

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS MINUTES WITH SUPPLEMENTAL TRANSCRIPT  
(Where a supplemental transcript is available, it is printed in bold type)

OFFICE OF BOARD OF SUPERVISORS  
YAVAPAI COUNTY, ARIZONA

Prescott, Arizona

June 28, 2006

The Board of Supervisors met in special session in Prescott, Arizona, on June 28, 2006, at 9:00 a.m.

Present: Thomas Thurman, Chairman; Chip Davis, Vice Chairman (via videoconferencing from Cottonwood); Carol Springer, Member; Bev Staddon, Clerk.

Also present: Jim Holst, County Administrator; Allison Dixon, Management Analyst.

Clerk's note: A copy of the these minutes with a supplemental transcript is available in the Office of the Clerk of the Board of Supervisors and is also available on the County website.

ACTION ITEM

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

- A1. Consider re-establishing free slash dumping at the Congress, Mayer and Black Canyon City transfer stations from June 30, 2006 until July 30, 2006, during operation hours. Chairman Thomas Thurman. Public Works Director Phil Bourdon participated in discussion of this item. Upon a motion by Supervisor Davis, seconded by Supervisor Springer, the Board voted unanimously to approve this request, to be paid for from the District 2 Community Clean-Up account. No comments from the public.

Chairman Thurman said he had requested this item because the outlying areas are still trying to do fire abatement, and because he had been asked by numerous fire districts to allow free slash dumping for another 30 days. In response to a question from Supervisor Springer regarding the cost, Mr. Bourdon said no costs for this service had been incurred at the Mayer and Black Canyon City transfer stations, but that he was uncomfortable with the amount of slash that had been dropped at the Congress transfer station and it would need to be hauled off, which he said would cost about \$12,000 with payment to come from the Solid Waste budget. Chairman Thurman said that if it was possible he would like to continue the service for another 30 days and that perhaps the slash could be stored at the transfer station until it could be burned. There was brief discussion about including this in the Supervisors' community clean-up accounts, during which Supervisor Davis said he would like to have the Verde transfer stations included as well. He said he would also like to find a place in the Big Park-Village of Oak Creek area where slash could be dropped, and in Jerome as well. During discussion of how to pay for the free slash dumping, Supervisor Springer suggested adding another \$25,000 to each Supervisor's community clean-up fund. There appeared to be general agreement with that suggestion.

STUDY SESSIONS

S – BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

- S1. Meet with staff from the County Supervisors Association for the purpose of receiving information about and discussing the 2006 regular legislative session. CSA Executive Director Craig Sullivan presented this information. Coconino County Supervisor and CSA President-elect Matt Ryan participated in discussion.

Mr. Sullivan introduced to the Board CSA staff members Todd Madeksza and Jessica Blazina. He began his presentation by reviewing the core goals of CSA, saying the first goal was to protect and enhance county authorities in order to promote efficient, responsive constituent services; and that the second goal was to develop and disseminate information to assist state and local decision-making. He thanked the Board for being active in CSA, and especially Supervisor Springer for her service on the CSA Legislative Policy Committee. Mr. Sullivan said that CSA has three legislative objectives, the first of which is to secure passage of county-initiated statutory improvements. He said the second objective is to secure targeted fiscal relief and investments and that the third objective is to prevent or mitigate proposals that negatively impact county operations. Mr. Sullivan then briefly reviewed the legislation supported by CSA in the recently adjourned legislative session for each of those objectives. He noted that issues that had risen during the legislative session such as the Taxpayer Bill of Rights (TABOR), which he said would limit state spending, would be a concern for counties because if such a bill were to pass it was likely that the state

