

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

GILA COUNTY, ARIZONA

Date: July 24, 2007

JOSÉ M. SANCHEZ

Chairman

STEVEN L. BESICH

Clerk of the Board

TOMMIE C. MARTIN

Vice-Chairman

By: Marilyn Brewer

Deputy Clerk

SHIRLEY L. DAWSON

Member

Gila County Courthouse

Globe, Arizona

PRESENT: Jose M. Sanchez, Chairman; Tommie C. Martin, Vice-Chairman; Shirley L. Dawson, Member; Steve Besich, County Manager/Clerk; Marian Sheppard, Chief Deputy Clerk; and, Bryan Chambers, Chief Deputy County Attorney.

The Gila County Board of Supervisors met in Regular Session at 10:00 a.m. this date. Vice-Chairman Martin led the Pledge of Allegiance and Greg LeCheminant of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints delivered the Invocation.

Frank Owens, Probation Department Director, requested that oaths of office be administered to Deputy Probation Officer Edward Reyes and Surveillance Officer Wendra Griffin. He stated that 2 weeks ago the Board declared the week of July 15-21, 2007, as Probation, Parole and Community Supervision Week in Gila County and the administering of these oaths was scheduled for last week; however, because the Board meeting was held on Monday, the participants were unable to attend. Mr. Owens called on the 2 officers to come forward and Chairman Sanchez administered the oaths of office to them after which Mr. Owens presented them with their official badge and certificate. Upon a request by the Board, Mr. Owens had his staff introduce themselves. He then made a presentation to the members of the Board and read aloud a certificate appointing the Board as Honorary Deputy Probation Officers for Gila County and he presented them with a Probation

Department cap. The Board expressed appreciation to Mr. Owens and his staff for the difference they make in peoples' lives.

Patti Fenner, Noxious Weed Program Manager for the USDA Forest Service, Tonto National Forest, presented information regarding the Tonto National Forest's proposed program to control noxious weeds in Gila County. Upon a request by the Board, Ms. Fenner introduced the other staff present at the meeting, as follows: Don Luhrsen, Range Program Manager, Tonto National Forest; Lee Thornhill, Globe Forest Ranger; Gary Smith, Tonto Basin Forest Ranger; and, Jeff Whitney, Biological Resources Group Leader at the Supervisor's Office. Ms. Fenner presented the Board with a copy of her PowerPoint presentation and explained that invasive plants are alien species whose introduction does or is likely to cause economic or environmental harm or harm to human health. Noxious weeds, most of which are alien species, are plant species that have been designated by some governing agency as regulated pests. Photos were shown and explanations given of the various noxious weeds. Ms. Fenner stated that Tonto National Forest's strategy to control noxious weeds is accomplished through education and increased awareness; developing and maintaining cooperative relationships; preventing new weed infestations; early detection; the treatment of weed infestations; restoration of degraded ecosystems; and, by monitoring. She explained that the U. S. Forest Service manages the integrated vegetation by manual and mechanical means, cultural, with herbicides, burning or flaming and biologically. In explaining about herbicides, Ms. Fenner stated that she realizes this is a red-flag word because of the aerial spraying in this area in the 1960s; however, since then the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) of 1969 was written and the Council of Environmental Quality was created to establish the broad national framework for protecting the environment causing all federal actions to undergo analysis for significant adverse effects to the human environment. Alternative courses of action must be evaluated and the analysis must be fully disclosed to the public with the public then being allowed to provide input into the analysis. Ms. Fenner further explained that on December 2, 1970, the

Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) was created, which was the new pesticide regulating agency. Prior to 1970, pesticides were regulated by the Department of Agriculture and their main emphasis for herbicide testing was testing efficacy of herbicides on weeds in crops. EPA began requiring tests for chronic human effects and much more comprehensive testing before a chemical could be approved for sale and distribution. During the 1960s, labs were not able to test for extremely low quantities of chemicals that have been found to be extremely toxic. Since 1970, the EPA has enforced the Federal Insecticide, Fungicide and Rodenticide Act, along with later amendments, which is the federal control of pesticide distribution, sale and use and requires that all pesticides used in the U.S. must be registered by the EPA with registration coming only after extensive testing for both acute and chronic effects to assure that pesticides, if used in accordance with label instructions, will not cause unreasonable harm to the environment. Ms. Fenner presented several charts that showed the highly, moderately and slightly toxic categories of herbicides along with those that are relatively non-toxic. She then explained about the risk assessment of herbicides, which is contracted to a private research lab, Syracuse Environmental Research Associates, to conduct exposure analysis, hazard analysis and then an analysis and characterization of the risk. Ms. Fenner concluded her presentation by stating that the Tonto National Forest is requesting comments on their proposed action of spraying for noxious weeds. The proposed action can be read in detail on the Tonto National Forest website located at:

<http://www.fs.fed.us/r3/tonto/home.shtml>, along with information on how to submit comments. She may also be contacted at (602) 225-5386.

