

GREENLEE COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
CLIFTON, ARIZONA

March 24, 2014

The Greenlee County Board of Supervisors met on this date in regular session in the Board Meeting Room, 2nd floor Courthouse Annex, Clifton, Arizona, with the following members present: David Gomez, Chairman; Ron Campbell, Member; and Robert Corbell, Member. Also present were Deborah K. Gale, County Administrator, and Yvonne Pearson, Clerk of the Board.

Chairman Gomez called the meeting or order at 10:00 a.m. and Supervisor Campbell led those present in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Tom Powers, Greenlee County School Superintendent, responded to the Call to the Public and updated the Board on the results of the Recall Election of the Clifton School Board members. He stated that the election was held on March 11th and that the election was canvassed on March 18th. Christine Hancock won the seat from Adam Chacon and Betty Swesey won the seat from Reynaldo Tavison. He added that the first meeting of the newly elected school board members will be held today at 5:00 p.m. All three board members will have to run for election in November. Mr. Powers thanked the Greenlee County Elections staff for their hard work.

The Board of Supervisors convened as the Board of Directors of the Greenlee County Public Health Services District and upon motion by Supervisor Campbell, seconded by Supervisor Corbell, and carried unanimously, the Board approved the Public Health Services District Consent Agenda as follows:

1. Clerk of the Board: Approval of Public Health Services District expense warrants in excess of \$1,000.00

The Board reconvened into regular session.

Dean Lunt, county resident and farmer, approached the Board of Supervisors and requested any help or suggestions they could offer regarding water supply issues he and Ray Tyler, county resident and farmer, are facing. They are affected by the redrawing of water impact zones which has taken away their ability to draw water from specific wells on their properties. They have requested help from the Arizona Attorney General Tom Horn who suggested that they start with the Board of Supervisors. Derek Rapier, County Attorney, suggested that, with the Board's direction, he contact the Attorney General, the attorney for the Franklin Irrigation District and Mr. Tyler's attorney to find out how they suggest that the county can help legally. Ms. Gale added that sources through the National Association of Counties Rural & Agriculture Affairs Committee may be able to provide some additional information. The Board agreed that a letter to the individuals suggested by Mr. Rapier be contacted.

Philip Ronnerud, County Engineer, requested approval of the Intergovernmental Agreement with the Arizona Department of Transportation for load testing of five (5) County bridges in an amount not to exceed \$32,000.00 matching funds to be paid with budgeted Road Funds. He stated that one bridge on Ward Canyon Road and four bridges on the Black Hills Byway are in the plan for load testing. Upon motion by Supervisor Campbell, seconded by Supervisor Corbell, and carried unanimously, the Board approved the request as presented.

Steve Rutherford, Emergency Management Coordinator, requested approval of Guthrie Tower structural modifications in an amount not to exceed \$50,000.00 to be paid with budgeted Capital Improvement Funds. The cost of the modifications will be reimbursed to the county by AT&T as part of the contract for use of the tower. Upon motion by Supervisor Campbell, seconded by Supervisor Corbell, and carried unanimously, the Board approved the request as presented in an amount not to exceed \$48,122.52 with budgeted Capital Improvement Funds to be reimbursed by AT&T.

Upon motion by Supervisor Campbell, seconded by Supervisor Corbell, and carried unanimously, the Board adopted Resolution 14-03-01 – A Resolution of the Greenlee County Board of Supervisors, urging the U.S. Congress and the U.S. Forest Service to take meaningful steps to provide increased financial support to Arizona’s local forests, particularly the Apache-Sitgreaves National Forests. Supervisor Corbell stated that he would like to have some wording regarding ranching maintenance of livestock to maintain welfare of the rancher.

RESOLUTION 14-03-01

**A RESOLUTION OF THE GREENLEE COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS,
URGING THE U.S. CONGRESS AND THE U.S. FOREST SERVICE TO TAKE
MEANINGFUL STEPS TO PROVIDE INCREASED FINANCIAL SUPPORT TO
ARIZONA’S LOCAL FORESTS, PARTICULARLY THE APACHE-SITGREAVES
NATIONAL FORESTS**

WHEREAS, America’s national forests have their origins in legislation adopted by Congress in the late 19th century that provided that any new “forest reserves” would have to meet the criteria of forest protection, watershed protection, and timber production; and

WHEREAS, for decades, national forests were an environmental, recreational, and economic asset for neighboring communities, providing forest products for a thriving timber industry, recreation for families, and environmental awareness for conservationists; and

WHEREAS, beginning in the 1980s and 1990s, environmental groups sued the U.S. Forest Service to halt timber sales, claiming that the sales threatened the habitat of the

Mexican Spotted Owl and other species, which resulted in Arizona's once-thriving timber industry to be starved of its source of wood product; and

WHEREAS, the elimination of Arizona's timber industry, along with additional lawsuits from environmental groups and federal mismanagement, led to a dramatic increase in tree density throughout Arizona's national forest and, coupled with severe drought conditions, gave rise to wildfires on a scale never seen before in the state's history; and

WHEREAS, the six largest wildfires in Arizona history – the Rodeo-Chediski Fire (which burned 460,000 acres), the Aspen Fire (84,750 acres), the Willow Fire (119,500 acres), the Cave Creek Fire (243,950 acres), the Wallow Fire (537,900 acres), and the Horseshoe 2 Fire (222,954 acres) – have all occurred in the last twelve years; and

WHEREAS, prior to 1990, the largest wildfire in state history was the Carrizo Fire, which burned 57,000 acres in 1971; and

