

**BOARD OF SUPERVISORS MINUTES  
GILA COUNTY, ARIZONA**

Date: April 1, 2008

**JOSÉ M. SANCHEZ**  
Chairman

**STEVEN L. BESICH**  
Clerk of the Board

**TOMMIE C. MARTIN**  
Vice-Chairman

By: Marian Sheppard  
Chief Deputy Clerk

**SHIRLEY L. DAWSON**  
Member

Gila County Courthouse  
Globe, Arizona

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PRESENT: Jose M. Sanchez, Chairman; Tommie C. Martin, Vice-Chairman; Shirley L. Dawson, Member (participating via telephone call); Steven L. Besich, County Manager/Clerk; Marian Sheppard, Chief Deputy Clerk; and, Bryan Chambers, Chief Deputy County Attorney.

**Item 1 – Call to Order – Pledge of Allegiance – Invocation**

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 Pastor Barbie Morton of the First Christian Church delivered the Invocation.

Chairman Sanchez noted that Supervisor Dawson would be joining the meeting via telephone conference call.

**Item 2 – Introduction of Ann Kirkpatrick, an Arizona candidate for Congress, Congressional District I.**

Steve Besich, County Manager/Clerk, introduced Ann Kirkpatrick, who is an Arizona candidate for Congress, Congressional District I. Ms. Kirkpatrick advised that her family has deep roots in Arizona as her family moved to northern Arizona over 80 years ago. If elected to Congress, Ms. Kirkpatrick will focus on the areas of economic development, health care, education and especially the battle against methamphetamine use. She reviewed some of her professional accomplishments working as an attorney in Yavapai and Coconino Counties to include working with the Navajo and Apache Nations. She also stated that she was the first female prosecutor in Coconino County and in that position she helped to set up a program to house victims of domestic violence. She further advised that she has an open door policy and welcomed everyone to contact her with concerns. The Board thanked Ms. Kirkpatrick for attending today's meeting.

**Item 3 - Follow-up on Gila Community College's implementation of its ITV (Interactive Video) system with a demonstration of the system.**

Steve Cullen, Ph.D., Senior Dean, Gila Community College, presented this agenda item via ITV from the Gila Community College's Globe campus. He wanted to demonstrate the system to the Board because the County contributed funds to implement the ITV system. Currently there are 16 classes being offered through the ITV system for a total of 71 class credits and 286 students are being served with 12 teachers being utilized. Dean Cullen advised that the College is working with individuals in Payson and the County Superintendent of Schools to form a consortium for distance learning in Gila County. It is being proposed that the law enforcement academy will be served by the ITV system later this fall. Dean Cullen asked Ron Carnahan to provide a brief overview regarding some of the problems that have been encountered with the ITV system. Mr. Carnahan advised that the focus at this time will be concentrated on providing all Gila County school districts with a dedicated T1 line, which will help to improve the quality of the system. At this time connectivity was temporarily lost with Dean Cullen. Darryl Griffin, Gila County Information Technology Department Director, advised that the system will continue to have connectivity issues until point to point connectivity is implemented. Mr. Griffin acknowledged and thanked Jeff Baer for his help in implementing the system and he also thanked Mr. Carnahan. Mr. Griffin advised that he and his staff will continue working with the College to improve the quality of the ITV system. Dean Cullen also advised that the purpose for forming a consortium will be to write and submit grant applications for funds to improve connectivity. That Board thanked Dean Cullen and Mr. Carnahan for their presentation.

**Item 4 - Item 2 - Public Hearing – Information/Discussion/Action to adopt Resolution No. 08-04-02 authorizing the Gila County Housing Authority to submit its Streamlined Annual PHA (Public Housing Authority) Plan for Fiscal Year 2008 to the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development and to authorize the Chairman's signature on the Plan.**

Malissa Buzan, Housing Services Program Manager, advised that the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development requires that a public hearing be conducted prior to a local governing board adopting its Annual PHA Plan. She stated that the Residency Board has two new members and she asked for any questions or comments. Chairman Sanchez opened the public hearing at this time; no comments were offered; therefore, he closed the public hearing. Supervisor Dawson is pleased that housing services are offered in Gila County and Vice-Chairman Martin asked Ms. Buzan if she was pleased with the Annual Plan. Ms. Buzan replied that she is pleased with the Plan because the Gila County Housing Authority only has 53 vouchers, so it is a very streamlined Plan whereby other PHAs have plans that are three times as large. She also mentioned that the Plan includes language which addresses domestic

violence abuse, which she believes is important. Upon motion by Vice-Chairman Martin, seconded by Supervisor Dawson, the Board unanimously adopted Resolution No. 08-04-02. **(A copy of the Resolution is permanently on file in the Board of Supervisors' Office.)**