Supervisor Dawson related her personal experience of living in Six Shooter Canyon in the 1960s when the aerial spraying of the Pinal Mountains was done causing her to get cancer. She believes the Forest Service made a horrible mistake in spraying the Pinal Mountains and the Forest Service has paid a substantial price; however, now it has gone to the opposite end of the spectrum and the forests are burning because of the lack of maintenance. Supervisor

Dawson stated, "We need to work carefully and we need to be able to trust that when you say you're not going to spray broadly that the application is going to be specific ...Ours has to be one of trust...I appreciate the difficult job you have to do and I appreciate the Forest Service efforts and trust the knowledge and what you are sharing with us today." Vice-Chairman Martin thanked Ms. Fenner for the information and stated that she believes a part of the problem is because the forests haven't been managed well, but she also didn't want to see these noxious weeds run rampant. She stated that the County is doing a lot of work on its roadways; however, the County is not using chemicals, but instead is burning, picking and plowing, etc. She also noted that spot treatment on private land is being done utilizing some of the very same chemicals discussed today in Young, Tonto Basin, Payson and Pine addressing private land concerns. Vice-Chairman Martin stated that 4% of land in Gila County is private and the vast majority of the problem is public land and she felt the public agencies need to be given back some of the tools that were taken away in order to address the issues. She stated, "Yes, it's a matter of trust because the effects are far ranging. The unintended consequences are what kill us literally and we're dealing with an area that is full of consequences. It's absolutely a trust issue and it's a one time you screw up--it's that kind of a deal too. Folks around here took too big of a hit and too hard of hit and it wasn't intended, but they took it and Gila County has taken it and not only are we talking aerial spray here, but we're also a Down Winder's sight, so it's a double whammy especially in this part of the County. I appreciate the care, time and attention that you are putting into this." Chairman Sanchez called on Robert McKusick, a resident of Globe. Mr. McKusick stated that he's not opposed to getting rid of plants that are harmful, but "our argument is that we can't have herbicides used in the canyons and it's because even now, 38 years after they were used, our wells and the ground are still contaminated. When it rains hard and we have erosion, the herbicide is still in the ground. It has not broken down because we are above 4,000 feet and it's arid. There are no microorganisms to break it down and we still get all sorts of deformities and

things following heavy runoff and it will probably be there 100 years. Seriously, I'm appalled that the Forest Service would even consider using herbicides in the canyon area exchanging human lives and well being for weeds. We want the weeds gone too if they are noxious, but we would like them taken out by some other mechanical method, prison help or whatever they have to do." Mr. MuKusick stated that many friends and animals have died, friends were paralyzed, and some are still dying because when spraying is done with chlorinated hydrocarbons, which were originally developed by the military after World War II as nerve gas, they are liver poisons and most of them are cancer causers and there are no safe over the counter herbicides. He explained how the spraying of the Pinal Mountains came about as a military cover up and then three people were hired by the government as a team to go around and explain away anything that happened as having been caused by something else; however, the Forest Service was unaware of this when they were spraying here. He stated that the herbicide 245T (2,4,5 trichlorophenoxy acid) was eventually banned; however, it is not banned for over-the-counter products such as RoundUp, which is an absolute cancer causer. He stated that 10 years before they sprayed 24D in 1969, the Mayo Clinic in Maryland said there is no known antidote and no specific treatment for central nervous system damage caused even by skin absorption of 24D. It's also illegal to apply any substance to food and water for which there is no known antidote and the Refuse Act of 1899 forbids the pollution of American waters. Mr. McKusick advised that all this information is provided in the toxicology report he presented to the Board that gives the real facts about toxicology, not the information put out by the chemical companies. He also explained that the spraying cleared so many weeds that the area suffered severe flooding causing \$40,000 in damages to his home. He stated that if the U. S. Forest Service goes ahead with herbicide applications in the Ice House Canyon, Kellner Canyon and Russell Gulch areas after seeing the toxicology information presented today, "it will be guilty of conspiring to assault with a deadly weapon and that's the truth, so the U.S. Forest Service needs to do its homework

because there are other options for controlling weeds.” Mr. McKusick concluded by asking the Gila County Board of Supervisors to request that the U. S. Forest Service use manual methods of removal if noxious weeds are identified in the particular areas previously mentioned. Chairman Sanchez thanked Mr. McKusick for his comments and inquired of Ms. Fenner if the U.S. Forest Service would be holding any public hearings in the communities that might be affected by the spraying. Ms. Fenner advised that the U.S. Forest Service was holding the hearing this morning with the Board, but no other hearings had been requested although they could hold other meetings. Chairman Sanchez advised that this meeting was not advertised as a public hearing; however, members of the public were being given the opportunity to speak on the issue. Chairman Sanchez stated that in our community a follow up public hearing by the U.S. Forest Service would be advisable. Chairman Sanchez called on Geoff Condit, a resident of Kellner Canyon, Globe. Mr. Condit passed out to the Board a toxicology report for 9 of the 13 herbicides that are listed on Ms. Fenner’s website and stated that the sprays are all toxic and cause problems with people and animals and “it’s quite horrifying to read.” He requested that before any approval was given for spraying in Gila County and the canyons that the Board study the reports carefully and consider what it might be unleashing on the people. Mr. Condit stated that his comments are only meant to address the EPA herbicide contamination area, which is a small section of Gila County. He stated that in talking with the residents of those areas, “none of them want to be sprayed and none of them are willing to be sprayed. Please consider that. We need your help. We see you as part of our team to protect us and our families from being damaged by future herbicide spraying. Nothing you can do can guarantee us that the Forest Service won’t spray, but you can let them know officially that we don’t want to be sprayed again and you don’t want us being sprayed again. Having you do this for us and our families is our right and your obligation and responsibility in protecting our health and safety.” Mr. Condit stated, “No one in this room can say with 100% surety that the herbicides won’t cause injuries to people,

