

**MINUTES
OF THE
LA PAZ COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
Monday, February 7, 2022, 10:00 a.m.
Regular Meeting**

Chairman Minor called the February 7, 2022, 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 Duce Minor, Vice-Chairman Holly Irwin, Supervisor David Plunkett, County Administrator Megan Spielman, Chief Deputy County Attorney Ryan Dooley, Assessor Anna Camacho, IT Tech Joey Lucas, Parks Director Curt Bagby, Superior Court Clerk Holly Lucas, Public Works Director Don Braska and Clerk of the Board Diane Green.

Chairman Minor led the Pledge of Allegiance followed by the Invocation given by Pastor Jose Garcia of the Parker Apostolic Church.

Call to the Public: This is the time for the public to comment for a limit of three (3) minutes per person. 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

Judi May requested that, since the approval to consolidate the justice courts, that the one court in La Paz should be located in Quartzsite.

Melissa Newton, with the Parker Regional Chamber of Commerce and Tourism, stated that La Paz County is very much represented by ads taken out in the Arizona Official State Travel Guide. She noted a number of activities that will be occurring in the coming months. She is looking forward to getting Parker certified as an Arizona Office of Tourism Visitor Center.

County Administrator and/or County Supervisor's Current Event Summary: The County Administrator or Board Member may present a brief summary of current events summarizing recent occurrences without any discussion or feedback from the remainder of the board. The Board will not propose, discuss, deliberate or take legal action on any matter mentioned in the summary unless the specific matter is already properly noticed for legal action, and then only at such time as that matter comes

before the board itself pursuant to its meeting agenda. A.R.S. § 38-431.02(K)

County Administrator Spielman stated that since the County has approved consolidating the justice courts, she is working closely with presiding Judge Quickle, town managers, the magistrate judges, the supreme court and one justice court judge in Santa Cruz County that absorbed a court, to map out next steps. She has several meetings set up for guidance.

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

- a. **Approve the Appointment of Justice Court Pro Tempore Judges Paul Julien, Lawrence King, James Putz-Artrup, Pam Shirley, Larry Kubacki, Jasmine Salazar, Jewel Elam, Ashli Ruvo and Diane Jones-Zakrajsek as Pro Tempore Justices of the Peace for all Justice Courts in La Paz County, from January 1, 2022, through December 31, 2022, without compensation - *Superior Court***

Approve the appointment of Justice Court Pro Tempore Judges Paul Julien, Lawrence King, James Putz-Artrup, Pam Shirley, Larry Kubacki, Jasmine Salazar, Jewel Elam, Ashli Ruvo and Diane Jones-Zakrajsek as Pro Tempore Justices of the Peace for all Justice Courts in La Paz County, from January 1, 2022, through December 31, 2022, without compensation.

- b. **Approve to create a new position, job description and pay scale for a Senior Accounting/Payroll Clerk under the Finance Department - *Human Resources***

Approved to create a new position, job description and pay scale for a Senior Accounting/Payroll Clerk under the Finance Department.

- c. **Approve to appoint the position of Senior Accounting/Payroll Clerk, a vacant and budgeted position - *Finance***

Approve to appoint Trish McTarsney to the position of Senior Accounting/Payroll Clerk, effective February 14, 2022, at an annual salary of \$48,110.40 (NE003, Step 8), a vacant and budgeted position.

- d. **Approve to appoint the position of Accounting Clerk, a vacant and budgeted position - *Finance***

Approve to appoint Guadalupe Balderrama to the position of Accounting Clerk, effective February 14, 2022, at an annual salary of \$31,220.80, (NE003, Step 8); a vacant and budgeted position.

- e. **Approve to promote Valuation Coordinator II to the position of Chief Appraiser - *Assessor*.**

Approve to promote Elizabeth Dawn Capotosti, Valuation Coordinator II, to the position of Chief Appraiser, effective February 14, 2022, at an annual salary of \$47,235.05 (E053, Step 3), reallocating funding in the amount of \$56,150, from the Chief Deputy position, which will remain vacant.

- f. **Approve to promote Probation Pre-Trial Officer to the position of Juvenile Probation Officer, a vacant and budgeted position - *Probation***

Approve to promote Christina Hernandez, Probation Pre-Trial Officer, to the position of Juvenile Probation Officer, effective February 13, 2022, at an annual salary of \$47,216 (NE084, Step 7), a vacant and budgeted position.

- g. **Approve to appoint the position of Public Information Officer; a vacant and 100% Grant funded position through Arizona Department of Health Services - *Health***

Approve to appoint Kelsey Thurman to the position of Public Information Officer, effective February 8, 2022, at an annual salary of \$41,870, a vacant and 100% grant-funded position through the Arizona Department of Health Services.

