

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

December 6, 2006

The Board of Supervisors met in special session on December 6, 2006, at 11:30 a.m., at Murphy's Restaurant in Prescott.

Present: Thomas Thurman, Chairman; Chip Davis, Vice Chairman; Carol Springer, Member; Bev Staddon, Clerk.

Also present: Jim Holst, County Administrator; Dave Hunt, Board Attorney/Assistant County Administrator.

The Board held a luncheon meeting with state legislators from Districts 1 and 4 to discuss legislative issues of importance to Yavapai County. Legislators present were: Lucy Mason, District 1 Representative; Tom O'Halleran, District 1 Representative and Senator-elect; and Judy Burges, District 4 Representative. Also present were Paula Rhoden and Joanna Dodder, reporters for The Daily Courier; and Bill Monroe, reporter for KPPV radio.

Chairman Thurman opened the meeting by asking each of the legislators about their committee assignments and goals for the 2007 legislative session, after which there was brief discussion about the need for higher education opportunities in the County. Discussion then focused for some time on transportation issues. Chairman Thurman asked if there was any possibility that a special fund to acquire rights-of-way might be established. Mr. Holst handed out maps showing major existing roadways in the County and planned future roadways. He said the map was representative of the 2030 plan, and that the County Supervisors Association would be requesting on the part of all counties the acceleration of transportation funding on a statewide basis. He noted that the Central Yavapai Metropolitan Planning Organization had held a meeting in Phoenix on December 5 to discuss transportation issues and that it was well-attended. Mr. Holst said he believed that Yavapai County was being looked at as a major area in terms of transportation. Representative O'Halleran said the right-of-way issue was the critical aspect. He said no one had much control over construction costs, but when a map such as the one Mr. Holst had provided was made public it would result in land speculation and the cost of right-of-way would increase. He said it would not be possible for government to pay for all the right-of-way that would be needed and that at some point there would have to be donations of right-of-way. Representative O'Halleran said the state could not go through another S.R. 260 situation. He said there needed to be an investment back into the state's infrastructure and that elected officials needed to get that message out. Supervisor Springer said she believed the counties would be coming forward with a number of tax increase proposals for transportation and asking the legislature to refer those proposals to the ballot. She said that now was the time to do this because the public was very aware of problems related to transportation and the fact that the state does not have enough funding to resolve the problems. Representative Mason said she believed the citizens would have to make that point. Representative O'Halleran said he was willing to look at almost anything. He said the legislature had given nearly \$500 million in tax cuts and that the people who were screaming about needing more highways were the same ones who had demanded the tax cuts. He said that when he became a legislator six years ago the legislature knew it had a \$20 billion shortfall in transportation funds. He added that for the last 30 years the legislature had not done a very good job on infrastructure in the state, including transportation, education, water and sewer needs, and other needs. Representative Burges said she thought at some point the legislature was going to have to look at toll roads. Representative O'Halleran said he would not vote for more tax cuts this year because the state could not afford it. Supervisor Springer said that budget revenues would vary from year to year, and that what the Board was talking about was creating a dedicated source of revenue for transportation. She said that transportation was a major issue for all of the counties in the state, and that the proposal for a dedicated source of revenue had the support of the Arizona Department of Transportation. Supervisor Springer said the counties believed there was a great deal of support for creating an identified source of revenue for transportation. Representative O'Halleran said he did not doubt that, but that if one was the parent of a school child one would have concerns about education. He said there were many, many issues that had been deferred and that it was coming home to roost on both a state and national level. Supervisor Davis said no one doubted that the state had many problems to deal with, but that the issue of transportation was one that could be peeled off and a solution worked out. He said a tremendous amount of money would need to be generated in order to solve transportation problems, and that all the counties were asking for was permission to put the question out to the voters and see what they say. He said that counties could work with the public to let them know what is needed in terms of transportation. Representative O'Halleran said he did not have a problem with that but that there were still many other problems to deal with. Discussion then turned briefly

to specific legislative proposals generated by Yavapai County, including a technical proposal related to special districts; a proposal to provide for a domestic road improvement district; a proposal related to the posting, publication and sale requirements for certain types of back-tax properties; and a proposal related to the prohibition of open fires on private land holdings within state or federal lands during times of emergency. There was brief discussion regarding the proposal for a domestic road improvement district, which Supervisor Springer explained would allow local communities an opportunity to have a road improvement district with a local governing body and to improve the roads within such a district to a standard that is appropriate and affordable for the community. There was then brief discussion regarding an effort by the Associated General Contractors of Arizona to further restrict the ability of counties to respond to constituent needs by changing bidding requirements, a proposal that Supervisor Springer described as Draconian. Supervisor Davis said he supported a proposal, which was approved by the Board, to allow counties to exchange the Columbus Day holiday for the day after Thanksgiving. Chairman Thurman briefly touched on the bed tax proposal that would allow the rural counties the same opportunity as Maricopa and Pima counties and cities and towns to have a bed tax for economic development, and on a proposal to prohibit discharging a firearm within a quarter mile of any building without the permission of the owner of the building.

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

ATTEST:

_____ Clerk _____ Chairman