

GREENLEE COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS  
CLIFTON, ARIZONA

August 5, 2013

The Greenlee County Board of Supervisors met on this date in regular session in the Board Meeting Room, 2<sup>nd</sup> 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 to order at 10:00 a.m. and Supervisor Campbell led those present in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Walter Mares, resident, responded to the Call to the Public stating that he remembers when in the mid to late 80's the county was hurting due to legislative action that changed the assessed valuation calculation and the county had to go to the state for bailouts/loans. The assessed valuation is a rollercoaster for which the county has no control and also has nothing to do with the Clifton Schools situation. He stated that county employees show real character and are good people.

The Board of Supervisors convened as the Board of Directors of the Greenlee County Public Health Services District.

Ron Pearson, Public Works Manager, requested approval to solicit bids for the purchase of one (1) 2014 Ambulance for the Greenlee County Ambulance Service. He stated that the new ambulance will replace a 2002 Ford Ambulance that has 298,483 miles on it. Upon motion by Supervisor Campbell, seconded by Supervisor Corbell, and carried unanimously, the Board approved the request as presented.

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

1. Clerk of the Board: Approval of Flood Control District expense warrants in excess of \$1,000.00

The Board reconvened into regular session.

Tammy (Tamara) McWhinney, resident, presented the Board with Clifton School Closure petitions stating that the petitions were circulated to make a point that the citizens within the Clifton School District want closure of the Clifton Schools. She stated that she has been in contact with state officials regarding Arizona Revised Statute 15-429 which puts no limit on small schools on spending. She urged everyone present to contact the legislature to change this law. She will be sending a copy of the petitions to state officials, legislative representation, and local elected officials.

Buryl Short, resident, requested to speak to this item and stated that he believes that statutes say that the Board of Supervisors can do something about the school tax rate. County Attorney, Derek Rapiere, responded that the sections of law that Mr. Short is referencing is not what Clifton School District is engaged in. The School District set their budget based on the provision of the law that allows small school districts to set levy limits far in excess of other levy limits. The section being referred to is used when there is an unexpected increase in the number of students and there is a need to revise the budget upward to accommodate for unexpected student count. This is different from the school setting a rate in excess of the levy limit.

Ms. Gale presented a power point slide presentation on the fiscal year 2013-14 Greenlee County Budget, reviewing the following:

- The process of arriving to the adopted tentative budget adopted on July 2<sup>nd</sup> and to the present proposed final budget.
- General Fund is \$10,619,841 which reflects a 3.78% increase
- Total budget is \$20,190,941 which reflects a 6.97% total increase
- Because of a recent drop in assessed value from the February 10<sup>th</sup> figures, based on information she has received from the County Assessor, she is recommending a primary property tax rate of \$0.7350 instead of the previously calculated rate of \$0.74 to avoid over-collecting.
- Assessed value is \$335,715,128 reflecting a decrease of \$40,950,694
- A proposed increase in the primary property tax rate from \$0.6213 to \$0.7350 (\$0.0082 under maximum)
- Public Health Services District tax rate increase from \$0.1850 to \$0.2081 to maintain the same levy amount as last year.
- Flood Control District tax rate increase from \$0.1426 to \$0.1647 to maintain the same levy amount as last year.
- Estimated revenues and revenue streams
- Estimated expenditure
- The Capital Improvement Plan

Upon motion by Supervisor Campbell, seconded by Robert Corbell, and carried unanimously, the Board convened into Public Hearing pursuant to Arizona Revised Statute 42-17104 – budget and truth in taxation hearing.

Linda Mahan, resident, showed a stack of petitions she circulated and stated that she had 533 signatures from people in opposition to the property tax increase. She stated that she believes there are areas in the budget that can be reduced.

Frank Fowler, resident, stated that the budget should be reconsidered, that there are plenty of places to cut. He stated that travel should be cut and stop paying for vacations and vehicles should stop being taken home. He stated he is for raises for lower employees but not others.

Tonya Williams, resident, complimented Ms. Gale on the budget presentation and stated that she does an excellent job. She stated that she was there to defend senior citizens who cannot afford to pay higher taxes and expressed her opposition to a tax increase.

Chris Stauffer, resident, expressed his concerns that the county has new equipment but that it takes longer to do work on his road (Bitter Creek). He also stated that having contracts with Empire Machinery to maintain the equipment is not cost effective.

James Adams, resident, stated that his income stays steady with no raises and that he is against a tax increase.

Sheriff Larry Avila explained his budget requests and explained the need for an additional investigator position.

Chairman Gomez stated that the Board has no control over the increase in Clifton School District tax rate from \$3.18 to \$6.19. He explain that the property tax increase by the county is \$0.11 amounting to \$11 on a \$100,000 home – less than a dollar a month for the county to provide all the services that the county currently and will continue to provide to the citizens.