- h. **Approve to create a new Job Description and Pay Plan for the position of Public Health School Counselor for the Health Department - *Human Resources***

Approve to create a new Job Description and Pay Plan for the position of Public Health School Counselor for the Health Department, effective February 8, 2022.

- i. **Approve Arizona Department of Environmental Quality/AZSERC 2021-2022 Hazardous Materials Preparedness Grant Program (HMEP) Award in the total amount of \$8,500.00, 100% grant funded, from October 1, 2021, to September 30, 2022; to be used for Hazardous Material planning, exercises, and training - *Emergency Services***

Approve Arizona Department of Environmental Quality/AZSERC 2021-2022 Hazardous Materials Preparedness Grant Program (HMEP) Award in the total amount of \$8,500.00, 100% grant funded, from October 1, 2021, to September 30, 2022; to be used for Hazardous Material planning, exercises, and training.

- j. **Approve 2021 Homeland Security Grant Program Award and Subrecipient Agreement # 210503-01, in the amount of \$8,970; from October 1, 2021, to September 30, 2022, 100% grant funded to procure two handheld radios that will enhance Emergency Management communications with first responders and other external response partners - *Emergency Services***

Approve 2021 Homeland Security Grant Program Award and Subrecipient Agreement # 210503-01, in the amount of \$8,970; from October 1, 2021, to September 30, 2022, 100% grant funded to procure two handheld radios that will enhance Emergency Management communications with first responders and other external response partners.

- k. **Approve to accept a grant award from the Arizona Governor's Office of Highway Safety, DUI Abatement Grant award contract number DUIAC-E-164, in the amount of \$10,569.60, a reimbursement grant for overtime in the enforcement of DUI Laws in the County - *Sheriff***

Approve to accept a grant award from the Arizona Governor's Office of Highway Safety, DUI Abatement Grant award contract number DUIAC-E-164, in the amount of \$10,569.60, a reimbursement grant for overtime in the enforcement of DUI Laws in the County.

- l. **Approve Docket No. Z2022-001, Property owner(s) Bart Wolterman; requesting approval of a rezone from Recreational Vehicle Park (RVP) to Manufactured Home Park (MHP) AND Residential- moderate density (R-3) for APN(s) 310-24-001A; to bring the parcel into compliance for manufactured homes and duplexes; with the stipulation by the Planning and Zoning Commission that a 207 Waiver be submitted by the parcel owner; and approved by a unanimous vote (5-0), on 01/06/2022 -*Community Development***

Approve Docket No. Z2022-001, Property owner(s) Bart Wolterman; for a rezone from Recreational Vehicle Park (RVP) to Manufactured Home Park (MHP) AND Residential- moderate density (R-3) for APN(s) 310-24-001A; to bring the parcel into compliance for manufactured homes and duplexes; with the stipulation by the Planning and Zoning Commission that a 207 Waiver be submitted by the parcel owner; and approved by a unanimous vote (5-0), on 01/06/2022.

- m. **Approve Docket No. Z2022-002, Parcel owner(s) La Paz County, requesting approval of a rezone from Rural Agricultural (RA) to Public Utility (PU) for the entire 5,889.18 acres of APN 303-76-001B; which will supersede Rezone Z2020-008, which previously rezoned only 1500 acres of said parcel; by unanimous vote (5-0) of the Planning & Zoning Commission at their 01/06/2022 meeting - *Community Development***

Approve Docket No. Z2022-002, Parcel owner(s) La Paz County, requesting approval of a rezone from Rural Agricultural (RA) to Public Utility (PU) for the entire 5,889.18 acres of APN 303-76-001B; which will supersede Rezone Z2020-008, which previously rezoned only 1500 acres of said parcel; by unanimous vote (5-0) of the Planning & Zoning Commission at their 01/06/2022 meeting.

VICE-CHAIRMAN IRWIN MOVED to approve Consent Agenda Items #5(a) through #5(m). Motion seconded by Supervisor Plunkett, passed unanimously, including the vote by Chairman Minor.

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

Discussion and possible action to adopt Resolution No. 2022-02, to support the application to the Arizona State Board on Geographic and Historical Names to name Interstate 10 from Mile Marker 71 to the Arizona/California border "La Paz County Sheriff's Sergeant Michael Rudd Memorial Highway" - Board of Supervisors

Chairman Minor stated, in view of the loss of Sergeant Rudd in October, he felt it appropriate to submit an application for the naming of Interstate 10 from Mile Marker 71 to the Arizona/California border "La Paz County Sheriff's Sergeant Michael Rudd Memorial Highway" along with a resolution for the Board to adopt for this action.

