

**MINUTES  
OF THE  
LA PAZ COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS  
Special Meeting/Budget Hearing  
Thursday, July 25, 2019, 2:00 p.m.**

Chairman Minor called the Special Meeting of the La Paz County Board of Supervisors to order at 2:00 p.m. Elected Officials and Department Heads present were: Chairman Minor, Supervisor Irwin, Supervisor Wilson, County Administrator Drake, Finance Director Krukemyer, Chief Deputy County Attorney Dooley, Public Works Director Simmons, Health Director Shontz, Treasurer Castro, Assessor Camacho, Community Development Director McCormick, IT Tech Lucas, Superior Court Clerk Spielman, Recorder Baker, Golf Professional Benton, and Clerk of the Board Green.

**Public Hearing regarding Truth-in-Taxation, pursuant to A.R.S. §42-17107, to hear taxpayers in favor of or in opposition to the proposed tax levy increase of \$208,170 or 4.04%**

Supervisor Wilson gave an explanation of Truth-in-Taxation (TNT) hearing, stating that it was an initiative passed by voters for the budget process and can be confusing. He explained that TNT numbers are not based on the tax rate, but rather required if more dollars are taxed over/above the previous year. He explained that assessed valuations play a large part in that calculation, noting that as assessed valuations go up on property, the tax rate is less; and if assessed values go down, the tax rate is more. He added that the form required for publication is worded as required by the state and cannot be edited or modified in any way.

He explained issues that occurred from the previous year, noting that last year's rate had no relationship to what was levied last year, and there was also a significant error on assessed valuations, which significantly lowered the tax rate from the budget approved, and corrected in time for the tax bills to be generated. However, it was also a significant budget short-fall for the County.

He further explained the circumstances, stating without last year's issues, the percentage of increase for this year would have been only 2.1% over last year.

Chairman Minor thanked Supervisor Wilson for his explanation of why the TNT notice is worded as it is, adding that this information was confirmed by staff, Department of Revenue, and the Arizona Tax Research Association (ATRA).

Chairman Minor opened the public hearing and asked if anyone wished to comment on the Truth-in-Taxation notice.

There were no comments.

La Paz County Board of Supervisors  
Thursday, July 25, 2019, 2:00 p.m. Special Meeting

**Discussion and possible action to approve the proposed primary tax levy increase of \$208,170, and direct the Clerk of the Board to mail a copy of the Truth-in-Taxation notice, a statement of its publication, and the result of the governing body’s vote to the Property Tax Oversight Commission within three days of this hearing pursuant to A.R.S. §42-17107(A)(5). (REQUIRES A ROLL CALL VOTE OF THE BOARD)**

Chairman Minor expressed that many hours were spent in meetings and one-on-one meetings with staff to get to this point. He read from the June edition of the ATRA newsletter which shed light on how the rate is handled by the taxing entities for reasons of transparency.

He explained his frustration with the process and asked the Finance Director to explain what the public “would be dealing with”.

Discussion ensued at length, noting what was approved in the budget the previous year, which influenced the rate that is proposed this year.

**CHAIRMAN WILSON MOVED** to approve the proposed primary tax levy increase up to \$208,170, and direct the Clerk of the Board to mail a copy of the Truth-in-Taxation notice, a statement of its publication, and the result of the governing body’s vote to the Property Tax Oversight Commission within three days of this hearing pursuant to A.R.S. §42-17107(A)(5). Motion seconded by Supervisor Irwin.

Clerk of the Board Green stated that a roll call of the vote will be conducted as mandated by statute:

Chairman Minor: -aye  
Supervisor Irwin -aye  
Supervisor Wilson -aye

**MOTION PASSED** unanimously.

**Public Hearing regarding the Fiscal Year 2019/2020 La Paz County Budget**

Chairman Minor opened the public hearing and asked if anyone wished to comment on the proposed FY2019/2020 La Paz County Budget.

There being no comments, Chairman Minor closed the public hearing.

