

**MINUTES
OF THE
LA PAZ COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
Tuesday, January 20, 2015, 10:00 a.m.
Regular Meetings**

Chairman Irwin called the January 20, 2015, regular meeting of the La Paz County Board of Supervisors to order at 10:00 a.m. Elected Officials and Department Heads present were: Chairman Irwin, Supervisor Wilson, Supervisor Clapperton, County Administrator/Clerk of the Board Field, Deputy County Attorney Buckelew, Grants Administrator/Resource Coordinator Taft, School Superintendent Price, Parks Director Bennett, Elections Director Scholl, Assessor Schuler, Sheriff Drum; and Executive Assistant Reeves.

Chairman Irwin led the Pledge of Allegiance followed by the Invocation given by Pastor Charles Martin with the Big River Baptist Church.

Current Event Summary

County Administrator Field stated he had attended the County Supervisors Association meeting with lobbyists and reported that fiscal issues would bring the typical solutions the Counties have been seeing in the past that were not favorable; however, he felt there were some good things as well, such as the settling of the State's key lawsuits. He reported a slow but steady economic recovery for the State, with plans for a 2017 structural deficit remedy.

He stated the federal inmate population has been increasing, and with concerns over the quality of care, this could reflect favorably for La Paz County Jail assignments. He reported at length on other topics such as Public Safety Retirement; Department of Public Safety highway patrol funding; changes in the Department of Juvenile Corrections; Public School funding; and other issues; and how it affects Counties.

Chairman Irwin stated that she and Supervisor Wilson had attended a ribbon cutting ceremony at the McMullen Valley Food Bank. She added that the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) was holding another Open House on Wednesday, January 21, 2015, from 3:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. at the Quartzsite Community Center regarding the Trail Management Plan (TMP), and encouraged the public to attend. She stated she believed there was another open house on the following Friday; however, she was not sure of the details.

CONSENT AGENDA *(Discussion and possible action on the following items):*

County Administrator Field presented for approval Consent Agenda Items #4(a) through #4(h).

4(a) Approval of Minutes

Approve the minutes of the Monday, January 5, 2015, 10:00 a.m. regular meeting and 1:30 p.m. worksession.

4(b) Approval of Payroll

Approve December 28, 2014, through January 15, 2015, gross payroll, as presented, in the amount of \$402,589.87, plus employer benefit contributions of \$86,947.37, for a total of \$489,537.24, including handwritten warrants.

4(c) Approval of Demands

Approve the demands, as presented, for FY2014/2015, in the amount of \$365,786.99, including handwritten warrants.

4(d) Appoint Chief Justice Court Clerk, a budgeted position – Quartzsite Justice Court (Replacement)

Approve to promote Sherry Granger, Quartzsite Senior Justice Court Clerk, to the position of Chief Justice Court Clerk, retroactive to January 1, 2015, at an annual salary of \$37,377.60 (NE012, Step 7), a budgeted position.

4(e) Appoint Senior Justice Court Clerk, a budgeted position – Quartzsite Justice Court (Replacement)

Approve to promote Diane Jones-Zakrajsek, Quartzsite Court Clerk, to the position of Chief Justice Court Clerk, retroactive to January 1, 2015, at an annual salary of \$37,377.60 (NE012, Step 7), a budgeted position.

4(f) Appoint two (2) Court Clerks, budgeted positions – Salome Justice Court (Replacements)

Approve to appoint Sabrina Cruz and Daniella Carrasco to the positions of Court Clerk for the Salome Justice Court effective February 2, 2015, at salaries of \$23,108.80 (NE014, Step 1); budgeted positions.

4(g) Approve reappointment of a member to the Planning & Zoning Commission – Board of Supervisors

Approve to reappoint Doug Wolf as member to the Planning & Zoning Commission; renewal term to expire December 31, 2018.

4(h) Approve recommendation to the Arizona Department of Liquor Licenses & Control for Temporary Extension of Premises/Patio Permit application submitted by Albert Martino dba Al's Sandbar, for a charity bike event; located at 31404 Riverside Drive, in Parker – Board of Supervisors

Recommend approval to the Arizona Department of Liquor Licenses & Control for Temporary Extension of Premises/Patio Permit application submitted by Albert Martino dba Al's Sandbar, for a charity bike event; located at 31404 Riverside Drive, in Parker.