livestock and pets. If this can't be said with 100% surety, these herbicides have no business being used in our EPA contamination area much less in Gila County. If you do approve the spraying in Gila County and someone does say they and their families have been damaged, you could be setting yourselves up for lawsuits. I don't know about that, but it's something the Board might consider. Herbicides are designed to do one thing—kill! They are all variations of a familiar theme.” He was also concerned that the herbicides, once sprayed and dried up, can be carried by the wind into water supplies, school playgrounds and classrooms. Mr. Condit stated that Ms. Fenner claims if no noxious weeds are found in that area, spraying will not be done; however, he noted that with 67 different weeds listed on the U.S. Forest website, he was certain she could find some type of weeds to spray. He stated that “putting ourselves at the tender mercy of Ms. Fenner or anyone else in the Forest Service when it has to do with herbicides is plain stupid and not an option for us.” Mr. Condit stated they were not against getting rid of the noxious weeds; however, it was felt that there are other methods of doing so by perhaps the use of prison laborers and Hot Shot crews to “grub out the noxious weeds.” Mr. Condit concluded by reading aloud a proposed request for the Board, as follows: “Because of past herbicide spraying and continued contamination, we, the Gila County Board of Supervisors, request that the Forest Service with the noxious weed program not spray herbicides or use controlled burns in the EPA herbicide contamination area, which includes the north side of the Pinal Mountains to include the land of Russell Gulch, Kellner Canyon, Ice House Canyon and the drift spray area of Six Shooter Canyon.” He requested that the Board pass such a resolution as soon as possible so the residents would know where they stand. He also thanked the Board for allowing the time to speak on this issue. Chairman Sanchez thanked Mr. Condit for his comments and called on Ray Lewis of Globe. Mr. Lewis stated that he would like to relinquish his time to either Mr. McKusick or Mr. Condit if they had additional comments to make; however, neither wished to add any other comments at this time. Chairman Sanchez advised that the Board would not be taking any action on

this item at the meeting today; however, at a future meeting he felt that the Board needed to make a decision on what its recommendation would be. He personally recommended that Ms. Fenner hold other public hearings, particularly in the Globe-Miami area, because this is something of great concern to the residents. Supervisor Dawson urged the Board to put this back on the agenda for action, which was also agreed to by Vice-Chairman Martin.

At 11:13 a.m., Chairman Sanchez called for a brief recess.

At 11:20 a.m., Chairman Sanchez reconvened the meeting.

Bob Edwards, Mayor of the Town of Payson, requested to present information and hold discussions regarding the following: a) the operation of the Payson Event Center programs to include a possible funding request from Gila County; b) Gila County facilities; and, c) Gila County juvenile detention facilities. He stated that last August the Board was invited to a joint meeting with Star Valley and the Town of Payson, but unfortunately the Board of Supervisors declined the offer. Then on August the 31st of last year, he and Chuck Heron, Mayor of the Town of Star Valley, sent a letter to the Board addressing some issues they felt needed to be addressed by the Board of Supervisors and to date a response has not been received. Mr. Edwards stated that a joint meeting was finally held on September 25, 2006, whereby the Board agreed to join in a task force headed by Randy White, a councilman of Star Valley, to look into the issues of northern Gila County facilities, "which are totally atrocious," but the Board declined to participate in that task force and formed its own. Mr. Edwards advised that on June 6, 2007, he sent a letter to the Board to address the issue of support for County use of the Payson Event Center and the response received was to drive to Globe to discuss it. Mr. Edwards stated, "Since there are a number of issues that need to be jointly addressed and since we have a problem obtaining access to you, today I will be speaking to other issues as well." Mr. Edwards stated that in a meeting in Payson, Vice-Chairman Martin advised that if they (the Town of Payson) don't have the services needed, the Board of Supervisors needs to know about it and that's why he was here today. For background information, he stated that the

significant percentage of the people using the Payson Event Center are from the County—about 67% to 74% by their count—and yet they receive no compensation to cover that cost. A County fair is held at the Payson Event Center every year; one is also held in southern Gila County. Mr. Edwards stated the funding is disproportionate and he requested that the Board kindly reimburse the Town of Payson for the cost of County users and that the County share with the Town of Payson in that yearly cost by providing a contribution commensurate with the southern Gila County fair held at the Gila County facilities. In reference to the Gila County facilities, Mr. Edwards stated that the Board recently approved the recommendation of the Gila County Facilities Planning Citizens Advisory Committee to build a new facility at the corner of Payson’s Main Street and Highway 87 and to add 2 new taxes with which to build and operate same. Mr. Edwards stated that decision was made without any consultation with the Town of Payson, which he found somewhat surprising. Mr. Edwards stated that as far as financing the projects, he is led to believe that other sources were never really seriously considered. He stated that Payson currently has no juvenile facilities in northern Gila County and when youth need to be incarcerated the Payson Police Department has to take an officer and a car out of service to drive approximately 5-8 hours to the Gila County juvenile detention facility in Globe and back to Payson. He requested that the Board agree to work with the Town of Payson immediately to look at leasing temporary facilities in order to address this pressing problem. Mr. Edwards also requested that the Board rethink its rush on the County facilities and join with the Town of Payson to work out a real solution. “This is far too important, in my opinion, to rush it for political reasons.” He also requested that the Board take the necessary steps to increase the percentage of northern Gila County cases tried in northern Gila County to lessen the need for driving to Globe and back. He requested that the Board lease temporary offices in Payson for all Countywide elected officers so they can work out of either northern or southern Gila County. This would help attract electoral candidates from both ends of the County. Mr. Edwards requested that the Board

