

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

Date: January 6, 2009

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.

Item 1 - Reception at the Gila County Fairgrounds Exhibit Building, Highway 60, Globe for the swearing-in ceremony.

At 9:00 a.m., prior to the Board of Supervisors' meeting, a reception was held at the Gila County Fairgrounds Exhibit Building in Globe, which included a musical prelude by Elaine Dyches and Rhiannon Johnson.

Item 2 - Swearing-in ceremony of Gila County newly elected and re-elected public officials at the Gila County Fairgrounds Exhibit Building.

At 10:00 a.m., Chairman Jose Sanchez, Master of Ceremonies, welcomed everyone to the swearing-in ceremony of Gila County including the newly elected and re-elected public officials. The National Anthem was sung by Marissa Molina of the San Carlos Apache Tribe. Steve Besich, County Manager/Clerk, led the Pledge of Allegiance and Pastor Dan Morton of the First Christian Church delivered the Invocation. Chairman Sanchez then introduced the Honorable Ronnie McDaniel, Pro Tempore Judge of the Payson Regional Justice Court, who in turn administered the oaths of office to John R. Armer, Sheriff; Sadie Tomerlin Dalton, Recorder; Shirley L. Dawson, Supervisor, District III; Daisy Flores, County Attorney; Dale Hom, Assessor; Tommie C. Martin, Supervisor, District I; Linda O'Dell, School Superintendent; Michael A. Pastor, Supervisor, District II; and, Debora Savage, Treasurer. Honorable Judge Peter Cahill, Presiding Judge of the Superior Court was unable to attend the swearing-in ceremony. The oath of office was also administered to Armida Bittner, Governing Board member of the Gila County Provisional Community College District.

Item 3 – Call to Order – Pledge of Allegiance – Invocation

The Gila County Board of Supervisors met in Regular Session at 1:30 p.m. this date. Chairman Sanchez called the meeting to order and led the Pledge of Allegiance followed by the Invocation, which was delivered by Dixie Mundy.

Item 4 - Information/Discussion/Action regarding the organization of the Board of Supervisors.

Chairman Sanchez addressed agenda item number 4 and entertained a motion for the election of a Chairman of the Board of Supervisors for 2009. Supervisor Pastor made the motion nominating Supervisor Dawson as the first Gila County female Supervisor for the position of Chairman. Vice-Chairman Martin seconded the motion which carried unanimously. Chairman Sanchez then entertained a motion for the election of a Vice-Chairman. Upon motion by Chairman Dawson, seconded by Supervisor Pastor, the Board unanimously elected Vice-Chairman Martin as Vice-Chairman. Congratulatory comments were given by each Board member. Chairman Sanchez gave a few parting comments before turning the gavel over to newly elected Chairman Dawson. Each Board member thanked Chairman Sanchez for his years of service to Gila County along with some parting comments.

At 1:49 p.m., Chairman Sanchez concluded the Regular Session and a recess was taken for refreshments.

At 2:30 p.m., the meeting was reconvened by Chairman Dawson for the purpose of holding a work session, whereby the Board would not be taking any action on the remaining items.

Item 5 - Discussion on the stimulus package and priorities.

Chairman Dawson notified all staff members present that they would not be required to attend future work sessions unless they wished to attend or needed to participate in a particular item being discussed. This item was placed on the agenda by Chairman Dawson to update newly-elected Supervisor Pastor on the federal economic stimulus package and the list of Gila County projects which could be started if any federal economic stimulus funds are allocated to Gila County. Chairman Dawson also wanted to discuss prioritizing the list. It has not yet been determined how much federal funding for the projects will be forthcoming and how it will be distributed; however, the important thing and good exercise that has come out of these discussions is to determine if the County is organized, if the Board has a complete list of all the projects including those from municipalities within Gila County and then to prioritize the projects based on necessity. The Board reviewed some of the items on the project list, which was compiled by the staff of the Public Works Division.

