governments. She thanked the City's for hosting the meeting and for their cooperation and concern. She thanked the first responders working on the fires in the community. She acknowledged the type I and II teams working on the fire and acknowledged the heartbreak of the mountain burning.

Mayor Deasy thanked the County for their leadership and thanked the first responders working on the fire and all the agencies working on the fire. He also spoke about the city residents helping as the Humane Shelter had to evacuate.

County Manager Steve Peru explained that there will be updates provided from various agencies regarding the fire. He also spoke about the 6:00 p.m. community outreach meeting happening tonight for those affected by the fires. He explained who would be presenting.

City Manager Greg Clifton stated he will listen with interest and thanked the County to help orchestrate the meeting on this urgent topic.

Steven Filmore, Incident Commander Trainee for the Incident Management Team, explained that they were here on the fire on Sunday and have been here since and they understand the impacts with the watersheds and the difficulties with the winds. He explained that today is looking better with the fire and that their team will be here for another two days and then there will be a new crew working the fire.

Scott Grassmuck, Operations Section Chief for Team 15, provided an operational update regarding the fire. He explained that yesterday was the worst conditions for fire, and they have worked on protecting life and structures but today is looking better. He went over a map to explain the work they are doing in different divisions of the fire and where they have hot shot crews, fire engines and where they are putting fire retardant. He explained that they are holding the fire on the road system in some areas. He spoke about getting phone calls regarding hotspots as a result of the fire. Lastly, he spoke about the Haywire fire and explained the work being done regarding that fire.

Nick Glen, Acting District Ranger for Flagstaff Ranger District for the Forest Service, spoke about fire restrictions and post fire events planning. He explained that where the fire was had year-round fire restrictions. He spoke about doing background work on getting a closure of the forest and will have an answer in the next day. He also explained that they are initiating the Burn Area Response Team (BAER) like they did on Tunnel Fire to assess the burn severity of the fire. Lastly, he stated that they will continue to be in coordination with the County and city in sharing data.

Council member McCarthy asked if everything in red on the map is burning currently. District Ranger Glen explained that the red area is all burning and active. District Ranger Glen then went over the map and showed geographic locations to explain where the fire is. He also answered a question related to any structures being burned stating that there has been at least one residence burned as well as another structure but does not yet have confirmation on that.

Chief Deputy Sheriff Bret Axlund provided an evacuation update. He explained that they are transitioning from evacuation go status to re-entry status. He also explained which areas had evacuation go status lifted and which ones are still in evacuation go status. He went over the

numbers regarding the number of households evacuated. Lastly, he also spoke about the suspect causing the fire being arrested, charged federally and now charged by the state.

Supervisor Begay asked how much of the Tunnel fire was re-burned and Scott Grassmuck explained that it did push into about six acres of the burn scar of Tunnel fire.

Chair Horstman asked if Girls Ranch Road area had evacuation status lifted Deputy Chief Axlund stated Girls Ranch Road is still in evacuation status.

Wes Dison, Director of Emergency Management with Coconino County, spoke about their overall goal and explained that they support the response and coordination amongst partners. Director Dison explained the different fires on the map and that a residential structure and another structure were lost. He spoke about the Emergency Operations Center providing logistical support, work various hours, and assist the Sheriff's Office with evacuation notices. He explained the difference between the IPAWS system and the RAVE system. He explained that they have not had loss of life with this fire. He also explained the financial expenses that the Emergency Operations Center tracks. He spoke about the emergency declaration process of which the City and County have declared an emergency for the Pipeline fire. Lastly, he spoke about the potential for thunderstorms this week with flood threat.

Vice Chair Jeronimo Vasquez asked how much the fire has cost the County so far. Director Dison explained that they can't answer that right now because the largest invoices have not been available yet.

Vice Chair Jeronimo Vasquez asked what to expect as far as getting info on watershed impacts. Deputy County Manager/Flood Control Administrator Lucinda Andreani explained that the engineering team have not gotten a burn severity map yet, so they are running analysis with various assumptions, re-running the modeling now, and do expect to have significant flood threat because areas that did not burn during the Museum and Schultz fires have now burned. She explained that there will be an impact to Highway 180 and the Rio watershed. She spoke about working with the BAER team to allow them to get the information quickly and be part of the analysis of the conditions on the forest. She explained that they have ordered sandbags, which will be delivered tomorrow, they are mobilizing resources, and will need a lot of volunteers.

Director Dison answered a question from Mayor Deasy regarding the IPAWS system and explained that they are specific about where they send the message, as it is designed for life safety. He explained they do not broadcast widely to not dilute the message and that the IPAWS system is tied to towers and the RAVE system is tied to the property owner's address.

Chair Horstman explained that the County has not asked for a state declaration yet, but the Mayor has issued an emergency declaration for the City and she has issued one for the county.

Councilmember Adam Shimoni thanked everyone working on this and requested staff do what they can to get communication out about the potential flooding that will occur possibly this weekend.

Stacy Brechler-Knaggs, Grants, Contracts and Emergency Management Director for the City of Flagstaff, explained that she got a call from type III team to open up the Incident Command post at Northern Arizona Center for Entrepreneurship and Technology for the Incident Management Team and that the Type II is in there now and will transition. She explained that they have closed

Buffalo Park. She thanked the County and City staff and spoke about how they are working well together.

Mark Gaillard, City of Flagstaff Fire Chief, expressed gratitude to the Type III team and Type II team coming in and Type I team. He also acknowledged the local fire service and their work on structure protection. He explained that they have been fortunate to be able to protect homes and how they have been working on an event action plan for flood events and how they are getting ready for flooding.

Vice Chair Jeronimo Vasquez explained that he toured the area and that he was amazed that more homes were not lost and expressed his appreciation for the work done to protect homes.

Supervisor Lena Fowler thanked those working on the fire and spoke about the health risk of heavy smoke and people needing to evacuate because of the smoke. She stated she would like to see what the health impact is as a result. She explained that the Navajo Nation has offered help and has community health representatives from police and social services out there. She spoke about the impact being beyond city limits. She spoke about the need to get messages out to the Navajo Nation. She stated that Leupp Road is a concern since Highway 89 is closed and people drive into Flagstaff from somewhere else. She explained that Arizona Power Service (APS) powerlines are impacted, and power keeps going out in Tuba City as a result of the fire.

Supervisor Judy Begay thanked everyone involved and working to insure people are safe. She spoke about working with various agencies and thanked colleagues for being out there and sharing information and communicating. She also spoke about her appreciation for working with the city council and meeting together and that it is good to meet even when there is not an emergency. She stated that during this time of crisis that they are here for one another and respecting the indigenous rights and the sacred peaks. She thanked everyone, including Twin Arrows, the firefighters, Mayor and Chair.

Councilmember Regina Salas spoke about give gratitude to everyone including multiple public agencies and private agencies for support and coordination to fire suppression and protecting and preserving life, property, and natural resources. She expressed gratitude for keeping all safe and sound and for offering talent, time, and resources.

Mayor Deasy stated he appreciates the collaboration throughout all the crisis the community is facing and to let them know how they can help with the communications. He thanked the Chair and Supervisors.

Mayor Deasy adjourned the meeting at 1:11 p.m.

COCONINO COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

(SEAL)


Patrice Horstman, Chair

ATTEST:


Lindsay Daley, Clerk of the Board of Supervisors