Finance Director Krukemyer went over at length the schedules, noting the estimated revenues, carryover and expected grant funds, noting that the departments did a good job in spending last year.

La Paz County Board of Supervisors  
Thursday, July 25, 2019, 2:00 p.m. Special Meeting

He noted items that would be coming up this year that would be unusual expenditures, such as the new Salome Justice Courthouse, the Landfill septic pond repair/construction, roads, and the significant increase in the Public Safety Personnel Retirement System (PSPRS) rate in the Sheriff’s department, indicating that elected officials and department heads will be receiving their budgets and they would have to be adhered to as given.

He added that, with regard to personnel issues, open positions were a considered factor.

Assessor Camacho, Lieutenant Epps, and Superior Court Clerk Spielman expressed that they were unclear as to what would be on their budgets and felt there needed to be more communication or “transparency”.

General Fund	\$15,498,937
Special Revenue Funds Total	\$11,989,158
Debt Service Fund	\$ 656,276
Enterprise Funds Available	<u>\$ 2,460,704</u>
 TOTAL ALL FUNDS	 \$30,605,075

**Discussion and possible action to Adopt Resolution No. 2019-15 adopting the Fiscal Year 2019/2020 La Paz County Budget**

Discussion ensued briefly noting that the presented schedules by Finance Director Krukemyer would be adequate.

**SUPERVISOR WILSON MOVED** to adopt Resolution No. 2019-15 adopting the Fiscal Year 2019/2020 La Paz County Budget. Motion seconded by Supervisor Irwin.

Chairman Minor stated he was disappointed in the outcome and will be interested in how it “plays out”.

**MOTION PASSED** by a vote of two to one, with Supervisor Minor voting nay.

*Chairman Minor recessed the Board of Supervisors and convened the Jail District Board of Directors at 3:17 p.m.*

La Paz County Board of Supervisors  
Thursday, July 25, 2019, 2:00 p.m. Special Meeting

**Public Hearing regarding the Fiscal Year 2019/2020 La Paz County Jail District Budget**

Finance Director Krukemyer explained that although the Jail District Budget is within the La Paz County budget approved by the Board, it is separated out.

Total Revenues	\$3,774,945
Total Expenditures	<u>\$3,678,368</u>
Available Cash Fiscal Year 2019/2020	\$ 96,577

He stated that there was not much changed from the tentative budget, and while lease purchase payments were underbudgeted last year, overall more funds were brought in than anticipated.

Chairman Minor opened up the public hearing and asked if anyone wished to comment on the proposed budget.

Sheriff Risen stated that many times action was taken by his department to save money, noting a significant overbilling incident with the hospital that was found.

Discussion ensued regarding the Vision software that is difficult for some of the departments to easily use, and assurances were made that the needed information would get to them.

Chairman Minor stated that he wanted to ask if the numbers presented by Finance Director Krukemyer for both the County and the Jail District budget reflected the 1% COLA increase, noting that it was not part of the Tentative Budget.

Finance Krukemyer confirmed that the 1% increase was reflective in the budget.

**Discussion and possible action to Adopt Resolution No. JD2019-01 adopting the Fiscal Year 2019/2020 La Paz County Jail District Budget**

**SUPERVISOR IRWIN MOVED** to adopt Resolution No. JD2019-01 adopting the Fiscal Year 2019/2020 La Paz County Jail District budget. Motion seconded Supervisor Wilson, passed unanimously, including the vote by Chairman Minor.

*Chairman Minor recessed the Jail District Board of Directors and reconvened the Board of Supervisors at 3:36 p.m.*

La Paz County Board of Supervisors  
Thursday, July 25, 2019, 2:00 p.m. Special Meeting

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

Assessor Camacho asked when the departments would receive their budgets.

Finance Director Krukemyer answered they should be received by Monday.

**Adjournment**

Chairman Minor adjourned the meeting at 3:37 p.m.

APPROVED:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Duce Minor, Chairman

ATTEST:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Diane Green, Clerk of the Board