La Paz County Board of Supervisors
Tuesday, January 20, 2015, 10:00 a.m. Regular Meeting

SUPERVISOR WILSON MOVED to approve Consent Agenda Items #4(a) through #4(h). Motion seconded by Supervisor Clapperton, passed unanimously.

Chairman Irwin recessed the Board of Supervisors and convened the Jail District Board of Directors at 10:23 a.m.

CONSENT AGENDA (*Discussion and possible action on the following items*):

County Administrator Field presented for approval Consent Agenda Items #5(a) and #5(b).

5(a) Approval of Jail District Payroll

Approve December 28, 2014, through January 10, 2015, gross payroll, as presented, in the amount of \$61,675.80, plus employer benefit contributions of \$12,499.29, for a total of \$74,175.09, including handwritten warrants.

5(b) Approval of Jail District Demands

Approve the Jail District demands for FY2014/2015, in the amount of \$15,449.13, including handwritten warrants.

SUPERVISOR CLAPPERTON MOVED to approve Jail Consent Agenda Items #5(a) and #5(b). Motion seconded by Supervisor Clapperton, passed unanimously.

Chairman Irwin recessed the Jail District Board of Directors and reconvened the Board of Supervisors at 10:24 a.m.

REGULAR AGENDA (*Discussion and possible action on the following items*):

PUBLIC HEARING(S):

Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) FY2015 Projects – Community Resources

Grants Administrator/Resource Coordinator Taft stated that this item on the agenda represented the second public hearing regarding the Arizona Department of Housing Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) allocation for FY2015 Projects.

She listed the types of projects that had priority consideration for CDBG project funds, and a list of suggested projects obtained by the community. Suggested projects were: flood drainage issues in the Salome/Wenden area in which the current flood exposure to 300 houses would be mitigated through redesigning the flow and drainage of the area; and leverage to a Hazard Mitigation Construction Project that would execute the CDBG funded flood drainage plan. She stated that a low

income survey would not be required in this area as it far exceeded the required 51.4% low to moderate income numbers, at 61%; and remove them from the threat of flood. She added that this plan would cost approximately \$154,000-\$155,000, leaving approximately \$25,000, which could be used in Patria Park for the removal of ADA (Americans with Disability Act) barriers and other priorities.

She stated that the Ehrenberg Improvement Association, situated in a 40% percentile of low to moderate income area, has requested \$30,000 to improve their raw pump capacity; requiring an income survey. The Buckskin Sanitary District requests support for their sanitary district goals; which would also require an income survey.

She added that a Housing Needs Assessment and a Comprehensive Plan have been suggested; two planning projects with an approximate cost of \$90,000. She stated that the County has a Comprehensive Plan; however, it needs updating.

Another suggestion for CDBG funds is for a new building for a non-profit woman's club in Salome, which would take approximately the full amount provided by the CDBG funding.

She stated that the Wenden Fire District has suggested the funds be used for a Command Center, which would include a fully integrated alarm system; emergency flood-wide systems; with laptop computers; at a "guesstimated" cost of \$110,000.

Grants Administrator Taft stated that these were the projects received. She emphasized that if a project is not brought up at this public hearing, it cannot be added later.

Chairman Irwin opened the public hearing and asked if anyone wished to comment on proposed CDBG FY2015 Projects.

Wayne Posey, Buckskin Sanitary District Manager, discussed a grant coupled with a \$2.6 million loan proposed by the District for the newest sewer project which includes a portion of the County Park. He stated that there is an expectation of the County's participation due to the benefits received by the Park and to the rest of the County.

He explained the complicated process involved at the assessment of the Area 4 Project and stated the deadline is coming close for the information needed to provide for the project to go forward, which would include what amount the County could commit toward the project.

He suggested that the County use the CDBG funding as a "loan" or "temporary funding source" that could be paid back over time through user fees.

Discussion ensued on what the County's portion would be towards the project, and a worksession was suggested to discuss the details further.

Tax Roll Corrections – Assessor

Chief Deputy Jones, on behalf of Assessor Schuler, presented two (2) tax roll corrections for the net amount of -\$441.32 as follows:

#2013.TRC.427S1 -\$55.46 #2014.TRC.427S1 -\$385.86

CHAIRMAN IRWIN MOVED to approve two (2) tax roll corrections for the net amount of -\$441.32, as presented by Deputy Chief Assessor Jones on behalf of Assessor Schuler. Motion seconded by Supervisor Wilson, passed unanimously.

