

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

Date: August 18, 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 (via video conferencing); Shirley L. Dawson, Member; Steve 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. Steve Besich led the Pledge of Allegiance and Reverend Bill Marshall of the Miami Church of Christ delivered the Invocation.

**Item 2 - Information/Discussion/Action to certify tax rates based on tax levies established by all taxing jurisdictions within Gila County.**

Prior to addressing the certification of the tax rates, John Nelson, Assistant County Manager, provided a PowerPoint presentation which he referred to as “Arizona Property Tax 101” because he believes a majority of people misunderstand property taxes. His presentation consisted of an overview of how property taxes are calculated; definition of full cash value and limited property value; tax levy classification, which outlined the areas that fall under primary taxes and secondary taxes; assessment ratio for tax year 2008; and, assessed values and tax rates in Gila County for fiscal years 2005 through 2009, etc. Mr. Nelson advised that 3 years ago voters approved to reinstitute a property tax limitation. They voted to have a limitation of no more than a 2% increase on property taxes, but that limit only applies to primary property taxes for counties, cities, towns and community colleges. No other tax levy had a cap put on it. In Gila County, there are a total of 46 taxing jurisdictions levying a property tax in fiscal year (FY) 2009 and of that total 6 are subject to the 2% increase limitation and 40 are not subject to the limitation. An amount of \$24,919,593 or 43% of the total tax levy is limited to a 2% increase and \$33,502,863 or 57% is not limited to the 2% increase. The total amount of

taxes being levied in Gila County is \$58,422,456. The assessment ratio for tax year 2008 in Gila County is as follows: Class 1- mines, utilities, industrial = 23%; Class 2 – agricultural = 16%; Class 3 – owner-occupied residential = 10%; Class 4 – leased or rented residential = 10%; and, Class 5 – railroad airline flight property = 21%. The total assessed values in Gila County have increased from \$365,998,563 in FY 2005 to \$513,379,379 in FY 2009. Mr. Nelson provided an example of the property taxes on a \$100,000 home beginning in FY 2005 through FY 2009. Over a 4-year period the total increase in property taxes in Gila County was \$39.38 with a \$9.84 average increase per year or 2.2%. The average inflation rate per year over that same period was 3.4%. The breakdown for the FY 2008-2009 tax levies in Gila County is as follows: Gila County = 34%; schools and library = 49%; city/towns = 4%; and, special districts = 13%. In concluding his presentation Mr. Nelson stated, “Please become involved in your water improvement districts, fire districts and sanitary districts (and other secondary taxing districts) because this is where I see the tax burden increase in Gila County...The Board of Supervisors today is certifying tax rates for all of Gila County. A lot of times I hear ‘the Board sets all of the taxes for Gila County.’ As I go through this, you have 46 tax rates you have to set today...the Board of Supervisors controls two: Gila County and the Library District...” Richard Gaona, Finance Director, provided highlights on the net assessed valuations, tax levies and tax rates for tax year 2008. He advised that the third Monday in August is the last day statutorily allowed to certify the tax rates, which is today. He stated, “What is necessary at this time is to calculate the tax rate result so Gila County can report total County tax rates to ADOR (Arizona Department of Revenue).” He then proceeded to review those special taxing districts which incurred the highest and lowest tax increases. He mentioned that the Town of Star Valley was not included in last year’s tax rates; however, their assessed valuation is included this year for ADOR purposes, but does not include a tax rate or levy amount. At the conclusion of Mr. Gaona’s presentation, Supervisor Dawson inquired whether the assessed valuations, tax levies and tax rates could be posted on the County’s website, and Mr. Gaona agreed to do so. Vice-Chairman Martin also requested that Mr. Nelson’s presentation be included on the website, which was agreed to by Mr. Nelson. Upon motion by Vice-Chairman Martin, seconded by Supervisor Dawson, the Board unanimously certified the tax rates as presented based on the tax levies established by all taxing jurisdictions within Gila County. **(A copy of the tax schedule is permanently on file in the Board of Supervisors’ Office.)**

**Item 3 – Information/Discussion/Action to consider approving \$10,000 from the Natural Resources Development budget whereby Gila County will partner with Navajo County, Apache County and the Northern Arizona Wood Products Association in order to build a demonstration wood structure on Gila County property. The project application was submitted on August 13, 2007. Source funding – General Fund.**

Supervisor Tommie Martin clarified that the wood structure would be built on the Pine School property located in Pine, not Gila County property as was stated on this agenda item. She advised that a grant application was submitted by the Northern Arizona Wood Products Association (NAWPA) in August 2007 at which time the County agreed to provide the \$10,000 cash match requirement for the \$25,000 grant, which was recently awarded to NAWPA. She advised that the funds will be used to replace a ramada that is used as a bus stop at the Pine School with a newer and 40% larger ramada. The wood will be obtained from the Tonto Apache-Sitgreaves Forest and will be sent to Greer, Arizona. The wood will then be pressure treated for a guaranteed 45-year life and it would not be big timber quality; it would be referred to as round wood or small wood. The project start date is scheduled for October and the construction of the ramada should take no longer than 2 weeks. Training will be provided to local contractors so that they may learn the various uses of this small wood, such as for rafters, etc. The ramada will be built with volunteer labor and Payson Concrete has offered to pay for the concrete for the footings. Supervisor Dawson wanted the Gila Community College to be informed and involved in this project. Vice-Chairman Martin clarified that the training would not be in a formal class setting, but rather a workshop setting. She assured Supervisor Dawson that the College has and will continue to be informed about this project and she will also post the information on the County's website. Upon motion by Supervisor Dawson, seconded by Vice-Chairman Martin, the Board unanimously authorized the release of \$10,000 from the County's Natural Resources Development budget to NAWPA.