Discussion was held on the County's need to prioritize its projects as far as what the Board should focus on, but Vice-Chairman Martin suggested that the entire list of projects should be available in the event that one particular project might get funded over another one. Mr. Besich, County Manager/Clerk, advised the Board that this list is a work in progress and as much as the Board wishes to design and develop priorities, it must also be recognized that the County is competing for these funds with large cities such as Los Angeles and New York City. He feels it is vitally important to work closely with newly elected Congresswoman Ann Kirkpatrick. Mr. Besich also was unsure how the tribal governments will be handled, so he has posed that question to the County Supervisors Association. He recommended that the Board prioritize 5 projects to present whenever requested in order to be "ahead of the game." Chairman Dawson recommended that the Board should appoint someone administratively to be responsible for this project list in order to focus on the details when they are released and how it would apply to Gila County, what the County would need to do and then follow up on same. She stated than an additional item pointed out to her that was not on the project list was a race track, which had been a major goal with the previous Board pertaining to an economic stimulus event for southern Gila County. Chairman Dawson was also unsure if it was wise to emphasize the need for "bandaid money" to repair the County jail as a temporary fix. She preferred to look at what is needed to solve the entire jail problem, protect the County and list the jail as a top priority. She also clarified that there are 2 lists; one for the federal economic stimulus package and one for strategic priorities that the County will emphasize through the County Supervisors Association to the State legislators after the new Arizona Governor takes office. Two major concerns with the State budget are the possibility that the ALTCS (Arizona Long Term Care System) costs will be put back on Gila County as well as the movement of inmates from State prisons to the county jails. Sheriff John Armer reminded the Board that its original committee charged with studying the jail facilities' critical situation made the recommendations that were needed to fix the jail problem because the jail is above capacity, inmates are being released early and the situation is only going to get worse and he didn't think the communities would tolerate it. Chairman Dawson didn't feel the Board emphasized enough during the bond election the possibility that it could cost Gila County a lot more money with a lawsuit on the liability of incarcerating people in unsafe situations. Sheriff Armer advised the Board that the Department of Justice has reopened the Hart versus Hill in Maricopa County lawsuit because of issues with overcrowding, medical, food, booking, etc.--the same issues with Gila County. His fear is that it could cost the County a lot of money and the jail would still not be fixed. Chairman Dawson again reiterated the fact that she felt the County needed one staff person to work specifically on all issues pertaining to the projects list for the stimulus package priorities. Mr. Besich stated that since this deals with federal issues, it was important to stay in contact with Senator Jon Kyle and Congresswoman Ann Kirkpatrick and keep all options open. He agreed to report back to the Board after meeting with Senator Kyle's staff this afternoon.

Supervisor Pastor recommended finalizing the list next week. He stated that although there are a lot of important projects on the list, he agreed with the Sheriff on the jail problems and getting serious on that issue. Mr. Besich recommended that the Board review the recommendations the other counties are making at the County Supervisors Association meeting next week. Vice-Chairman Martin stated that for the past 2 years she has been meeting with the County's lobbyists in Washington D.C., who want to reengage the entire Board into a weekly telephone conversation. She has been sharing the list as it evolved with Lobbyist Patty Power, who in turn has been visiting with Congressional members and staff to gain inside information and she is trying to open doors for the County upon completion of the County's list. Vice-Chairman Martin understands that the projects that are gaining interest are solar and green type projects. At the conclusion of the discussion, Chairman Dawson requested that Vice-Chairman Martin contact Ms. Power to request a telephonic meeting between her and the Board on January 20th or 27th.

Item 6 - Discussion on Gila County Organizational Chart and Administrative Assignments.