would require counties to provide funding for state programs. Mr. Sullivan said that other issues that had come up during the session and could have an impact on counties were issues related to state trust land reform, eminent domain, illegal immigration, and state mandated property tax rate reductions. He explained that state mandated property tax rate reductions were of particular concern to counties because the Governor had signed a bill limiting increases in county tax levies to 2% plus new construction for the next year, and that there would be a referendum on the November ballot to extend that mandate. Mr. Sullivan added that this would penalize counties like Yavapai, which had been conservative and stayed below their levy limit. Chairman Thurman asked Mr. Sullivan if the larger counties such as Maricopa had a tendency to run things with regard to legislation more than he would like. Mr. Sullivan said that Maricopa County government was very different from Yavapai County and other rural counties because it has so many incorporated areas and so most citizens are dealing with municipal governments instead of with county government. He said that most of the legislators in the state legislature are from Maricopa County and that they do not understand how counties work because they never hear about county government from their constituents, and that CSA needed to spend more time educating them about county government. Mr. Sullivan said the tax challenges facing Yavapai and some other counties would not affect Maricopa County because it is already at its levy limit. There was brief discussion about funding for transportation and also about the status of a bill related to membership on the Board of Supervisors that was transmitted to the Governor for signature last week. Coconino County Supervisor Matt Ryan spoke briefly regarding transportation funding and he commended Mr. Sullivan on a job well done with regard to legislation and thanked the Board for its participation in CSA. Supervisor Springer said she felt that Mr. Sullivan and his staff had done a very good job, and that she appreciated their efforts.

- S2. Meet with department heads and elected officials to discuss issues and concerns, or to provide clarification, related to departmental budgets for 2006-2007. The following elected officials and department heads participated in discussion of this item: Sheila Polk, County Attorney and Dennis McGrane, Chief Deputy County Attorney; Tim Carter, County School Superintendent; Sheriff Steve Waugh, Sheriff's Captain John Russell and Lt. James Jarrell; Human Resources Director Julie Ayers; and Superior Court Administrator Debi Schaefer.

Ms. Polk requested an \$61,473 in the Contributions line item to cover range adjustments and employee-related expenses for 13 grant employees in the Victim Witness Program who are paid out of the line item, adding that her preference would be to have these employees paid out of the Permanent Salaries line item instead. There was brief discussion about moving the employees to the Permanent Salaries line item, during which concerns were expressed about what would happen to the employees if the grants were no longer available. Ms. Polk said the services provided through the Victim Witness Program were mandated services and that all she could do was promise the Board that she would continue to apply for grant funding for the program. She provided a PowerPoint presentation with information regarding employees, salaries and services of the program. Mr. Holst said that if parts of the Victim Witness Program seemed unfamiliar to the Board it was because the Board had never reviewed and approved the scope of the program. He said it had always been handled as a contribution and that the Board had never approved the types of positions or the number of positions for the program. Mr. Holst said it would be possible to shift the salaries for the program into the General Fund, but that the Board might want to review the scope of the program before taking that step. There was general agreement to include the additional \$61,473 requested by Ms. Polk, but to add it to the Contributions line item and to leave the salaries for the Victim Witness Program in that line item for this year. Mr. Carter appeared before the Board to request that it reconsider funding a grant writer position out of the General Fund, saying he believed he was statutorily obligated to provide certain services to charter schools and public schools and that it would be more cost effective to pay for a grant writer to obtain grant funds for those service than it would be for him to ask the Board for \$250,000 in funding. He noted that he had been paying for the grant writer position out of Forest Fees, but that those funds were decreasing and could be in danger of disappearing altogether. Supervisor Springer asked Mr. Carter if he had asked the school districts to help fund this position since it would be to their benefit. Mr. Carter said he had done so, and that the response was that it was his statutory responsibility. Supervisor Davis said the statute did not say the Board had to hire a grant writer. He said he was already paying property taxes to local school districts and that he could not see having his County property tax going to schools as well. Supervisor Davis said it was the state's choice to allow charter schools and that the state should make up the shortfall. He told Mr. Carter he was sorry, but that he could not support the request. Supervisor Springer said she supported charter schools and that the statute Mr. Carter had referred to also included public schools. She asked how successful the grant writer had been. Mr. Carter said one grant had been secured and that he was waiting on five others. Chairman Thurman said he did not have a problem with the request, but would hope the grant writer would be able to obtain funding for his salary as part of the grants. Supervisor Springer said she agreed with Supervisor Davis that funding this position was not a function of