compensate Payson for its transportation trips to Globe until a permanent solution can be worked out. He stated that Supervisor Dawson indicated that the Board is looking for a workforce development facility for southern Gila County and he asked that the Board remember that there is also a northern Gila County with similar needs. In reference to an alternate route around Payson, Mr. Edwards stated he was grateful that the Arizona Department of Transportation (ADOT) has started a planning study to be completed next spring and he requested that the Board adopt a resolution supporting the Town of Payson's efforts on that project. He requested that the Board join the Town of Payson in providing seed money for the design concept report, which is the next step to encourage ADOT to include the alternate route project in its 5-year plan. He also requested that the County provide a summary of the expenditures of the half cent sales tax and funding for roads and cooperate with the Town of Payson by setting aside a portion of those funds for future funding to assist ADOT in the construction of the project. Mr. Edwards concluded by asking the question, "Is Payson part of Gila County?" He stated that currently, all the people of northern Gila County feel they are really not part of the County government and they come by those feelings legitimately. He stated, "There's a tendency from Globe and from the County to dictate, not working cooperatively with northern Gila County. The fact that we have come to you and you don't come to us ever, that fact builds there." Mr. Edwards requested that the Board demonstrate an interest and show the people of Payson that they really are a part of the County government by alternating the location of its weekly meetings; one to be held in Globe and the next in Payson and he offered the Town Council's time and chambers in which to hold the meetings. He thanked the Board for the opportunity to address these issues. Chairman Sanchez stated that he wanted to address Mr. Edwards' first comment about this Board not being able or willing to sit and meet. Chairman Sanchez reminded Mr. Edwards of a discussion a couple of years ago in which he, Mr. Edwards and the mayor of Star Valley talked about having a meeting on issues pertaining to both the Towns of Payson and Star Valley. Chairman

Sanchez stated it was his understanding that representatives from the unincorporated areas of northern Gila County including Pine, Strawberry and the Indian Reservation would be invited to a meeting of all the parties and that the staff would put together the meeting with the time, date and place.

Chairman Sanchez stated that his hesitation and the reason he didn't attend the meeting was because, "Frankly, I was offended by the fact that you took it upon yourself to set the time, place and the entire agenda." Mr. Edwards disagreed with Chairman Sanchez stating that the meeting was set up for a month and he was notified while at another meeting that the meeting was no longer going to be held because the County cited that there was an agenda problem. He stated that the agenda was changed and another meeting was set and that was changed and finally it became obvious that the meeting was not going to happen. Chairman Sanchez stated that he did not attend because he did not feel that it was within the authority of the Town of Payson to set the meeting date, time, agenda, etc. Mr. Edwards stated that he has spent a lot of time in government and never had a situation where one branch of government asks another branch to meet and were refused. He stated, "My point to you simply is that there are 2 parts to this County and the County government needs to understand that we need to begin to get equal treatment. We are not asking for more than that, we are just asking to be treated as part of the County and that's not happening and if you're not hearing that then that's too bad because that's the feeling of the people in northern Gila County. I'm just trying to convey to you the feeling that is there. We are willing to work with you in any way you want." Chairman Sanchez inquired in regard to the facilities issues, if the majority of the Payson Town Council has voted to support the feeling that Mr. Edwards is expressing here to the Board today. Mr. Edwards replied that the Payson Town Council has not voted, but they probably will soon. Chairman Sanchez questioned if Mr. Edwards feels he has the support of the majority of the Payson Town Council. Mr. Edwards replied that he does and stated that he believes there will be a 7-0 vote on a resolution very soon. Chairman Sanchez stated that it's not only been the past 6 months,

but the Board has for several years been looking at real estate, opened up a Recorder's Office in Payson and has made improvements to the facilities in Payson. He stated that the facilities project is still an ongoing process and it's misleading to say the Board has not been trying to get input from the public. Chairman Sanchez stated that he requested of Ed Blair, Vice-Mayor of the Town of Payson and Mr. Poskanzer, a former member of the Gila County Facilities Planning Citizens Advisory Committee, at a June Board meeting to bring to the Board an example of one entity in the public to demonstrate the benefits of a public/private partnership to build this facility at a cost that would make sense to the taxpayers and the Board is still waiting for that information. Mr. Edwards replied that the Board should be putting together the specs for what is wanted for the facilities and putting it out to the public and he had no doubt that there would be interest from the public and private sector for this type of facility. Chairman Sanchez inquired if Mr. Edwards had someone in mind to recommend to the Board. Mr. Edwards stated that he surely could recommend one, but "I'm not inclined to waste time." He stated that if the County is serious then the Board should sit down with the Payson Town Council and figure out exactly what type of facilities to have and get that information out to the construction parties. Chairman Sanchez stated, "This is not a County and Town of Payson project." Mr. Edwards replied that it is a northern Gila County project. He stated, "Again, you need to sit down with us instead of dictating to us, work with us and help us find a solution. We would probably be supportive of you at that point. The problem is to go off totally alone is the wrong approach." Supervisor Dawson stated to Mr. Edwards that she assumes he did not come here to be offensive to the Board. Mr. Edwards replied that he did not. Supervisor Dawson stated that she knows it's not true that the Board was not willing to meeting with the Payson Town Council as she has made trips to Payson and met with him. She stated, "When you talk about these facilities it is not something that's been rushed into and when the (Facilities) Committee was formed, every community was represented both in the north and the south. This is not north-south; this is Gila County. You can

