

OFFICE OF BOARD OF SUPERVISORS  
YAVAPAI COUNTY, ARIZONA

Prescott, Arizona

July 26, 2000

The Board of Supervisors met in special session on July 26, 2000.

Present: Chip Davis, Chairman; Gheral Brownlow, Vice Chairman; Bev Staddon, Clerk.

Absent: John Olsen, Member, due to previously scheduled vacation.

Also present: Jim Holst, County Administrator; Dave Hunt, Board Attorney/Assistant County Administrator; Angelo Manera, Special Projects Coordinator.

ITEM NO. 1. Meet at new Yavapai County Fairgrounds.

1. Consider approving payment to the Yavapai County Fair Association in the amount of \$1,800,000 plus acceleration of FY 2001-2002 payment of \$250,000 and authorize Contingency transfer of \$250,000 (corresponding amount is scheduled to be received by the Fair Association in November, 2001). Yavapai County Fair Association General Manager Jim Grundy participated in discussion. Mr. Holst explained that acceleration of the fiscal year 2001-2002 payment of \$250,000 had come up after approval of the tentative budget, and for that reason he was requesting the transfer from Contingency. Chairman Davis noted that the County would actually be receiving an equal amount from the Fair Association, and Mr. Holst said that was correct. Mr. Holst explained that the Fair Association would be moving from its Fair Street location a year earlier than it had planned, and that this would allow the County to move forward with its plans for a new building sooner as well. He said that the Fair Association would still hold the lease on the "old" Fairgrounds through the 2001 racing season, and that next year Prescott Frontier Days would be able to lease the old Fairgrounds from the Fair Association at no cost for the Frontier Days Rodeo. There was additional brief discussion regarding the improvements on the old Fairgrounds site. Mr. Grundy told the Board that after this year's Fair and a minor event in October, the Fair Association would begin dismantling rail and other movable improvements and relocating them to the new Fairgrounds. He said he expected most of the property to be vacated by the first of the year, and that next year the Fair Association would be holding race events at the new Fairgrounds. Supervisor Brownlow moved to approve this request. Chairman Davis seconded the motion, which carried by unanimous vote of those present. No comments from the public.
2. Tour new Fairgrounds. The Board toured the new Fairgrounds site, viewing the clubhouse and grandstand, the race track, stalls and area set aside for an equestrian center.

ITEM NO. 2. Meet at Yavapai County Administrative Services Building. Hearing: Consider establishment of the Peebles Valley Fire District. This being the time and date scheduled for a hearing to consider the establishment of the Peebles Valley Fire District, Chairman Davis began by telling those present that state statutes provide that if sufficient signatures are obtained on petitions, the Board of Supervisors is required to establish the district. He asked Ms. Staddon to provide information regarding verification of the petitions. Ms. Staddon responded that the petitions had been verified by the Recorder's Office with respect to qualified electors and by the Assessor's Office with respect to property owners and assessed valuation. She said the results of those verification efforts were as follows: (1) The petitions had been signed by 52% of the property owners in the proposed district; (2) the property owners who signed the petitions represented 61% of the total assessed value of the proposed district; (3) the petitions had been signed by 52% of the qualified electors in the proposed district. District resident Jim Reese told the Board this appeared to be a done deal. He asked where Supervisor Olsen was on this day, and said that Supervisor

Olsen had told him and Mr. Thomson approximately six weeks ago that there was no way the Board of Supervisors was going to rubber-stamp a district that did not have more than 51% of the signatures. Ms. Staddon said she believed there may have been some confusion and that Supervisor Olsen may have been thinking about county improvement districts for which the Board does have discretion with regard to establishment based on the number of signatures submitted. Mr. Reese said he and Mr. Thomson had assumed that Supervisor Olsen would be honest with them. County Recorder Patsy Jenney-Colon explained that her office had verified the signatures on the petitions in the same way it verifies all petitions. There was brief discussion regarding persons who had withdrawn their signatures, during which Ms. Staddon stated that she had received 21 withdrawal of signature forms and had rejected one of those forms because it was not properly notarized. She said that in addition, she had received three rescission of signature withdrawal forms, leaving a total of 17 signature withdrawals that were timely filed. Registrar of Voters Judy Allen-Wise said that some of the individuals who had withdrawn their signatures had not even signed petitions for establishment. Peeples Valley resident Richard Thurmer said there was a 30 day deadline for petitions to be filed, and that this had been allowed to go on longer than the deadline. Ms. Staddon said there was no statutory deadline for the filing of petitions for establishment of fire districts. She said that once the Board of Supervisors received the petitions, it had to set a hearing on establishment not less than 10 nor more than 30 days from the date the petitions were received. Peeples Valley resident Al Shahan asked if this matter could be appealed to court, and also asked about the Peeples Valley Fire Department's compliance with stipulations of a zoning map change it had received approval for in 1996, saying he believed the department was out of compliance. Mr. Hunt responded that the Board's decision on this day could be appealed to Superior Court, and Chairman Davis asked that Planning & Building be contacted regarding the zoning map change and any compliance issues. Area resident Rex Sams said this issue had divided the community, and that it had gotten to the point where people were no longer even waving to each other in passing. Resident Waldo Derheide asked how the County knew if the signatures on the petition were valid. Ms. Jenney-Colon explained that signatures on petitions are compared with signatures on voter registration records. Mr. Reese said that Ms. Staddon had been uncooperative and had not acted impartially throughout the process. Supervisor Brownlow moved to approve the establishment of the Peeples Valley Fire District and to order that the following persons listed in the impact statement shall comprise the district's organizing board of directors: Nancylue Scott, Katherine Sowell, Herbert E. Allen, William L. Long, and Michael Weichmann. Chairman Davis seconded the motion. Supervisor Brownlow said he believed the fire station in Peeples Valley had been built with NACOG funds and that the community had been required to either donate money or in-kind services. He said he believed the community would need a fire district eventually and that having a district did not necessarily mean the district would spend a great deal of money. He said that with regard to what Supervisor Olsen may have said, he was an honest man and not a dishonest man. He said that there was a big difference between a fire district and an improvement district, and that he did not believe Supervisor Olsen had been dishonest. Mr. Reeves said he did not feel that Supervisor Olsen had been dishonest. Supervisor Brownlow said he also did not like the use of the term "done deal" because the Board always tried to do what was best for the community and that if one looked at this situation in the long term establishment of the fire district was probably for the best. Chairman Davis called for the vote, which carried unanimously.

There being no further business to discuss, the meeting was adjourned.

ATTEST:

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Clerk Chairman