Chairman Dawson requested this agenda item because she believes the County needs to be better organized to face the upcoming economic challenges. Chairman Dawson advised that she would be requesting each department to help the Board conserve funds in order to prevent employee layoffs. She also had prepared some suggestions for reorganizing management. She passed out a list of 4 positions with job descriptions and then reviewed them with the Board. The positions were as follows: 1) An Operations Manager would be charged with the responsibility of managing all County operations, including day-to-day operations and long-range strategic planning. All department managers and other key personnel would report to the Operations Manager, who would report directly to the Board. 2) A Legislative Manager would serve as the County's legislative liaison and would be the County's chief lobbyist. The Legislative Manager would be responsible for advancing County issues through interaction with State legislators and congressional delegation. This position would have the potential to save \$89,000 presently spent on State lobbyists and an estimated \$40,000 of \$160,000 presently spent on national lobbyists, for a total savings of \$129,000 or more as the Legislative Manager assumes more duties currently assigned to outsourced entities. Chairman Dawson believes this position is justified by the urgent need to ensure that the State Legislature does not unduly harm the County in the management of the State budget crisis and to represent County project proposals to the Obama Administration's trillion dollar economic stimulus plan, which focuses on infrastructure development. The position would report to the Board in consultation with the Operations Manager. 3) A Financial Manager would be charged with the responsibility of developing and implementing County financial and accounting procedures. The Financial Manager would be responsible for curing all audit deficiencies and implementing policies and

procedures to ensure that such deficiencies do not reoccur in future audits. The Financial Manager would be responsible for ensuring the accuracy and completeness of the County's financial and accounting management systems. The Financial Manager would be responsible for implementation of a methodical cost saving program by investigating and identifying significant cost saving opportunities throughout all County operations. The position would report to the Operations Manager and would be paid for in part through implementing cost saving practices and by ensuring integrity of the financial system. The Financial Manager position would eliminate the current Deputy County Manager position and shift that position into the Financial Manager's position. 4) The Public Information Officer would be charged with the responsibility for issuing all internal and external communications, the management of all County libraries, monitoring and recommending action on Federal Register Notices, ensuring legal standing with appropriate State and federal agencies, recommending positions and comments on agency rule proposals, etc. Except for external communications made by elected officials, all official external communications would require approval by the Board Chairman or the Chairman's delegate. This position would report to the Operations Manager and would add no additional costs to the budget. Vice-Chairman Martin recommended having a project manager to secure the federal funding for the stimulus projects and then to become the owner/representative in that project as she felt there is not ample staff to handle all of the details. Supervisor Pastor expressed interest in the possibility of having both a Legislative Manager and Public Information Officer, but he felt a Project Manager wouldn't be necessary unless it was known for certain that funds would be forthcoming. Vice-Chairman Martin stated that she felt the present management staff handling the legislative issues and financial matters have more influence at their current level than many other counties and she prefers to retain same and enhance those positions. She did feel a work session would be beneficial for the Board to obtain a thorough understanding of the County's current financial standing. Chairman Dawson stated that she failed to emphasize that the Public Information Officer would also be used to follow up with requests from Board members to voice Gila County's concerns, when federal and state agencies request Gila County's input on various issues. Mr. Besich stated that the staff will do what the Board directs and operate under whatever purview that the Board collectively determines, but he noted that the County's organization is not much different from other counties and cities. He advised that some legal issues might arise because the statutes are fairly clear about responsibilities. He also noted that a previous Board wanted to have a Public Information Officer; however, there was a huge outcry from elected officials stating that they preferred to speak for themselves so any changes would need to be carefully thought through. Mr. Besich stated that he could collect organizational charts from the 14 other counties and let the Board review them. He advised putting all of the information in front of the Board for review about the work processes and work flow because the last thing the Board would want to do is make something worse. He also felt it is much more

effective for a Supervisor to speak to the State Legislature and/or governor with concerns instead of a Legislative Manager. In conclusion, Chairman Dawson stated she believes that there are going to be many critical issues and that's why she felt a real urgency about the Legislative Manager position. Both Vice-Chairman Martin and Supervisor Pastor requested additional time to review this new information that Chairman Dawson had presented.

There being no further business to come before the Board of Supervisors, Chairman Dawson adjourned the meeting at 3:44 p.m.

APPROVED:

Shirley L. Dawson, Chairman

ATTEST:

Steven L. Besich, County Manager/Clerk