

**MINUTES
OF THE
LA PAZ COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
Wednesday, March 20, 2019, 10:30 a.m.
Special Meeting**

Chairman Minor called the March 20, 2019, special meeting of the La Paz County Board of Supervisors to order at 10:30 a.m. Elected Officials and Department Heads present were: Chairman Minor, Supervisor Irwin, Supervisor Wilson, County Administrator Drake, Deputy County Attorney Dooley, Public Works Director Simmons, Shop Supervisor Braska, Finance Director Krukemyer, Community Development Director McCormick, Assessor Camacho, and Clerk of the Board Green.

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, representing the Buckskin Sanitary District stated that the septic pond situation needed an emergency order as it had a direct impact to the community and the sanitary district, implicating health and safety issues.

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

County Administrator Drake stated that, since the last meeting, he had asked the Supervisors to tour the ponds. He suggested three possible courses of action: 1) Issue Request for Proposals (RFP), a process which would take approximately five months; 2) work with Republic Services and have them do the RFP on the County's behalf, which would probably have the same timeline. He noted there were still issues with the liner and a backlog of 90 days on ordering; and 3) obtain a price from a firm that is coming in for the construction of a new cell. He added that the County could request Republic Services to look to other sites in their system to bring in additional lining materials, all which would be timelier and the possible best solution. He stated that he did not yet have a price for construction of the new cell.

A brief discussion ensued on the current status of the ponds and the effects of the rains.

Supervisor Wilson stated that he wished the public to understand that the "lack of notification" was not the fault of Republic Services as they do not have the responsibility to monitor the ponds. He added that the "failure is ours".

Matt Kross, Will Puntteney and Dean Pankowski, of Republic Services were present. Mr. Kross, the General Manager of Republic Services stated that there were numerous factors involved in the present issues. He stated that the amount of rain could bring serious issues, and hot weather brought "serious evaporation". He discussed possible solutions to the liner issue, expressing they were well aware of the predicament and they were present to assist the County at the direction of the Board.

La Paz County Board of Supervisors
Wednesday, March 20, 2019, 10:30 a.m. Special Meeting

Mr. Puntenny, Environmental Manager with Republic Services, stated that they will have a competitive bid on what the contractor can do on the cell construction, and would be able to obtain liners from three different companies; with a completion at about Mid-June. He noted that the main evaporation period is from May through August.

Discussion ensued on whether there was a need for the Board to declare an emergency.

Deputy County Attorney Dooley stated that if the Board was faced with procurement issues, it could declare an emergency; unless Republic Services does their own procurement.

Discussion ensued, noting that, as evaporation goes forward in the next 90 days, the septic haulers could be kept informed as to whether the situation changed enough for them to begin hauling to the ponds once again; however, other places, such as Blythe or Kingman were other locations to go to. It was noted that Mohave County was having the same issues.

Mr. Posey discussed Buckskin Sanitary District's project, noting that they would foresee a delay in their residential work until the pond issue was solved.

Discussion ensued on the possibility of a contract with Republic Services to assist with the pond construction.

SUPERVISOR WILSON MOVED that, whereas, the closure of the septic ponds creates a public health issue; the Board declares an emergency, and directs staff to work with Republic Services to execute a contract regarding option #3 outlined in the meeting, and that staff work with Republic Services to expedite that process as much as feasible; and the payment arrangements as needed. Motion seconded by Supervisor Irwin, passed unanimously, including the vote by Chairman Minor.

Finance Director Krukemyer stated that, given the conversation that he heard on the pond issues and his knowledge of the situation, he concurred there was an emergency.

SUPERVISOR WILSON MOVED to direct staff to work with Republic Services and (septic pond) customers to communicate any available capacity that can be used in Pond #1. Motion seconded by Supervisor Irwin, passed unanimously, including the vote by Chairman Minor.

Supervisor Wilson stated that the "intent" was to facilitate as much conversation between everyone involved as much as possible. He added that, if there were any updates, County Administrator Drake needed to know about it; followed by the (septic pond) customers.