He read the resolution in its entirety, adding that Mrs. Rudd was supportive and appreciative of the proposal.

SUPERVISOR PLUNKETT MOVED to adopt Resolution No. 2022-02, to support the application to the Arizona State Board on Geographic and Historical Names to name Interstate 10 from Mile Marker 71 to the Arizona/California border "La Paz County Sheriff's Sergeant Michael Rudd Memorial Highway". Motion seconded by Vice-Chairman Irwin, passed unanimously, including the vote by Chairman Minor.

Discussion and possible action to approve a three-year contract with Frontier to install broadband internet at La Paz County Park (Upriver) and to provide internet service - Parks

Parks Director Bagby requested approval of a service contract with Frontier to install broadband internet for the purpose of providing wifi service to guests in the Park as well as bring them up to date with better technology in the operation of the parks.

He explained that it would run \$1,900 per month for the service and he is having a

trench dug for the installation of the fiber at a "good cost", which will ultimately be a cheaper and a more reliable form of wifi. He added that Frontier assured him that one "gig" of broadband would be adequate to service all the park's needs.

Discussion ensued, noting that, although this item is not a budgeted item, the park is classified as an "enterprise" and generates its own revenues for its operations at approximately \$300,000 annually, and is not general fund dependent.

Further discussion ensued concerning the need to increase rates, which has not been done in a considerable amount of time, particularly in view of the improvements that have been made in the past year and will be made in the coming months.

VICE-CHAIRMAN IRWIN MOVED to approve a three-year contract with Frontier to install broadband internet at La Paz County Park (Upriver) and to provide internet service, authorizing the Chairman or his designee to sign. Motion seconded by Chairman Minor, passed unanimously, including the vote by Supervisor Plunkett.

Discussion and possible action for the La Paz County Board of Supervisors to take an official position and to provide comments regarding the Western Area Power Administration (WAPA) Draft Environmental Assessment for the Bouse Upgrade Project - *Board of Supervisors*

Chairman Minor explained that the Western Area Power Administration (WAPA) was accepting comments regarding their proposal regarding their Bouse Upgrade Project. He stated that the WAPA poles have substantially outlived their life expectancy and when they offered a plan to replace them, he was not happy since it did not help the aesthetics in the area. He stated that Congressman Gosar at the time suggested that the County offer their own plan, and Supervisor D. L. Wilson drafted a plan; and now, a couple of years later, WAPA is planning a very similar plan to what the county proposed, by relocating the power lines away from the river area.

Chairman Minor stated that comments about the proposal are being accepted this week and a draft response preferring the "Jumper 7" option for the Bouse Upgrade is being supported in the County's response. He added that Mr. Wilson was present to answer any questions regarding the proposal.

CHAIRMAN MINOR MOVED to take an official position and to provide comments regarding the Western Area Power Administration (WAPA) Draft Environmental Assessment for the Bouse Upgrade Project, as presented (choosing Jumper 7 option). Motion seconded by Supervisor Plunkett, passed unanimously, including the vote by Vice-Chairman Irwin.

Discussion and possible action to go into Executive Session pursuant to A.R.S. §38-431.03(A)(3) to consult with the attorney(s) of the public body regarding code compliance issues in the County - *County Attorney*

CHAIRMAN MINOR MOVED to go into Executive Session pursuant to A.R.S. §38-431.03(A)(3) to consult with the attorney(s) of the public body regarding code compliance issues in the County. Motion seconded by Supervisor Plunkett.

Vice-Chairman Irwin asked why there was a need to go into executive session.

Supervisor Plunkett answered that the statute provides the Board with the ability to go into executive session, and has done so before for the purpose of obtaining legal advice on specific occasions.

MOTION PASSED unanimously, including the vote by Vice-Chairman Irwin.

Convened into Executive Session: 10:38 a.m.

Reconvene into Open Meeting: 12:34 p.m.

Approve to authorize the public body's attorney(s) and/or staff to take action as instructed in executive session - *Board of Supervisors*

VICE-CHAIRMAN IRWIN MOVED to authorize the public body's attorney(s) and/or staff to take action as instructed in executive session. Motion seconded by Supervisor Plunkett, passed unanimously, including the vote by Chairman Minor.

Adjournment

Chairman Minor adjourned the meeting at 12:41 a.m.

APPROVED:

ATTEST:

Duce Minor, Chairman

Diane Green, Clerk of the Board