

**MINUTES
OF THE
LA PAZ COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
SPECIAL MEETING
Tuesday, January 25, 2021, 10:00 a.m.
1108 Joshua Ave.
Parker, Arizona**

Chairman Minor called the January 25, 2021, Special Meeting of the La Paz County Board of Supervisors to order at 10:00 a.m. Elected Officials and Department Heads present were: Chairman Duce Minor, Vice-Chairman Holly Irwin, Supervisor David Plunkett, Chief Deputy County Attorney Ryan Dooley, Community Development Director Tonya Hoogerwerf, and Clerk of the Board Diane Green.

Discussion regarding Community Development operations - Board of Supervisors

Chairman Minor stated he asked for this discussion to take place.

Vice-Chairman Irwin praised Community Development Director Hoogerwerf for a job well done; for keeping her apprised of what is going on. She added that she has seen an improvement from prior directors.

Supervisor Plunkett stated that he wanted questions from the public answered.

Community Development Director Hoogerwerf stated that it has been a busy time, with several projects developing, noting a couple of solar projects, with several recreational parks coming.

She added the mobile home subdivision (MHS) rules are confusing and "need a cleanup"; specifically regarding accessory buildings without a primary structure.

Vice-Chairman Irwin stated that the issues with MHS rules evolved over time when structures were first allowed, then the "brakes" were put on by another director; therefore, there are issues with the public with some having been able to do it and some have not.

Discussion ensued regarding MHS structures and how the code is written, noting problems in the Bouse and areas of upriver, noting that the codes needs to be "tweaked" to make it work in the different/diverse areas of the county.

Chief Deputy County Attorney Dooley suggested that a "memorandum of understanding" (MOU) might assist in those areas.

Community Development Director Hoogerwerf reported that commercial projects were improving; noting that a "checklist" is provided to make it easier to inform the public what they need to do.

Chairman Minor asked that Community Development give thought to having an "in-house" engineer versus the funds spent on outside contractor.

A brief discussion ensued on regarding engineer services with Director Hoogerwerf stating she would research that issue.

Further discussion ensued noting that not all documents for the public were accessible on the website, but they would be shortly; some corrections were needed; combines and non-combines were needed to be done by Community Development first to make sure other issues were "ok"; and acknowledgement that lots in some subdivisions were smaller than the current requirements, creating issues to build within them.

Chairman Minor praised Chief Building Inspector Joe Picotte in his handling of code enforcement, one of the "biggest frustrations" in the County.

Chief Deputy County Attorney Dooley explained code enforcement changes, noting it had been "streamlined" by establishing a hearing process for just those issues through the Board of Adjustment.

Chief Building Inspector Picotti explained the process.

Vice-Chairman Irwin commented briefly on the matter of county cleanups.

A person from the public spoke suggesting a memorandum of understanding (MOU) that he felt would allow a solution to some issues spoken of regarding modular homes.

Discussion and possible action to go into Executive Session pursuant to A.R.S. §38-431.03(A)(3), for legal advice from the public body's attorney(s) in order to consider its position regarding the La Paz County Zoning regulations for the amendment of Section 404.00 et seq., relating to regulation of adult use marijuana dispensaries and cultivation - County Attorney

VICE-CHAIRMAN IRWIN MOVED to go into Executive Session pursuant to A.R.S. §38- 431.03(A)(3), for legal advice from the public body's attorney(s) in order to consider its position regarding the La Paz County Zoning regulations for the amendment of Section 404.00 et seq., relating to regulation of adult use marijuana dispensaries and cultivation. Motion seconded by Supervisor Plunkett, passed unanimously, including the vote by Chairman Minor.

Convened into Executive Session: 3:11 p.m.

Reconvened to Open Meeting: 3:54 p.m.

Discussion and possible action to authorize attorney(s) and/or staff to take direction as instructed in Executive Session regarding the La Paz County Zoning regulations for the amendment of Section 404.00 et seq., relating to regulation of adult use marijuana dispensaries and cultivation

Chairman Minor stated that he wished to have a discussion, and invited comments from the public, on what direction to proceed with regarding the application process with the County and the letters the public was asking the County to sign. He asked what the "drop dead" date was for the letters to the State.

Raymond Cave, with the Arizona Canibus Chamber of Commerce, stated that March 9, 2021, was the "hard date"; however, a compliant application has to have been obtained prior to that time.

Discussion ensued regarding possible dates for the Board to meet again; possibly to review the proposals from persons of interest and what action to take regarding the State letters.

Chief Deputy County Attorney Dooley reminded the Board that the County already has a Medical Marijuana application for pre-clearance that may be revised and be the quickest and simplest way to provide an application for the Board to use as a "table-setting" for any proposed regulations, requiring that the public still go to Planning and Zoning for approvals.

Brief comments were made as to what other counties were doing with regard to the letters, and a discussion over meeting dates to discuss further how to address the letters.

Chairman Minor stated the direction the Board wished to give staff would be to instruct staff to provide to interested parties the Medical Marijuana application, adapting it for recreational marijuana use, with a return deadline back to the County on Thursday, February 4, 2021, at 5:00 p.m.

Brief comments were made as to what needed to be done to go forward with an ordinance, which would take a longer period of time.

VICE CHAIRMAN IRWIN MOVED instruct staff as described (for staff to provide to interested parties the Medical Marijuana application, adapting it for recreational marijuana use, with a return deadline back to the County on Thursday, February 4, 2021, at 5:00 p.m.) Motion seconded by Supervisor Plunkett, passed unanimously including the vote by Chairman Minor.

Adjournment

Chairman Minor adjourned the meeting at 4:07 p.m.

APPROVED:

Duce Minor, Chairman

ATTEST:

Diane Green, Clerk of the Board