



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

SPECIAL SESSION MINUTES

Thursday, October 8, 2019

12:00 p.m.

**Grand Canyon Conference Room – Second Floor
219 E. Cherry Ave., Flagstaff, AZ 86001**

Present: Vice Chair Jim Parks, Supervisor Art Babbott, Supervisor Matt Ryan and Supervisor Elizabeth C. Archuleta as present telephonically. Chairwoman Fowler not present. Supervisor Babbott left at 2:28 pm.

Also Present: Sheriff Jim Driscoll, Treasurer Sarah Benatar, County Attorney William Ring, Assessor Armando Ruiz, Recorder Patty Hansen, Deputy County Manager Marie Peoples, Executive Assistant Michele Ralston, Executive Assistant Gregory Nelson, Public Affairs Director Eric Peterson, Public Affairs Management Analyst Claire Harper, Criminal Justice Coordinating Council Coordinator Larry Henry and Public Affairs Intern Bryson Smith.

Vice Chair Jim Parks called the meeting to order at 12:12 p.m.

Special Session – Discussion Item:

1. Presentation of and discussion on legislative proposals pending before the County Supervisors Association of Arizona and the Arizona Association of Counties. **Public Affairs**

Public Affairs Director Eric Peterson introduced the purpose of the meeting and began speaking about joint and similar legislative proposals first on the discussion list. He provided updated handouts on all County Supervisors Association of Arizona (CSA) and the Arizona Association of Counties (AACo) proposals.

The conversation began with the discussion of Short-Term Vacation Rentals (STVR). Discussion included the best way to define a STVR. A distinction is needed between non-primary and commercial properties. The issue of taxation on properties was also discussed so that STVR properties can be properly identified for tax purposes.

Director Peterson began discussion on CSA #8- Dangerous Incompetent and Not Restorable and AACo #42- Incompetent and Non-Restorable noting that these are essentially the same proposal. Discussion was had as to where these individuals are held during the process

There was discussion on AACo Salary Bills #1 and #2. Supervisors and Elected Officials agreed that neutrality was the best direction for the proposals.

Director Peterson discussed CSA Statewide Proposals including the elimination of Maricopa and Pima Counties mandate to fund the Arizona Department of Juvenile Corrections (ADJC) and the Presidential Preference Election, flexibility language in the state budget and Secure Expenditure Limit Relief.

He introduced CSA #1 County Excise Tax for Public Safety Retirement System (PSPRS) Debt (La Paz) and #2 Statewide Excise Tax for PSPRS Debt (Yavapai). He reviewed how these proposals would create ATRA opposition. Expenditure limit would be needed to provide for County Excise Tax for PSPRS Debt. Supervisor Ryan discussed how both proposals are good to initiate the conversation. Supervisor Babbott discussed his concerns that we do not get penalized for doing the right thing and being good fiscal managers.

Director Peterson highlighted CSA #3 Electricity Tax for Transportation from Mohave County, CSA #4 Gasoline Tax Increase Referral from Pima and Santa Cruz County, CSA #6 Annexation Modification and CSA #7 Rural County Park Maintenance District (Santa Cruz).

There was discussion regarding concerns about the narrow definition of community Parks.

Supervisor Babbott asked to make sure that large assets around our parks are included.

Supervisor Ryan discussed CPOS legislation and that this is another tool in the toolbox.

There was discussion regarding CSA proposal #9 Solar Energy Devices Taxation (Mohave), which would repeal legislation that was achieved last year on solar energy. Assessor Ruiz discussed how the Assessors Association compromised to achieve what occurred last year.

There was further discussion regarding CSA proposal #10 Resources for Juvenile Dependency Representation (Mohave). County Attorney Ring discussed how this issue is a strenuous practice and increase has occurred. Supervisor Ryan discussed how the Board just had a presentation that shows the need in this area. Deputy County Manager Marie Peoples noted that of the \$352,000 only \$50,000 remains.

Director Peterson further reviewed CSA proposal #11 Tourism Marketing District (Pima, CSA proposal #12 Support the Arizona Heritage Fund Funding Effort (Pinal), CSA proposal #13 Rural Counties Transient Lodging Tax (Santa Cruz and Yavapai).

Assessor Ruiz asked if this included short term rentals. There was discussion by Supervisor Babbott that this is something we really should support as the economy changes. Director Peterson noted that there was pushback by the League of Cities and Towns.

Supervisor Babbott spoke about the equity issue associated with this legislation. County Attorney Ring discussed how local municipalities need to step up their business license enforcement to ensure leakage is reduced.

Director Peterson reviewed CSA #14 Increased Property Tax Exemption Thresholds (Yavapai). Assessor Ruiz supports the proposal.

He continued to highlight AACo proposal #3 Tax Refunds from the Treasurers.

Treasurer Sarah Benatar discussed the total refund amount to figure out how to pay back.

After review of AACo #8 Ballot-by-Mail, Recorder Patty Hansen noted it would allow the County to send out all ballots by mail. Subsequent to review of AACo #9 Election Modernization to allow for general clean-up bill to eliminate outdated and antiquated processes in election administration, Recorder Hansen noted this was a straightforward bill. She spoke in opposition to

Recorder Hansen commented on each AACo proposal related to elections.