try as hard as you want to make a division; we are not divided. In regard to a division and the lack of cooperation, when I talked to you about the college and how important it was, you weren't interested in that, yet today you bring up the workforce development. I'm working on trying to get one down here, but not working doing anything up there? Sir, if you were involved with the college campus in Payson, you would know that great things are taking place on that campus and in fact the funds from this Board in support of workforce development went first to Payson and we are still meeting. We have 1,200 jobs or more needing workforce development down here. Now if we devote money disproportionately to get that workforce, being taxpayers in Gila County should we be saying, 'Oh no, we need to be spending that money in the north. We can't be spending it down here supplying the workforce.' Come off it. We are one County. We benefit from the benefits of all good things that happen in all of Gila County." Supervisor Dawson also commented on Mr. Edwards' statement that the Board is working politically by rushing to get this facility. She stated, "That is foolish as this isn't political. The needs have been here since the building was purchased in Payson and it wasn't adequate for a County building the day it was bought and now 20 years later the County is still trying to fix it." She stated to Mr. Edwards that in regard to the juvenile facility, he should check out how much money the taxpayers of Gila County spent on that facility. Supervisor Dawson stated, "That it isn't a southern Gila County facility; it's the juvenile facility that was paid for by the Justice Department of the State of Arizona." She stated that just building structures doesn't take care of the operational costs. Supervisor Dawson stated that she's aware there are empty buildings in Payson that need to be rented out, but she didn't think the Board should rush out and make certain that they are leased to Gila County. She stated, "We need to build the facility that the Facilities Committee recommended and do it as economically as we can." In reference to the huge congestion in downtown Payson, Supervisor Dawson stated that is a problem and the bypass of Payson needs to take place; however, she feels the Payson Town Council will have more political problems selling that one issue

than the Board of Supervisors will have with a “whole bunch” of its efforts. She stated, “We do work cooperatively and there’s a lot more going on in Gila County then with what is going on with just the Town of Payson.” She cited examples of the Planning and Zoning Committee holding meetings in Payson because they hold the meetings where they need to be held. She also stated that the County emergency crews during times of flooding and fires don’t ask if this is in the Town of Payson; they set up the emergency services for Gila County wherever they are needed. Supervisor Dawson concluded by stating that Gila County is making great strides forward and she thinks the new County facility in Payson will be a great facility and she hopes that Mr. Edwards will work with the Board to make it the best to benefit the citizens of his area. Mr. Edwards responded by stating that he appreciated Supervisor Dawson meeting with him in Payson. In regard to the college, Mr. Edwards stated that he was never opposed to the college and he is very interested and is meeting next week with the interim dean, but it is not his number 1 priority; the Town of Payson is his number 1 priority. Mr. Edwards stated that his point is simply that there is a very strong feeling in northern Gila County that it is not a party of County government. He stated that the P & Z meetings held in Payson and the road crew work there is appreciated, but the Board needs to understand that this feeling is fairly strong. He also reiterated that the Board needs to find a solution fairly quickly for funding the Town of Payson’s numerous trips to drive to Globe to the juvenile facility by funding those trips. Mr. Edwards stated that he senses that he is not being heard today and he believes that the northern part of Gila County is beginning to say, “We are a part of Gila County’ and if you continue not to hear that, I think that’s not going to be a good situation in the future for Gila County.” Vice-Chairman Martin advised Mr. Edwards that in regard to the Payson bypass, a County Transportation Plan was finalized approximately a year ago, which does include the bypass. She believes that because it was included in the County Plan that is the reason that ADOT began to take a serious look at the project and she stated that the bypass conversation has been ongoing for 5 years. Vice-