Certification of the 2015 Tax Roll – Assessor

Chief Deputy Assessor Jones, on behalf of Assessor Schuler, presented for approval, certification of the 2015 Tax Roll. She stated that assessments starting the 2015 tax year are calculated on the Limited Property Value amounts, noting the reduction of assessment percentage calculations in the next two years.

2015 Abstract of Assessment

Limited Property Value: \$2,167,151,667 Net Assessed: \$202,011,072

SUPERVISOR WILSON MOVED to approve to certify the 2015 Tax Roll as presented by Chief Deputy Assessor Jones on behalf of Assessor Schuler. Motion seconded by Supervisor Clapperton, passed unanimously.

Approve consulting agreement with former Finance Director – Board of Supervisors

County Administrator Field requested approval of a consulting agreement with the former Finance Director Amber Hill. He explained that Ms. Hill resigned recently for personal reasons and staff in that office has “pitched in” to operate in the best possible manner. He added that Ms. Hill has been assisting the office to complete audits for the previous fiscal year, and other accounting procedures that will require her input with regard to journal entries, etc., and various reports.

He stated this agreement will assist the County until another Director is found or the office is restructured. He emphasized that it is important to see that certain projects started be completed with Ms. Hill’s assistance.

He stated the agreement will provide a 40 hour per month flat rate of \$3,600 per month for six months; renewable for six months, if needed.

Supervisor Clapperton gave a “kudos” to the staff as it has exists at this time, and emphasized the necessity of finding the “perfect” person for that position as much as possible.

Supervisor Wilson stated that keeping Ms. Hill as a consultant would give the County time to find a replacement without “things falling through the cracks”.

SUPERVISOR WILSON MOVED to approve a consulting agreement with the former Finance Director, Amber Hill, as presented. Motion seconded by Supervisor Clapperton, passed unanimously.

Discussion and possible action regarding 2015 Appeals of Property Tax Classifications/Residential Reclassifications pursuant to A.R.S. §42-12052

County Administrator Field explained that this particular statute ultimately requires that the property owner prove whether it is owner occupied or not.

Chief Deputy Assessor Jones added that the different classes of residential property are determined by whether the property is their primary residence, secondary residence, or rental property. She further stated that it is necessary to indicate whether an immediate family member resides at their property. She explained that only a primary residence; a Class 3 residence; receives the State Aid to Education Credit; whereas, Class 4 does not receive the credit, which is the reason for the appeals.

She added that inquiries regarding the status of properties will be mailed out once every four years, within the Assessor's term.

Ruby Ross, APN: 306-23-025B

Chief Deputy Assessor Jones stated she has talked to Ms. Ross to clarify information, finding that this particular residence is her primary residence.

SUPERVISOR WILSON MOVED to grant the 2015 residential classification appeal for Ruby Ross, APN: 306-23-025B, Space 1, for a primary residence classification. Motion seconded by Chairman Irwin, passed unanimously.

Kenneth Stuart, APN: 360-18-035A

Chief Deputy Assessor Jones stated that the property owner's sale's affidavit and the completed first intent form indicated the property was not their primary residence.

Discussion ensued with Supervisor Wilson noting that with the stated information by Chief Deputy Assessor Jones, it was incumbent that the property owner provide compelling documentation such as a driver's license, voter's registration, or auto registration as proof of primary residence.

SUPERVISOR WILSON MOVED to deny the 2015 residential classification appeal for Kenneth Stuart, APN: 360-18-035A, for a primary residence classification. Motion seconded by Supervisor Clapperton, passed unanimously.

A brief discussion ensued regarding the appeal form used noting that it was a replica of the Coconino County residential class appeal form.

Dennis and Jacqueline Price, APN: 302-48-015

Chief Deputy Assessor Jones stated that she had met Ms. Price and was knowledgeable that the property owner had changed their primary residence address, recommending approval of the appeal.

CHAIRMAN IRWIN MOVED to grant approval to the 2015 residential classification appeal by Dennis and Jacqueline Price, APN: 302-48-015 for a primary residence classification. Motion seconded by Supervisor Clapperton, passed unanimously.

Christopher and Jennifer Golding, APN: 311-28-073

County Administrator Field noted that an Arizona Drivers license was provided as proof of primary residence.