**Item 5 - Information/Discussion/Action to authorize a name change from the Gila County Solid Waste Department to the Gila County Recycling and Landfill Management Department.**

Sharon Winters, Solid Waste Department Manager, presented this agenda item. She advised that on Earth Day, the Gila County Russell Gulch Landfill and Freeport-McMoRan will begin a pilot project to recycle plastic beverage bottles. With the addition of plastic containers, 30% of employee hours will be spent on recycling and diversion, adding a month per year to the life of the County landfills. Each year Gila County landfills recycles over 1,000 tons of metal, 42,000 tires, 5,500 gallons of used oil and 600 car batteries and bicycles are diverted for refurbishment and distribution to needy children. To date 26.3 tons of computers have been hauled to the End of Life Electronics. It is estimated that the landfills will process 8,000 tons of green waste per year which will be chipped and hauled for bio-mass fuel. Ms. Winters requested the departmental name change to provide a clearer definition of the Department's purpose and functions. Supervisor Dawson thanked Ms. Winters and her staff for their efforts to recycle waste which will lengthen the life of the landfills and save taxpayers' money. Vice-Chairman Martin requested that the bins be used as a billboard by having a reflective County seal and the name of Gila County underneath the seal on every bin in order to advertise the work that is being done by Gila County. Ms. Winters advised that County seals have been affixed to the bins; however, they are not reflective so she will work on affixing reflective seals. Ms. Winters advised that the first recycling bin will be placed at the entrance to the Russell Gulch landfill with information to educate the public as to the types of recyclable plastic items that may be disposed. Upon motion by Supervisor Dawson, seconded by Vice-Chairman Martin, the Board unanimously approved the name change to the Gila County Recycling and Landfill Management Department.

**Item 6 - Information/Discussion/Action to approve Professional Engineering Services Contract No. 1005.341.104/2-2008 between Gila County and Arid Hydrology & Hydraulics, LLC whereby professional engineering services will be provided for the Watercourse Definition Study in the amount of \$10,200 from the date of Board of Supervisors' approval until study completion.**

Steve Stratton, Public Works Division Director, advised that Mr. Tom Loomis previously provided mapping services to Gila County and he is now employed with Arid Hydrology & Hydraulics, LLC. This Contract will allow Mr. Loomis to provide a detailed study on streams and washes currently not mapped by

FEMA (Federal Emergency Management Act). It will also provide County staff a little more leniency in working with people regarding the County's Grading and Drainage Ordinance requirements to help keep them out of flood plains. This mapping will also help expedite the permitting process. The money for this Contract will be taken from the County flood management fund. Upon motion by Vice-Chairman Martin, seconded by Supervisor Dawson, the Board unanimously approved Professional Engineering Services Contract No. 1005.341.104/2-2008.

**Item 7 - Information/Discussion/Action to adopt Proclamation No. 08-02 to proclaim April 6-12, 2008, as "County Government 16."**

Supervisor Dawson advised that each year the National Association of Counties sponsors County Government Week to bring about public awareness regarding the many jobs and duties that are carried out by county governments. This year's theme is "Protecting Our Children." Supervisor Dawson advised that each year all Gila County departments are invited to participate by holding an open house of the departments for the public. Supervisor Dawson advised that the poster and essay contest will conclude on April 22<sup>nd</sup> and she hopes to have them displayed at the Courthouse by next week's Board meeting. She also advised that the County will host a hamburger fry for the public on April 8<sup>th</sup> in Globe and on April 16<sup>th</sup> in Payson. Upon motion by Supervisor Dawson, seconded by Vice-Chairman Martin, the Board unanimously adopted Proclamation No. 08-02. **(A copy of the Proclamation is permanently on file in the Board of Supervisors' Office.)**

**Item 8 - Information/Discussion/Action to adopt Resolution No. 08-04-01, a resolution of the Board of Supervisors urging the United States Congress to repeal the Federal Lands Recreation Enhancement Act.**

Supervisor Dawson introduced this agenda item. She expressed a concern with the manner in which this bill and others have passed through the House of Representatives and the Senate by being attached to other non-related bills. She explained that this Act allows the federal land management agencies, such as the USDA Forest Service, to charge access fees for recreational use of federally managed public lands by the general public. She advised that the Forest Service continues to restrict access and/or close many roads that access the forests. She is especially concerned for those Gila County citizens who recreate in the forests and cannot to afford to pay fees. Chairman Sanchez asked Mr. Besich to read the Resolution into the record. Chairman Sanchez advised that he received a public participation form from Myles and Velma Hodson, residents of Roosevelt, who are in favor of this Resolution. He advised that Mr. and Mrs. Hodson are very instrumental in keeping the Board and the public informed of changes being implemented by the Forest Service. Ms. Bessy Dooly also submitted a public participation form in favor of adopting this Resolution. Vice-Chairman Martin advised that although she understands the