Chairman Martin stated that if Mr. Edwards wished to see the report, she would provide him with a copy. Vice-Chairman Martin also wanted to make Mr. Edwards aware of the fact that for the last 3 years, she has put money into the Payson fair and she is also planning to pick up the premiums. She stated that the Fair Commission is aware of not only the monetary donations, but also in-kind services such as putting in the round arena and similar projects. Vice-Chairman Martin stated that in past discussions with Mr. Vogel, once the decision is made for the permanent location of the rodeo arena, she would like the County to build an exhibit hall in that area, which could also be used for emergency purposes from a County standpoint. Vice-Chairman Martin stated, "One thing that has happened the last several years that I'm not sure that end of the County really appreciates is the amount of money the County has put into fire protection." She stated that the Globe County Courthouse has been in dire need of new windows and the funds were budgeted 2 years ago, but those funds were removed from the general fund and placed into the fire protection fund and the same was done again last year. The Board has approved expenditures of at least \$1.5 million on fire protection because of the assessed valuation in northern Gila County and because it understands it's a hundred percent up for wild fires. She stated that the County's efforts have so far proven to be very successful. Mr. Edwards stated that it has worked very well and commended Vice-Chairman Martin for her efforts. Supervisor Dawson stated that she didn't wish to interrupt, however, she noted that Mr. Edwards had just commended Vice-Chairman Martin for her efforts on the fire protection and "that makes it very political." She stated that the \$2 million plus that has been poured into the fire protection and the amount of labor donated by the County road crews is from Gila County serving Gila County. Mr. Edwards replied that he understood that and if Supervisor Dawson took that as political, he didn't mean it that way; it was just that Vice-Chairman Martin had been spearheading the fire protection. Mr. Edwards stated, "I'm part of the Payson Town Council and it takes the whole Council." Vice-Chairman Martin stated that she appreciated Mr. Edwards coming to meet with

the Board and “I think we’re hearing.” Vice-Chairman Martin also invited Mr. Edwards and his staff to meet with her and her staff at her office in Payson at any time. Vice-Chairman Martin stated that one final thing she wanted to mention is the fact that all elected officials have an office and full-time staff located in Payson with the exception of the Public Fiduciary and the Treasurer’s Office who have staff there 2-3 times per week by appointment. She stated, “We are quite willing to sit and visit.” Mr. Edwards stated, “We should make that happen.” Supervisor Dawson advised Mr. Edwards that people needing County services in the Show Low/Pinetop area have to drive to Holbrook because it is the Navajo County seat location. She stated that for many years the taxpayers of Gila County have duplicated services to those living in Payson, Pine, Strawberry, Hayden/Winkelman, etc. She stated, This County is a large, diverse County and we have a lot to offer to each other and make things happen.” Chairman Sanchez thanked Mayor Edwards for coming to the meeting. He stated, “I think from what has been demonstrated this morning, if we’re going to succeed in this County, we have a lot of work to do and I’m am as willing as anybody on this Board to sit and meet with Mr. Edwards and his staff...to work together to solve the needs of our County.” No action was taken by the Board.

Mickie Nye presented information regarding the Southern Gila County Leadership Academy (SCGLA). He stated that a meeting was held to discuss what could be done to remove some of the intimidation of why people don’t run for political offices and are opposed to sitting on boards and commissions along with the question of who would be willing to help sponsor such an endeavor. He explained that Supervisor Dawson and the Globe-Miami Regional Chamber of Commerce donated some funds and along with support from others that is how the SCGLA began. In his PowerPoint presentation, Mr. Nye explained that the upcoming Academy will offer the citizens a community-based education program where citizens can learn about county and municipal services; gain an awareness of county and community needs and resources; prepare for opportunities to serve on boards, commissions, town councils and committees;

build new relationships; and, discover volunteer opportunities. The first class of the SCGLA will meet weekly beginning on Tuesday, September 4, 2007, and continue through October 30, 2007, from 6:00—9:00 p.m. He briefed the Board on the issues that will be covered during the Academy's 9 sessions followed by a graduation dinner and advised that applications are available at the Chamber's office. Vice-Chairman Martin stated that this program has been needed for a long time. She also recommended that one of the goals of the SCGLA could be to have one of the graduates apply for another program known as Project Central, which is a 2-3 year program that takes the same objectives to the next level by providing an in depth look at the state, national and international levels and that it is a real leadership program. Mr. Nye stated that there is also an interest in getting senior high schools students involved. Chairman Sanchez suggested involving students that serve on high school student councils. Supervisor Dawson thanked Mr. Nye for the hard work that has gone into getting this program started. Upon inquiry from Vice-Chairman Martin, Mr. Nye advised that the maximum number of applicants being accepted will be from 25-30. Chairman Sanchez thanked Mr. Nye for the presentation. No action was taken by the Board.

Dave Fletcher, Director of the Division of Health and Community Services, speaking on behalf of Carolyn Haro, Manager of Public Health Services, requested the approval of a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between the Gila County Division of Health and Community Services and Cenicato Behavioral Health (CBH) of Arizona whereby the Division will be responsible for the coordination of a response to public health emergencies within Gila County including portions of three tribal nations, namely: White Mountain, San Carlos and Tonto Apache. He stated that this is part of the County's planning process for public health emergencies and in any health emergency there is a recovery period. There may be emotional issues associated with the people affected and for the staff who respond, so this MOU sets the framework for getting those mental health services. Upon an inquiry from Supervisor Dawson, Mr. Fletcher stated that the MOU was drawn up by

CBH and that the County has MOUs with the San Carlos Apache Tribe, the Navajo County Health Department and has agreements with the school system in the White Mountain Apache Tribal area to respond if there is a public health emergency. Discussion ensued between Mr. Fletcher and the Board on what constitutes a public health emergency. Upon motion by Vice-Chairman Martin, seconded by Supervisor Dawson, the Board unanimously approved the Memorandum of Understanding with Cenpatico Behavioral Health of Arizona.