Deputy Chief Assessor Jones recommended that the appeal be granted.

SUPERVISOR WILSON MOVED to grant approval to the 2015 residential classification appeal by Christopher and Jennifer Golding, APN: 311-28-073, for a primary residence classification. Motion seconded by Chairman Irwin, passed unanimously.

Steve and Lynda Lumbert, APN: 306-27-003R

County Administrator Field noted that an Arizona Drivers license was provided as proof of primary residence.

Deputy Chief Assessor Jones confirmed that the property owner's out of state mailing address was returned as no longer valid; and the property owner indicated that his primary residence has been here in Arizona for some months.

A brief discussion ensued noting that there is no indication by the property owner that the property was other than a primary residence.

SUPERVISOR WILSON MOVED to grant approval to the 2015 residential classification appeal by Steve and Lynda Lumbert, APN: 306-27-003R, for a primary residence classification. Motion seconded by Supervisor Clapperton, passed unanimously.

Jeffrey and Marjorie Bohlen, APN: 304-59-040B

Chief Deputy Assessor Jones stated that it had been determined by the Assessor's office that this property was a primary residence. She noted that the reason it was changed because the inquiry form was received unsigned, which could not be accepted.

Chairman Irwin stated that she was knowledgeable that this property was the property owner's primary residence.

CHAIRMAN IRWIN MOVED to grant approval to the 2015 residential classification appeal by Jeffrey and Marjorie Bohlen, APN: 304-59-040B for a primary residence classification. Motion seconded by Supervisor Wilson, passed unanimously.

Alex Playford, APN: 302-51-029B

Chief Deputy Assessor Jones stated that the property owner stated that he only spends 6-8 months in Arizona and files a "partial residence income" from Arizona in the State of Michigan; however, she stated that the State of Arizona does not recognize partial residences. She added that Arizona requires a nine-month residence.

A brief discussion ensued noting that the property owner is registered to vote in Arizona and has an Arizona driver's license; and indicated a nine month residency on the appeal form.

SUPERVISOR WILSON MOVED to grant approval to the 2015 residential classification appeal for Alex Playford, APN: 302-51-029B, for a primary residence classification. Motion seconded by Supervisor Clapperton, passed unanimously.

Rita Dedman, et al, APN: 306-16-023L

Chief Deputy Assessor Jones stated that the property owner had an Arizona driver's license issued in June of 2014, and was apparently a new resident during the time the first questionnaire forms were mailed out. She stated the Assessor's office recommended approving the primary resident classification request.

SUPERVISOR CLAPERTON MOVED to grant approval to the 2015 residential classification appeal for Rita Dedman, et al, APN: 306-16-023L, for a primary residence classification. Motion seconded by Supervisor Wilson, passed unanimously.

Robert Moore, APN: 311-32-060

Chief Deputy Assessor Jones stated that the property owner has had an Arizona driver's license with a Parker address since 2012, recommending approval of the appeal.

SUPERVISOR WILSON MOVED to grant approval to the 2015 residential classification appeal for Robert Moore, APN: 311-32-060, for a primary residence classification. Motion seconded by Chairman Irwin, passed unanimously.

Dale Owens, APNs: 311-47-011E/610-99-017

County Administrator Field stated that the property owner's trailer is used for storage on one piece of property; and the other piece of property missed the deadline for the reclassification intent notice sent by the Assessor's office.

Chief Deputy Assessor Jones stated that the reclassification on APN: 311-47-011E was required since the notice was not returned before the deadline; however, the Assessor's office recommended approval of the appeal to classify the property as a primary resident. She recommended denial of the APN: 610-99-017 property since it is not a primary residence.

A brief discussion ensued on the usage of the mobile home and the options open to the property owner to use it as "garage storage" if the properties were affixed.

SUPERVISOR WILSON MOVED to deny the 2015 residential classification appeal for Dale Owens on APN: 610-99-017 for the storage trailer; and approve the appeal for APN: 311-47-011E, and to classify property as a primary residence. Motion seconded by Supervisor Clapperton, passed unanimously.

Jorge and Dora Medrano, APN: 308-09-072F

County Administrator Field stated the intent to reclassify form was not returned by the property owner; therefore, the property was reclassified other than a primary residence. He added the property owner provided a copy of their Arizona driver's license.