Supervisor Campbell commented that the fluctuation in tax rates is due to the valuation of the mine. As value goes up, taxes decrease and if value decreases then tax rates increase.

Upon motion by Supervisor Campbell, seconded by Supervisor Corbell, and carried unanimously, the Board reconvened into regular session.

Supervisor Corbell commented that he has talked to several citizens explaining that we may need to impose a transportation tax if there isn't enough money to maintain roads and that doing away with the ambulance service is not feasible due to the cost to have it operated privately. That maybe another cut out of the budget would be the courtesy grading of roads. He stated that the bottom line was that he does not have the support

of his people to support any kind of an increase in taxes even though he believes it is needed and cannot support anything above \$0.62.

Chairman Gomez pointed out that Supervisor Corbell had previously approved the adoption of the Tentative Budget which included the tax increase.

Supervisor Campbell commented that he has had discussion with the people in his district even as late as before coming to this meeting and that they all understand the valuation rollercoaster and want the continued services provided by the county.

Chairman Gomez stated that his decision is based on the need to continue being able to provide the same level of services for all citizens of the county.

Supervisor Campbell moved to set the Fiscal Year 2013-14 Greenlee County Primary Property Tax Rate at \$0.7350 per \$100 of assessed value. Supervisor Corbell seconded the motion for discussion and stated that he could not approve a tax increase. Chairman Gomez called for a roll call vote with Supervisor Campbell voting aye, Supervisor Corbell voting nay, and Chairman Gomez voting aye. The motion passed 2 to 1.

Supervisor Campbell moved for the adoption of the fiscal year 2013-14 Greenlee County budget as follows: General Fund budget in the amount of \$10,619,841 and the Total Budget in the amount of \$20,190,941. This includes the Flood Control Budget in the amount of \$174,000 and the Public Health Services District Budget in the amount of \$1,869,196. Supervisor Corbell seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

**RESOLUTION FOR THE ADOPTION OF THE FINAL BUDGET  
FISCAL YEAR 2013-2014**

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WHEREAS, in accordance with the provisions of Title 42 Chapter 17, Articles 1-5, Arizona Revised Statutes (A.R.S.), the Board of Supervisors did on July 3, 2013, make an estimate of the different amounts required to meet the public expenditures for the ensuing year, also an estimate of revenues from sources other than direct taxation, and the amount to be raised by taxation upon real and personal property of Greenlee County, and

WHEREAS, in accordance with said chapter of said title, and following due public notice, the Board met on August 5, 2013, at which meeting any taxpayer was privileged to appear and be heard in favor of or against any of the proposed expenditures or tax levies, and

WHEREAS, it appears that publication has been duly made as required by law, of said estimates together with a notice that the Board will meet on August 19, 2013, at the Office of the Board for the purpose of hearing taxpayers and making tax levies as set forth in said estimates, and

WHEREAS, it appears that the sums to be raised by taxation, as specified therein, do not in the aggregate amount exceed that amount as computed in A.R.S. §42-17051(A);

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the said estimates of revenue and expenditures/expenses shown on the accompanying schedules as now increased, reduced or changed, are hereby adopted as the final budget of Greenlee County for the Fiscal Year 2013-2014.

PASSED AND ADOPTED BY THE GREENLEE COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS, THIS 5<sup>TH</sup> DAY OF AUGUST, 2013.

APPROVED: /s/ David Gomez, Chairman

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

Karen Soohy, County Librarian, presented the Annual Greenlee County Library System report as follows:

- Grants – the library system received three grants including the State Grants-in-Aid in the amount of \$23,000 reflecting approximately 43% of the library budget; E-Reader grant in the amount of \$1500 making e-readers available to patrons who are interested; and State Grants-in-Aid Construction in the amount of \$3000 for ceiling repair at the Clifton Library.
- She explained the several partnerships that exist making the library system successful
- 83 total meetings were held at the libraries with 382 people attending
- 91 programs were offered resulting in 192 adults participating, and 2300 children attending more than 99 reading programs
- She reviewed stats for circulation, monthly users, and computer usage
- The library webpage had 3,016 visits, 7,237 page views, with 40.3% new visits. Visits include foreign countries of India, Canada, Australia, and more.

The Board thanked Ms. Soohy for her hard work and dedication. Ms. Gale expressed her appreciation for the great job Ms. Soohy is doing in making the Library System a success.

Upon motion by Supervisor Campbell, seconded by Supervisor Corbell, and carried unanimously, the Board approved the request by Ms. Soohy to apply for the fiscal year

2013-14 Library State Grants-in-Aid in the amount of \$23,000.00 requiring matching funds.