the Board. Sheriff Waugh thanked the Board for the support it had given him during his time in office. He said that his budget proposal was part of a four-year plan and that it was really no different than a road plan or a technology plan. He told the Board that he and his staff had spent 10 months putting the budget together and that it was well thought out. Sheriff Waugh said the problem he had was that the Sheriff's Office had been neglected for a long time and that it would take both time and money to catch up. He said his mission was helped by having buildings and technology, but if he could not put boots in the dirt then the buildings and technology did not mean much. He told the Board he was not present on this day to beg, but instead to point out facts. Sheriff Waugh said that following last week's meeting he and his staff had looked at their program change requests and overtime request and had made some adjustments. He said that without certain funding, deputies would not be available during certain hours in some of the outlying areas, that narcotics investigations would be hurt because of the lack of overtime, and that time-sensitive homicides and sex crime investigations would be hampered because there would be no one to conduct investigations. Sheriff Waugh said he had done everything within his power to move people into the field and adjust employees' hours. He said whatever he did would be the Board's choice and that his job was to run the organization based on the money the Board provided to him. Sheriff Waugh briefly reviewed his requests for program changes and said he was also requesting that overtime, which was currently in the budget at \$55,000 be increased to \$149,900. Supervisor Davis said he was happy that the Board had a better relationship with Sheriff Waugh than it had with the former Sheriff and that he would ask the Sheriff to try to understand the Board the way it had tried to understand him. He said it worried him that the Board had granted \$1.2 million in program change requests and that it was looking at a huge capital improvements program that would benefit the Sheriff's Office, only to hear that there would be no narcotics patrols or other services in certain communities. Supervisor Davis said that was like sending a message to citizens that the Board of Supervisors was jeopardizing their safety because the Sheriff only got \$1.2 million in budget requests instead of what he had asked for. Sheriff Waugh said there currently was not law enforcement in certain areas of the County between the hours of 2:00 a.m. and 7:00 a.m. and that the positions the Board had granted him would help resolve that problem. He said that without necessary funding, the six narcotics people he had might have to be pulled off to help in other areas. Sheriff Waugh said that if the County had the resources he would need 43 new deputies today to meet current obligations. He said his proposal was the first year of a four-year plan and that there was money available this year. He said he apologized if he had put the Board on notice but he was just trying to provide facts. He reiterated that the Board had been very supportive of him and that he appreciated it. There was brief discussion about the overtime request, during which Supervisor Davis and Supervisor Springer both expressed concerns about the use of overtime in the Sheriff's Office. However, there was general agreement to fund overtime at \$149,900. After further brief discussion regarding the program change requests there was general agreement among Chairman Thurman and Supervisor Springer to fund a Sex Crimes Investigator position, upgrade one of the Dispatcher positions to a Dispatcher Supervisor, and to fund a Background Investigator position after Ms. Ayers said her staff could provide basic reference checks but could not provide the level of background investigation that was standard in the Sheriff's Office. Ms. Schaefer appeared before the Board on behalf of Presiding Judge of Superior Court Robert Brutinel to request funding for a Court Services Coordinator. After providing information about the need for the position and identifying additional available funding to help reduce the total cost of the request, there was general agreement among Chairman Thurman and Supervisor Springer to fund the request. Mr. Holst said it appeared that general agreement on requests heard on this day would add approximately \$430,000 to the budget. Chairman Thurman said that if revenues continued to be strong, then mid-year he would like to look at the possibility of adding some deputy positions. Supervisor Davis said he thought the Board should be saving money for buildings instead of spending it. Supervisor Springer said she had been approached by Sharlot Hall Museum regarding a \$50,000 contribution for a Boyd Tenney building. She said she believed that maintaining history was something that government should do, and that she was in favor of this request.

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

ATTEST:

\_\_\_\_\_ Clerk \_\_\_\_\_ Chairman