Deputy Chief Assessor Jones stated that the Assessor's office determined that this property is the primary resident of the appellant.

CHAIRMAN IRWIN MOVED to grant approval to the 2015 residential classification appeal by Jorge and Dora Medrano, APN: 308-09-072F for a primary residence classification. Motion seconded by Supervisor Wilson, passed unanimously.

Donald W. Breaux, APN: 311-48-058A

County Administrator Field stated the property owner had provided an appeal to the reclassification; however, this was confusing since he indicated the property was rented out to "other than a qualified family member."

A brief discussion ensued noting that there were two mobile homes affixed to the property, one was rented out and the other was the property owner's residence; however, it was unclear which one it was.

Chief Deputy Assessor Jones stated that she would attempt to call the property owner to find out which mobile home was his residence, and temporarily left the meeting to do so.

Chairman Irwin stated that the meeting would go on to the "Call to the Public" portion of the meeting.

Call to the Public

Patrick Jones stated that he received a phone call from the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) and discussed use of the Bill Williams North-west road entrance, affirming that he had a right to use the road. He claimed that Fish and Wildlife had contacted BLM reporting that he was accessing the area.

A brief discussion ensued noting that Chief Deputy Assessor Jones had returned to the meeting to finalize the discussion on the Donald Breaux residential classification appeal.

Donald W. Breaux, APN: 311-48-058A

Chief Deputy Assessor Jones stated that Mr. Breaux lives in the double-wide mobile home unit on the property; therefore, would be classified as a Class 3, and the rental unit as a Class 4.

SUPERVISOR WILSON MOVED to grant approval to the 2015 residential classification appeal for Donald W. Breaux, APN: 311-48-058A, noting that the double wide mobile home is to be classified as the primary residence and the other mobile home unit as a rental unit. Motion seconded by Chairman Irwin, passed unanimously.

Call To the Public

Ric Johnson, reporting on what is currently referred to as "The Green Hole Project", stated that it was necessary for a meeting with the press and all interested parties regarding "good, clean water supplies". He mentioned principle people interested in the project that have consented to attend such a meeting. He encouraged the Board of Supervisor to attend the meeting.

He mentioned the importance of obtaining aerial photos of the area for site locations, and a source from which he could accomplish this; as well as his future plans in furthering his project. He brought DVDs to the Board regarding high profile dives and the promise of other documents for the Board to consider as examples of the state of the art technology that will be used on this project, and asked that this topic be on a future meeting agenda with the inclusion of those interested in The Green Hole Project, such as Pirate's Den and the Emerald Canyon Golf Course.

La Paz County Board of Supervisors
Tuesday, January 20, 2015, 10:00 a.m. Regular Meeting

Simplot Partners \$5,190.87; #11114625, State Bar of Arizona \$2,135.00; #11114626, Strategic Management Group \$12,500.00; #11114627, Sudden Link \$2,573.93; #11114630, Sysco Food Services \$2,276.88; #11114631, Tasc Inc. \$1,581.00; #11114632, Tiger Direct \$3,259.10; #11114642, Waxie Sanitary Supply, \$1,198.55; #11114644, West Payment Center \$2,984.23; #11114651, APS \$8,601.83; #11114653, Atkins North America, Inc. \$13,202.40; #11114654, AZ Counties Insurance Pool \$5,754.01; #11114655, AZ Dept. of Revenue \$11,139.99; #11114673, CSI USA Distribution/Smyth Sys. \$1,338.75; #11114690, Hermosa Veterinary Clinic \$1,357.87; #11114698, Klopfenstein MD, Kevin \$1,745.00; #11114703, Local Pages (The) \$1,285.20; #11114704, Lowe's \$2,048.75; #11114708, Parker Auto & Marine \$1,265.36; #11114718, Pitney Bowes \$2,380.36; #11114729, Roger W. Heckel \$1,678.20; #11114733, Salome Justice Court \$1,617.14; #11114736, Shamrock Food Co. \$3,907.36; #11114744, Standard Insurance \$11,144.70; #11114752, Tires@wholesale \$2,347.62; #11114755, U.S. Foodservice, Inc. \$1,908.28; #11114757, Verizon Wireless \$2,927.64; #11114758, Walker & Armstrong \$19,875.00; #11114761, Western States Petroleum \$1,424.75.