WHEREAS, following the Rodeo-Chediski Fire, a consensus emerged among forest stakeholders that the growing size and frequency of wildfires demanded a new approach to forest management that must include partnerships and investment with private industry to aggressively thin Arizona's national forests at landscape scales, which resulted in the formation of the White Mountain Stewardship Contract; and

WHEREAS, the White Mountain Stewardship Contract – supported by the broad range of stakeholders, including environmental groups, experts in academia, local governments, and the timber industry – has succeeded in creating businesses, jobs, and other stewardship initiatives to reintroduce industry to Arizona's forests, which are needed to perform the restoration work at or near-zero cost to the government; and

WHEREAS, the White Mountain Stewardship Contract led to industries investing millions of dollars in infrastructure to harvest and utilize forest restoration projects which, in turn, reduced the cost to the federal government for forest restoration treatments; and

WHEREAS, although the White Mountain Stewardship Contract will be completed in August 2014, treatments must continue in Arizona's national forests, and the region's forest industries need a reliable and steady wood supply to sustain the investment and maintain the jobs created in the last nine years; and

WHEREAS, these stakeholders agree that the U.S. Forest Service must commit the resources and reforms necessary to implement landscape-scale forest thinning and to provide harvest-ready acres on a consistent basis for existing and emerging industry in Arizona; and

WHEREAS, the Greenlee County Board of Supervisors place the highest importance on the issues of forest management and the use of appropriately scaled industry to

preserve the safety of our communities, the health of our forests, and the strength of our economy.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Greenlee County Board of Supervisors, to respectfully request that members of the Arizona Congressional delegation, the Secretary of the Agriculture, and the Chief of the Forest Service to take meaningful steps to provide increased financial support to Arizona' local forest, particularly the Apache-Sitgreaves National Forests, to keep existing industry supplied with enough treatable acres, and to collaboratively move forward with forest stakeholders on major forest thinning project to allow the industry that has committed to forest restoration in the past to continue to survive and thrive in the future.

PASSED AND ADOPTED this 24th day of March 2014, by the Greenlee County Board of Supervisors.

APPROVED: /s/ David Gomez, Chairman

ATTEST: /s/ Yvonne Pearson, Clerk of the Board

Ms. Gale reviewed the new healthcare plans for employees and stated that premiums will increase 2.15% for single coverage and 2.29% for family coverage. The Board directed Ms. Gale that the county will pick up the difference in premium meaning that county employees will not see an increase in premiums.

Ms. Gale reported the following:

- A. The appointment of a Building Code Advisory Committee is needed as a part of the process for implementing Building Codes and the Board needs to consider recommendations for person to be appointed at a future meeting. Mr. Ronnerud recommended a five member committee.
- B. The Senate has passed a budget which includes the continuation of out of county tuition appropriation for Greenlee County and a partial restoration of Highway User Revenue Funding (HURF).
- C. The Calendar of Events was reviewed.

Upon motion by Supervisor Campbell, seconded by Supervisor Corbell, and carried unanimously, the Board tabled item (A) of the Consent Agenda and approved the remaining items as follows:

- B. Clerk of The Board: Approval of expense warrants in excess of \$1,000.00 – Vouchers 1056; 1057; 1059; 1060; And 1061
- C. Chief Finance Officer: Approval of General Fund loans in the amount of \$635,551.77 to be reimbursed upon receipt of funds: Fund 139 - \$904.00; Fund 146 - \$376.64; Fund 152 - \$992.15; Fund 222 - \$169,113.91; Fund 239 - \$464,165.07

- D. Justice of the Peace, District #1: Approval of Payroll Change Notice – M. Panetelli, full-time Justice Court Clerk
- E. Superior Court Clerk: Approval of Payroll Change Notice – L. Stacy, part-time Deputy Court Clerk; P. Campos, temporary part-time Deputy Court Clerk
- F. Clerk of the Board: Approval of the Fiscal Year 2015 Annual Work and Financial Plan with the U.S. Department of Agriculture for the period of July 1, 2014 to June 30, 2015
- G. County Community Services Director: Approval of the purchase of four (4) portable radios and one (1) base radio station in an amount of \$5,527.45 to be paid with budgeted Bioterrorism Funds

Supervisor Gomez reported the following:

- A. He attended the Eastern Arizona Organizations (ECO) meeting where discussion took place regarding the following: the ECO financial report was reviewed; Four Forest Restoration Initiative (4FRI) issues; Mexican Wolf issues.
- B. He attended the Arizona Small Counties Forum meeting where Senators and Representatives were in attendance and gave their take on how the legislature is moving along including HURF and Payment in Lieu of Taxes (PILT).
- C. He attended the County Supervisors Association meeting where John Halikowski, Director, AZ Department of Commerce, talked about the 20 year transportation plan. Keith Watkins with the Arizona Commerce Authority also spoke about transportation and commerce.

Supervisor Corbell reported the following:

- A. He attended the Coalition of Arizona/New Mexico Counties meeting where new officers were elected as follows: Sylvia Allen, President; the Vice President is a Commissioner from New Mexico; and Karen Cowan, Secretary/Treasurer. Discussion also included the Mexican Gray Wolf.

The Board convened into Work Session regarding the Public Works Facility to be built in the Airport area. Mr. Ronnerud presented information to the Board and answered questions regarding the runway security zones and the location of the Public Works Shop. It has been determined that the building can be built in the original location as previously determined.

There being no further business to come before the Board of Supervisors, the meeting was adjourned at 1:32 p.m.

APPROVED: /s/ David Gomez, Chairman

ATTEST: /s/ Yvonne Pearson
Clerk of the Board