intent of this Resolution, she is unsure if the wording of the Resolution would be effective. Vice-Chairman Martin advised that she recently met with Forest Service representatives to discuss some of the restrictions being imposed on forests in Gila County and that she received a very favorable response to work together to hopefully resolve some of the issues. In general, Vice-Chairman Martin is against many of measures being imposed on federally managed public lands; however, she was not in favor of adopting this particular Resolution. She was unsure if she liked the idea of offering everyone free access to the forests and she cited an example of non-Gila County residents utilizing forests within Gila County and leaving garbage behind and not being respectful of the forests. Chairman Sanchez advised that the Forest Service has recently held public meetings; however, the majority of the people that attended the meetings were dissatisfied with the reasoning behind actions taken by the Forest Service. Supervisor Dawson further commented that she believed that this Resolution was one way to bring attention to these issues and it would "get the conversation started." In ending the discussion Chairman Sanchez felt that a resolution of this type that would be submitted to Congress should be unanimously endorsed by the Board; therefore, he tabled this agenda item.

**Item 9 – CONSENT AGENDA ACTION ITEMS:**

- A. Approval of the March 4, 2008, and March 11, 2008, BOS meeting minutes.**
- B. Approval of the February 2008 monthly departmental activity report submitted by the Recorder.**
- C. Approval of personnel reports/actions for the week of April 1, 2008.**
- D. Approval of the finance reports which lists disbursements that will be issued during the week of April 1, 2008. (separate handout)**

\$531,716.24 was disbursed for County expenses by check numbers 207257 through 207422. **(An itemized list of disbursements is permanently on file in the Board of Supervisors' Office.)**

Upon motion by Vice-Chairman Martin, seconded by Supervisor Dawson the Board unanimously approved Consent Agenda action items 9A-9D.

**Item 10 - Information/Discussion/Action to adopt Resolution No. 08-04-03 authorizing the Gila County Board of Supervisors to sign the County Supervisors Association of Arizona (CSA) and the Arizona Association of Counties' (AACo) Resolution No. 1-08 urging opposition to any proposal to shift inmates from the Arizona Department of Corrections to county jails**

**and request that the members of the Arizona State Legislature and the Governor of Arizona resist these proposals.**

Mr. Besich advised that this proposal came from the Governor's Office. Due to the State's budget deficit it is being proposed by the State that approximately 10,000 State prisoners be shifted to county jails. Most county jails in Arizona are currently operating at or over capacity at the present time to the extent that any sudden influx of new inmates would overburden existing facilities and possibly require new capital construction. Mr. Besich requested that Sheriff Armer and Jail Commander Jim Eskew attend today's meeting to present some information concerning Gila County's jails. He advised that all Arizona county elected officials are being asked to sign the resolution because "the thought is to officially, symbolically oppose this because it is some bad legislation." Supervisor Dawson also expressed her support of this Resolution. Sheriff Armer provided some background information on the Gila County Jail District bond election that failed last November to obtain funds to improve and expand County jail facilities throughout Gila County. He stated, "...Two reasons that this is an exceptionally bad idea: 1. It's taxpayer money all coming out of our pockets. To do it at the county level is estimated at \$30 million more than to do it at the State level. That figure is considerably lower than the reality...If this proposal is enacted we will get an additional 41 inmates on a daily basis which is going to push us way over our ability to hold those inmates. We will have to have additional staff and we've got to have additional space; both of those are not included in this \$30 million dollars. The one million plus that it will cost Gila County would be considerably more than the figure you see before you." Mr. Besich stated, "If you take 41 inmates times 365 days per year that will add an additional 14,965 inmate days to the Sheriff's census he's already dealing with." He further advised that Resolution No. 1-08 was endorsed on March 28, 2008, by the County Supervisors Association's Legislative Policy Committee. Each Supervisor agreed that this proposal will have a detrimental affect on Gila County. Chairman Sanchez thanked Sheriff Armer and Mr. Eskew for attending today's meeting. Upon motion by Vice-Chairman Martin, seconded by Supervisor Dawson, the Board unanimously adopted Resolution No. 08-04-03. **(A copy of the Resolution is permanently on file in the Board of Supervisors' Office.)**

**Item 11 - At any time during this meeting pursuant to A.R.S. §38-31.02(K), members of the Board of Supervisors and the Chief Administrator may present a brief summary of current events. No action may be taken on issues presented.**

Each Board member and Mr. Besich presented information on current events.

There being no further business to come before the Board of Supervisors,  
Chairman Sanchez adjourned the meeting at 11:48 a.m.

**APPROVED:**

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Jose M. Sanchez, Chairman

**ATTEST:**

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Steven L. Besich, County Manager/Clerk