Steve Stratton, Public Works Division Director, requested a discussion with the Board regarding the potential purchase of property located at 5804 S. Russell Road for the proposed Russell Road Realignment Project. Supervisor Dawson stated that she brought this item to Mr. Stratton's attention as she is acquainted with the owners of this property, so she recused herself from participation. Mr. Stratton gave a PowerPoint presentation showing aerial photos of the subject property, which is 2 parcels or a total of 1.6 acres, along with the locations of the Cobre Valley Community Hospital and the County's Russell Gulch Landfill. He explained that currently Russell Road has a 90 degree turn in it and the County has had to repair the wall in that area many times. He stated that the subject property became available for sale and if the property can be purchased by the County, it is being proposed that the County demolish the house on the property, straighten out Russell Road and connect it to Hospital Drive. Mr. Stratton stated that he had lunch with the administrators of the hospital and they are in agreement to give the County whatever property is needed for this project. He stated that there are several options for the proposed realignment; however, he would only be presenting 2 of those options today. If the purchase of the property is approved, an engineering firm would be hired by the County to look at all options. For the first option presented, Mr. Stratton showed the proposed connections and pointed out the land in the area that is owned by BHP Copper, Inc. (BHP), which is located in the floodplain, and also noted the large wash by the hospital. In a preliminary study, the County would probably need to have a span of 200 feet to get through that wash, and 50 feet for another wash, both

of which could be done using prefab box culverts. He stated that this project would accomplish several things, which would include getting the County's heavy equipment out of the neighborhoods in Central Heights as well as the commercial haulers on route to the landfill. He stated that in discussions with the representatives of BHP, there seems to be no reason that the company could not help the County by either the sale or easement of property. BHP is currently waiting for the County to bring back an alignment plan. Mr. Stratton stated that the second option presented looks straighter, easier and less costly; however, his concern was still having the lowboys and commercial haulers trying to make that 90 degree turn. He stated that the preferred option is to have a cross intersection, which is more efficient for traffic flow; however, it would be more costly. It would also reduce the time for emergency vehicles to reach the hospital by 10 minutes and give the hospital a second access road, which is why the hospital is cooperating. Mr. Stratton stated that in the area of Southwest Gas where that bridge floods quite often, it is being proposed that the road be built with a dip section for a water crossing for the present time until a grant or funding could be obtained to build a new bridge as it will be quite expensive. He also expressed another concern with the second option about El Paso Gas having a high pressure line that runs along the road with a reduction station in the area. Mr. Stratton stated that he would prefer that the proposed road cross that line one time rather than having the road running on top of the line all of the time. The exact location will be known when the engineering firm is hired by the County. Mr. Stratton concluded his presentation by stating that the County had the property at 5804 S. Russell Road appraised and it is 1.6 acres, with a house and carport. He stated that the house and land was appraised at \$160,000 and after taking into consideration the cost for demolition and landfill fees, the County reached an agreement with the property owners to purchase the property with the approval of the Board for \$130,000. Mr. Stratton also advised the Board that the County could use HURF (Highway User Revenue Funds) funds to purchase the property so it would have no impact on the General Fund. After continued

discussion, it was the consensus of the Board that the County proceed with the project. Upon motion by Vice-Chairman Martin, seconded by Chairman Sanchez, the Board, by a 2-0 vote, instructed staff to continue negotiations on the purchase of the property located at 5804 S. Russell Road for the purposes described in an amount not to exceed \$130,000. Supervisor Dawson abstained from voting because of a conflict of interest.

Upon motion by Supervisor Dawson, seconded by Vice-Chairman Martin, the Board unanimously approved Consent Agenda item numbers 8A-8H as follows:

- A. Approval of Amendment No. 6 to an Intergovernmental Agreement (Contract No. E6306015) between the Gila County Division of Health and Community Services and the Arizona Department of Economic Security to increase the reimbursement ceiling to \$1,284,514 for the period July 1, 2005, through June 30, 2008; update the Facility Location Chart; and, change the name of Department of Economic Security/Division of Aging and Community Services (DES/DACS) to the Office of Community Partnerships and Innovative Process (DES/CPIP).
- B. Approval of revisions to the Public Works Division Hard Hat Policy No. DPW04-05.
- C. Approval of a Special Event Liquor License Application submitted by the Gila County Rodeo Committee to serve liquor on September 14-15, 2007, for rodeo events.
- D. Accept a fully executed copy of Amendment No. 3 to an Intergovernmental Agreement (Contract No. E5345511) between the Division of Health and Community Services, GEST (Gila Employment and Special Training) Program, and the Arizona Department of Economic Security and to approve Amendment No. 4 of the same Contract, which amends Pandemic language in the Contract.
- E. Approval of the June 5, 2007, and June 12, 2007, BOS meeting minutes.

F. Approval of the June 2007 monthly departmental activity report submitted by the Recorder, Payson Regional Constable and Clerk of the Superior Court.

