

**MINUTES
OF THE
LA PAZ COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
Monday, January 29, 2018, 11:00 a.m.
Special Meeting/Public Hearing**

Chairman Wilson called the January 29, 2018, special meeting of the La Paz County Board of Supervisors to order at 11:00 a.m. Elected Officials and Department Heads present were: Chairman Wilson, Supervisor Minor, Supervisor Irwin, County Administrator Drake, County Attorney Rogers, Assessor Camacho, Finance Director Krukemyer, Elections Director Scholl, Recorder Baker; and Deputy Clerk of the Board Green. Also present was Timothy Pickrell of Squire Patton Boggs LLP.

PUBLIC HEARING:

Proposal authorizing expenditures by the County of not more than \$3,000,000 in excess of its constitutional expenditure limitation for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2019, and the submission of such proposal to the electors of the County at a special election on May 15, 2018

Chairman Wilson announced that “this was the first public hearing to be conducted pursuant to A.R.S. §41-563.01, a proposal authorizing expenditures by La Paz County of not more than \$3,000,000 in excess of its constitutional expenditure limitation established pursuant to Article IX, Section 20, of the Arizona Constitution, for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2019, and the submission of such proposal to the electors of the County at a special election on May 15, 2018. The purpose of the hearing is solely to receive verbal or written comments from the public regarding the proposal. Any action on these matters by the Board would take place at a special meeting following a second hearing on the same proposal scheduled for Monday, February 5, 2018”.

He stated that County Administrator Drake would present the County’s current expenditure limitation situation and the need to consider requesting additional expenditure authority above the County’s constitutional expenditure limit for fiscal year ending June 30, 2019.

County Administrator Drake stated that the County had just completed its six-month budget reviews with the different departments.

He stated there was a substantial monthly decrease in the amount of payroll due to the RIF, cut from approximately \$600,000 down to approximately \$525,000 to \$550,000; and funds at almost \$65,000 over expenses monthly.

He stated that the County’s current budget is \$1.8 million over its expenditure limitation; however, the Auditor General’s office “signed off” on the County’s going forward with its plans to remedy the situation. He added that the County did not fully know its position until the audits were complete.

He further explained that the County would rectify the increase in expenditure limitations by applying the “Home Rule” of a one-time request for the County to maintain its expenses as budgeted, or “expenditure limitations”, in time for the 2018/2019 Fiscal year coming up.

County Administrator Drake stated that the County has never had an expenditure limit increase since its inception in 1983; and things have changed – the costs of everything has gone up; personnel, costs of its operation and services; however, the expenditure limitation have not. He stated that, with a larger budget needed to run the County, it was imperative to increase the limitation set in 1983.

He stated that overage in the expenditure limitations incur a penalty for the County, which the County could not afford, which is the reason for the call for election in May for the temporary fix, and in November 2018, for a permanent solution.

He asked the question: would the increase cause a tax increase to property owners?

He stated that the answer was “No”; it was merely asking, as required by law, to have a larger budget to operate with. He added that Greenlee County, similar in size to La Paz County, had increased their expenditure limits three times in their history so far; and indicated that their expenditure limits were currently more than twice what La Paz County’s are set for.

PUBLIC HEARING:

Chairman Wilson stated that the Deputy Clerk of the Board had provided information to the Board regarding comments from the public, written or through the website; and none were submitted.

He opened the Public Hearing and asked if anyone wished to comment on the proposed authorization for an expenditure limitation increase for FY2018/2019.

Norm Simpson, from Quartzsite, stated that he believed that the County’s request for an expenditure limitation increase had to do with properly taking care of the County’s business and moving forward properly. He understood that increasing the base limit did not increase the levy limit, or taxation; therefore, endorsed the request by the County.

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Adjournment

Chairman Wilson adjourned the meeting at 11:17 a.m.

APPROVED:

/s/
D. L. Wilson, Chairman

ATTEST:

/s/
Diane Green, Deputy Clerk of the Board