

**MINUTES
OF THE
LA PAZ COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
Thursday, March 14, 2019, 4:05 p.m.
Special Meeting**

Chairman Minor called the March 14, 2019, special meeting of the La Paz County Board of Supervisors to order at 4:05 p.m. Elected Officials and Department Heads present were: Chairman Minor, Supervisor Irwin (telephonically), Supervisor Wilson, County Administrator Drake, Deputy County Attorney Dooley, Elections Director Scholl, Finance Director Krukemyer, and Clerk of the Board Green.

Chairman Minor stated that Mike Ford, with ASF Consultants, was present telephonically along with Supervisor Irwin.

Call to the Public: This is the time for the public to comment. Members of the Board may not discuss items that are not specifically identified on the agenda. Therefore, pursuant to A.R.S. § 38-431.01(H), action taken as a result of public comment will be limited to directing staff to study the matter, responding to any criticism or scheduling the matter for further consideration and decision at a later date

Wayne Posey, District Manager for the Buckskin Sanitary District, stated that he had just heard of the closing of the septic disposal ponds due to fullness. He was concerned that such short notice was given since they were “highly dependent” on these ponds. He reported what projects that were upcoming that may be affected.

Amber Byrd, of River Septic, expressed that closing the ponds would cause a hardship for her business and felt that this issue should have been addressed earlier to prevent closure.

Discussion and possible action regarding the Landfill Septic Ponds– County Administrator

Chairman Minor stated that he had called this meeting to discuss the issues of the septic ponds. He stated that he had understood that the ponds would be “okay” until next year; however, he was very disturbed to learn this past week from River Septic and Craig Reynolds of Pirate’s Den, the situation of the ponds. He added that meetings were being scheduled to discuss rehabilitating the ponds prior to learning the ponds had been closed.

Deputy County Attorney Dooley informed the Board on the process of an emergency procurement should it be needed by the Board.

Supervisor Wilson stated that it is the County’s responsibility to see after the ponds and their conditions. He added that Republic Services had always been helpful to reach out to contractors for assistance.

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Supervisor Irwin questioned at what point the public was aware of the condition of the ponds and why was it the County was not informed.

County Administrator Drake explained work that had been done recently at the ponds by Public Works, and a tour was conducted by staff and others for the refurbishing project planned for the ponds in the upcoming budget. He expressed that, because of the excess rains, the problem had reached an unexpected critical point, which apparently is the case with other areas of the country.

Mike Ford, of ASF Consultants, and assisting the County on landfill issues, reiterated that La Paz County was not the only entity dealing with these same issues. He added that the ponds are designed to evaporate and would have done so at a higher rate than they are due to the amount of rain and snow occurring around the country.

He advised the Board that they should follow the operating plan in place that gives a clear direction to avoid “extraordinary” risk, despite the apparent urgency.

Discussion ensued at length regarding septic pond liners; construction of a new pond; and where septic haulers could go in the interim, noting that Mohave County was also experiencing much of the same issues.

Chairman Minor stated that it was his wish to move this forward as “expeditiously” as possible.

Supervisor Wilson asked that Chairman Minor continue to take the lead to work with staff on a contract to rebuild the ponds and research the options in the interim discussed at this meeting for the septic haulers.

Adjournment

Chairman Minor adjourned the meeting at 5:01 p.m.

APPROVED:

/s/
Duce Minor, Chairman

ATTEST:

/s/
Diane Green, Clerk of the Board