Ron Pearson, Public Works Manager, requested approval to advertise internally to promote a Public Works Operations Tech III Position to an Operations Tech IV Position in the Roads Division. Upon motion by Supervisor Campbell, seconded by Supervisor Corbell, and carried unanimously, the Board approved the request as presented.

Mr. Pearson requested approval to advertise internally to promote a Public Works Operations Tech II Position to an Operations Tech III Position in the Fleet Division. Upon motion by Supervisor Campbell, seconded by Supervisor Corbell, and carried unanimously, the Board approved the request as presented.

Mr. Pearson requested approval to go forward with the Secure Rural Schools Title II Joint Greenlee County & Forest Service Project to blast and remove a hazardous rock point on a narrow blind road corner on Blue Road in the reimbursable amount of \$31,000.00. Upon motion by Supervisor Campbell, seconded by Supervisor Corbell, and carried unanimously, the Board approved the request as presented.

Philip Ronnerud, County Engineer, requested approval of the Consultant Agreement with C&S Engineering for design services for drainage plans for the Airport in an amount not to exceed \$24,660.00 with budgeted Airport Funds. Upon motion by Supervisor Campbell, seconded by Supervisor Corbell, and carried unanimously, the Board approved the request as presented.

Upon motion by Supervisor Campbell, seconded by Supervisor Corbell, and carried unanimously, the Board adopted Proclamation 13-08-02 proclaiming August 2013 as Child Support Awareness Month.

#### **PROCLAMATION 13-08-02**

#### **\*CHILD SUPPORT AWARENESS MONTH\***

WHEREAS, children need responsible parents who are engaged at every stage of their child's development; and

WHEREAS, to be engaged, both parents must be involved in providing for a child's emotional and financial needs, and encourage their interests; and

WHEREAS, parent engagement helps form a healthy bond and contributes to a stronger productive state; and

WHEREAS, a parent can be actively and successfully engaged with their children regardless of marital status; and

WHEREAS, the Arizona Department of Economic Security, Division of Child Support Services, collaborates with the Office of the Attorney General, federal and state agencies, tribal governments, County Attorney Offices, County Clerks of the Court, local law enforcement agencies, employers, workforce programs, parenting programs, and other stakeholders in sustaining a stalwart community that assists parents in establishing a financial partnership to support their children; and

WHEREAS, both parent and child benefit when both parents are engaged at every stage.

NOW, THEREFORE, the Greenlee County Board of Supervisors, do hereby proclaim August 2013 as

**\*CHILD SUPPORT AWARENESS MONTH\***

PASSED, APPROVED AND ADOPTED this 5<sup>th</sup> day of August, 2013.

/s/ David Gomez, Chairman

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

Ms. Gale reported the following:

- She will be attending the County Managers Association meeting where the county managers will begin working on legislative proposals to be worked on at the County Supervisors Association Legislative Summit in October.

The Calendar of Events was reviewed.

Upon motion by Supervisor Campbell, seconded by Supervisor Corbell, and carried unanimously, the Board approved the Consent Agenda as follows:

- A. Clerk of the Board: Approval of minutes to previous meeting – 07/02/13
- B. Clerk of the Board: Approval of expense warrants in excess of \$1,000.00 – Voucher 1095; 1006
- C. Chief Finance Officer: Approval of General Fund loans in the amount of \$150,345.10 to be reimbursed upon receipt of funds: Fund 139 - \$873.46; Fund 145 - \$320.64; Fund 146 - \$110.54; Fund 152 - \$1,394.37; Fund 169 - \$522.41; Fund 219 - \$32,956.03; Fund 243 - \$9,854.64; Fund 222 - \$50,557.64; Fund 601 - \$53,755.34

- D. County Sheriff: Approval of Payroll Change Notice: J. Ratliff, full time Control Room Operator
- E. County Recorder: Approval of Electronic/Digital Recording Memorandum of Understanding with Nationwide Title Clearing (NTC), Inc. to electronically receive and transmit recorded documents in the County Recorder's Office
- F. Superior Court Judge: Approval of Contract for Provision of Indigent Representation for attorney Stephen Lundell
- G. Clerk of the Board: Approval of the fiscal year 2013-14 Appropriation of County Funds for the Greenlee County Cooperative Extension in the amount of \$22,307.00
- H. County Administrator: Approval of the Security Agreement and Promissory Note with Zions Credit Corp (National Bank of Arizona) for financing the purchase of the PTP Microwave Communications System in the amount of \$168,871.00 with budgeted Debt Service funds.

There being no further business to come before the Board of Supervisors, the meeting was adjourned at 12:53 p.m.

APPROVED: /s/ David Gomez, Chairman

ATTEST: /s/ Yvonne Pearson  
Clerk of the Board