**Item 4 – Information/Discussion/Action to approve a Professional Services Contract with WestLand Resources, Inc. in an amount not to exceed \$12,400 for Clean Water Act Section 404 permitting support on two project areas located on Dripping Springs Wash.**

Steve Stratton, Public Works Division Director, advised that earlier this year two flood control structures were damaged on Deer Farm Road in the Dripping Springs area. The ADOT (Arizona Department of Transportation) project is a rock fall road widening project in the area of the Christmas mine. The project will begin in October at which time 50,000-100,000 yards of rock out of a total of 450,000 yards of rock will be diverted from that location with most of the rock going to the Christmas mine, which is owned by Freeport McMoRan. Mr. Stratton advised that any time material leaves an ADOT project it must receive full environmental, archeological and biological clearance for the area in which the material is to be deposited. WestLand Resources, Inc. will provide those clearances under this Professional Services Contract. Mr. Stratton has met with ADOT officials as well as Freeport McMoRan officials and he has received the go ahead; however, he has yet to make contact with Ames Construction, the company that was awarded the contract to move the rock. He requested that the Board approve this Professional Services Contract, but he assured the

Board that he would not allow WestLand to commence with the scope of work until contact has been made and an agreement reached with Ames Construction. Upon motion by Supervisor Dawson, seconded by Vice-Chairman Martin, the Board unanimously approved the Professional Services Agreement with WestLand Resources, Inc. pending a consultation with Ames Construction.

**Item 5 - CONSENT AGENDA ACTION ITEMS:**

- A. Approval of Amendment No. 1 to a Professional Lease Agreement between Gila County and Pinal/Gila Long Term Care, an agency of Pinal County, to renew the Agreement for one additional two-year period, from August 1, 2007, to July 31, 2009, for office space located at 1177 Monroe Street, Globe, Arizona.**
- B. Approval to ratify the Chairman's signature on Resolution No. 08-08-06, which authorizes the submittal of an application on behalf of and in partnership with the Payson Multi-Purpose Senior Center for consideration of funding by the Gila River Indian Community's State-Shared Revenue Program. On July 15, 2008, the Board of Supervisors authorized the submittal of the grant application; however, the resolution was not presented at that time. (A copy of the Resolution is permanently on file in the Board of Supervisors' Office.)**
- C. Approval for the Gila County Rodeo Committee to use the Fairgrounds rodeo arena and horse stalls on September 20, 2008, for the Gila County Ranch Rodeo with a waiver of fees. (The Kids Rodeo previously scheduled for use by the Committee on this date was cancelled.**
- D. Approval of the July 2008 monthly departmental activity reports submitted by the Globe Regional Justice of the Peace, Payson Regional Constable and Clerk of the Superior Court.**
- E. Approval of personnel reports/actions for the week of August 18, 2008.**

Departure from County Service:

1. Lisa Fernandez – Public Works/Facilities Management – Administrative Assistant – 08-15-08 – Facilities Management Fund - DOH 09-24-07 – Resigned

End Probationary Period:

2. William Naber – County Attorney – Detective – 09-15-08 – General Fund
3. Ashley Parker – County Attorney/Child Support – Administrative Clerk – 09-03-08 – General Fund

Position Review:

4. John Garcia – Public Works/Consolidated Roads – Road Maintenance Worker – 08-21-08 – Public Works Fund – Extended resignation date from 08-07-08 to 08-21-08
5. Stacey Espinoza – Board of Supervisors – Supervisors Staff Specialist – 08-11-08 – General Fund – Change status from exempt to non-exempt

**SHERIFF’S PERSONNEL ACTION ITEMS**

Departure from County Service:

6. Susan Hornung – Sheriff’s Office/Payson – 911 Dispatcher – 08-20-08 – General Fund – DOH 03-12-06 – Resigned
7. Glen Melser – Sheriff’s Office/Globe – Detention Officer – 08-06-08 – General Fund – DOH 02-04-08 - Resigned

End Probationary Period:

8. Michelle Daly – Sheriff’s Office/Payson – Detention Officer Sgt. – 08-18-08 – General Fund
9. Jared Osborn – Sheriff’s Office/Globe – Detention Officer Sgt. – 08-18-08 – General Fund
10. Robert Schuler – Sheriff’s Office/Payson – Detention Officer Sgt. – 08-18-08 – General Fund

Position Review:

11. Dennis Tomerlin – Sheriff’s Office/Payson – Detention Officer – 08-04-08 – General Fund - Change position control number from 8605 to 8530

**F. Approval of the finance reports which lists disbursements that will be issued during the week of August 18, 2008. (separate handout)**

\$1,297,761.38 was disbursed for County expenses by check numbers 210558 through 210689. **(An itemized list of disbursements is permanently on file in the Board of Supervisors’ Office.)**

Upon motion by Supervisor Dawson, seconded by Vice-Chairman Martin, the Board unanimously approved Consent Agenda action items 5A-5F.

**Item 6 - 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 11:34 a.m.

**APPROVED:**

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Jose M. Sanchez, Chairman

**ATTEST:**

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Steven L. Besich, County Manager/Clerk