G. Approval of the personnel reports/actions for the week of July 23, 2007, as follows:

Departure from County Service:

1. Public Works Roads Supervisor – Public Works – 07-15-07 – Public Works Fund – James Clay Brunson – Hire 06-01-78 – Retirement
2. Administrative Clerk – Public Fiduciary – 07-13-07 – General Fund – Sandra M. Phillips – Hire 07-01-87 – Retirement
3. Court Clerk – Clerk of the Superior Court – 07-04-07 – General Fund – Barbara Ann Mathers – Hire 03-05-07 – Resignation to seek part time employment
4. Diversion Officer – County Attorney – 07-24-07 – Diversion Program Fund – William Kern – Hire 01-26-98 – Resigned for Personal reasons
5. Legal Secretary – County Attorney – 07-20-07 – General Fund – Kathy Titla – Hire 05-18-06 – Resigned leaving area
6. Public Health Nurse (Temporary position) – Division of Health and Community Services – 07-04-07 – Health Services Fund – Megan Wallace – Hire 07-03-07 – Declined offer of employment
7. Summer Project Coordinator (Temporary position) – Board of Supervisors – 07-09-07 – General Fund – Adam Wilkinson – Hire 05-29-07 – Resigned for other employment

Hire to County Service:

8. Property Appraiser – Assessor – 07-30-07 – General Fund – Susan Ann Pontel – replaces Irene Mata

Temporary Hire to County Service:

9. Clerk – Clerk of the Superior Court – 07-23-07 – Cost of Prosecution Fund – Barbara Ann Mathers
10. Justice of the Peace Pro Tempore – Globe and Payson Regional Courts – 07-01-07 – General Fund – James Weeks

11. Justice of the Peace Pro Tempore – Globe and Payson Regional Courts – 07-01-07 – General Fund – Ronnie McDaniel
12. Justice of the Peace Pro Tempore – Globe Regional Courts – 07-01-07 – General Fund – John Franklin
13. Justice of the Peace Pro Tempore – Globe Regional Courts – 07-01-07 – General Fund – Gary Scales
14. Justice of the Peace Pro Tempore – Payson Regional Courts – 07-01-07 – General Fund – John Huffman
15. Justice of the Peace Pro Tempore – Payson Regional Courts – 07-01-07 – General Fund – John Perlman

Departmental Transfer:

16. Road Maintenance/Equipment Operator Senior to Public Works Roads Supervisor – Public Works – 07-23-07 – Public Works Fund – Allen Oswalt – Promotion, replaces James Clay Brunson
17. Appraiser Specialist to Property Appraiser 1 – Assessor – 07-23-07 – General Fund – Susan Aliprandini
18. Administrative Clerk Specialist – Public Works-Engineering to Administrative Clerk Specialist – Community Development – 07-23-07 – General Fund – Sine Scott

End of Probationary Period:

19. Chief Detective – County Attorney – 07-23-07 – General Fund – Carlos G. Mejia

Position Review:

20. Increase in hours – Community Health Assistant Senior – Division of Health and Community Services Tobacco Program – 07-02-07 – Tobacco Free Environments Fund – Lexie Nosie – 17.5 to 30 hours per week

Request Permission to Post:

21. Road Maintenance/Equipment Operator Senior – Public Works – Position vacated by Allen Oswalt

SHERIFF'S PERSONNEL ACTION ITEMS

Departure from County Service:

22. Deputy Sheriff – Sheriff’s Office/Payson – 06-13-07 – General Fund – Trent R. Boling – Hire 08-08-05 – Failure to complete Probationary Period
23. Deputy Sheriff – Sheriff’s Office/Globe – 07-16-07 – General Fund – Robert Bigando – Hire 02-01-99 – Terminated for cause
24. Administrative Clerk – Sheriff’s Office/Globe – 07-20-07 – General Fund – Lisa Bahlen – Hire 02-19-07 – Resignation – Reason unknown

Hire to County Service:

25. Deputy Sheriff Recruit – Sheriff’s Office/Globe – 08-06-07 – General Fund – Christopher C. Pena – replaces Terry Blevins
26. Deputy Sheriff Recruit – Sheriff’s Office/Globe – 07-23-07 – General Fund – Robert Graham Campbell II – replaces Jeffrey Slider
27. Detention Officer – Sheriff’s Office/Globe – 07-23-07 – General Fund – Sharon Brewer – Reinstatement to position with original hire date of 06-12-06

End of Probation:

28. Deputy Sheriff Part Time – Sheriff’s Office/Payson – 07-23-07 – General Fund – Thomas Buckner

Position Review:

29. Temporary Position Reassignment – Deputy Sheriff to Deputy Sheriff Task Force – Sheriff’s Office/Globe – 07-23-07 – Narcotics Task Force Fund – Jerry Valenzuela

30. Authorize on-call overtime to be paid from Marijuana Eradication at the discretion of Commander – Jerry Valenzuela

H. Approval of the finance reports/demands/transfers for the week of July 24, 2007, (separate handout) as follows:

\$2,094,995.97 was disbursed for County expenses by check numbers 133 through 539. **(An itemized list of disbursements is permanently on file with the Board of Supervisors.)**

At this time each Board member and the Chief Administrator were presented the opportunity to give a brief summary of current events as allowed by A.R.S. §38-431.02(K). No action was taken by the Board.

There being no further business to come before the Board of Supervisors, Chairman Sanchez adjourned the meeting at 12:52 p.m.

Jose M. Sanchez, Chairman

ATTEST:

Steven L. Besich, County Manager/Clerk