There was further review and discussion regarding the following AACo proposals:

AACo #17 Bulk Non-Profit Election Mailings (Recorders) allows counties to mail ballots bulk non-profit if they choose. Supervisor Ryan noted that this is sound fiscal policy.

AACo #18 Early Voting Weekend Prior. Treasurer Benatar noted Treasurers around the State support this proposal.

AACo #19 JP Age Requirement, which would require the person to be 25 years of age to run for Justice of the Peace.

AACo #20 Board of Supervisors Vacancy. Treasurer Benatar noted that Clerks oppose the proposal.

AACo #21 Expanded Setting for County Detention Officers Serving Warrants.

AACo #22 AzDA Cross-Certification from the Gila County Sheriff. Sheriff Driscoll noted that he and the association are opposed. Supervisor Parks discussed how the Cattle Growers would most likely be opposed to the proposal.

AACo #23 Peace Officer Training Equipment Fund. Sheriff Driscoll expressed his opposition to the proposal, noting that this would benefit a DNA testing provider.

AACo #24 Interstate Education Compacts from the School Superintendents. Supervisor Parks noted that this is an issue for communities on the border of New Mexico on the Navajo Nation who are attending school in New Mexico.

AACo #25 Reduce Governing Board Membership.

AACo #26 Data Sharing.

AACo #27 Residency Requirement for CTED & Community College Bd. Members.

AACo #28 Eliminate AFR to County School Superintendent.

AACo #29 Treasurer's Office Two Accounts. Treasurer Benatar noted that this is an issue that comes out of Maricopa County.

AACo #30 Political Party Recognition. Recorder Hansen discussed how this is from Pima County. This would provide the same random selection to local parties that want to be established.

AACo #31 Signature Collection Standards. Recorder Hansen discussed that in the past when we had the 400-threshold statement to file Political Action Committee (PAC) Statement of Organization. Recorder Hansen would like more discussion as to why this would be needed. The idea of the Statement of Interest is to get rid of stealth candidates. There should not be more obstacles.

AACo #33 Single Year Property Tax Calendar. Treasurer Benatar noted that right now it is on a multiyear. Assessor Ruiz noted that valuations are brought to the current year and this would create challenges.

AACo #34 Felony DUI. County Attorney Ring noted that this was created as options for Driving Under the Influence (DUI) alternatives in jail as opposed to the Department of Corrections.

County Attorney Ring discussed #35 AHCCCS Eligibility Retained in Jail. This would shift tremendous amount of costs and save money for counties.

County Attorney Ring discussed #36 Loan Forgiveness. This would encourage those who work with jail populations and forgive student loans.

County Attorney Ring discussed #37 Sentencing Chart for Drug Offenses. He does not believe that this would be taken up by AACo or the Attorney's Association.

County Attorney Ring discussed #38 Caveats for Undesignated Felonies as Misdemeanors. He noted that this is related to ban the box. This is still a matter of debate of County Attorneys. This is targeted at those individuals who are charged with possession of drug paraphernalia or personal marijuana. Recorder Hansen asked if their voting rights would be taken away. This is not a conviction and remains undesignated. Deputy County Manager Peoples inquired about the costs of felony probation and misdemeanor probation.

County Attorney Ring noted #39 Drug Related Class 4 Felonies and #40 Record Annotation will go away.

County Attorney Ring discussed #41 Diversion Funding. Pima County is proposing funding to fund diversionary courts and programs. \$20 million would be allocated and split up based on proportion. Rather than set a proportionate formula for \$1.1 million for 3 years to enhance drug courts and mental health court. This bill will move forward through the AACo process.

Sheriff Driscoll asked to go back to #34, noting that this would be a potential labor shift for non-violent felonies back to local jail. Concerning the level of deterrence on their 4th or 5th DUI this keeps the door open for that. Jail Commanders question the level of deterrence. County Attorney Ring will carry this feedback to the Association. Supervisor Ryan noted that generally we are opposed to shifts back to the Jail. Supervisor Babbott said we should align our action around criminal justice reform.

Supervisor Ryan discussed the \$20 million ask for AACo #41. County Attorney Ring said that it would be 3 years, the expectation is that the County would carry the program at the end of three years.

Director Peterson noted that he would be connecting with the County Attorneys. County Attorney Ring said he met with Representative Thorpe to fund their pre-trial diversion programs because the County Attorney's Office does not have a program. He also asked Representative Thorpe to run a bill to operate and fund a pre-arrest diversion program. This would use the funding that we have to do a study and design a pre-arrest diversion program.

Supervisor Babbott left the meeting at 2:27 p.m. A quorum of the Board of Supervisors was lost at 2:27 p.m.


Vice Chair Jim Parks adjourned the meeting at 2:27pm.

COCONINO COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS



Jim Parks, Vice Chair

ATTEST:



Bryson Smith, Public Affairs Intern

(SEAL)