

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

Date: April 12, 2011

MICHAEL A. PASTOR
Chairman

JOHN F. NELSON
Clerk of the Board

TOMMIE C. MARTIN
Vice-Chairman

By: Marilyn Brewer
Deputy Clerk

SHIRLEY L. DAWSON
Member

Gila County Courthouse
Globe, Arizona

PRESENT: Michael A. Pastor, Chairman; Tommie C. Martin, Vice-Chairman (via phone conferencing); Shirley L. Dawson, Supervisor; Don McDaniel, Jr., County Manager; John Nelson, Deputy County Manager; and Marian Sheppard, Chief Deputy Clerk.

Item 1 – Call to Order – Pledge of Allegiance

The Gila County Board of Supervisors met in a work session at 10:00 a.m. this date in the Board of Supervisors hearing room. Michael Pastor led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Item 2 - Information/Discussion regarding developing a successful Gila County Economic Development Program.

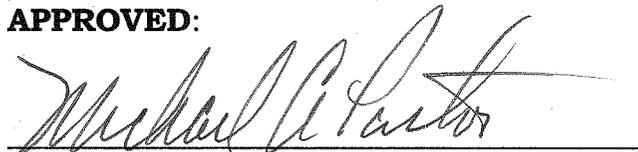
Chairman Pastor called on Ron Nielson, Small Business Development Center Director for Gila County Community College, to give a presentation. Mr. Nielson gave a brief summary of his work with Okanogan County in Washington State where he was the former Executive Director of the Okanogan County Council for Economic Development. He then began his PowerPoint presentation by explaining the purpose of an Economic Development Corporation (EDC). An economic development corporation is an organization common in the United States, usually a 501(C)(3) non-profit whose mission is to promote economic development within a specific geographical area. He explained that EDCs run the risk of being all things to all people because at times EDCs have a poorly defined mission statement or poorly defined goals and objectives. Frequently the most commonly asked questions come up, especially amongst those who fund or support the entity, “What have you done for me lately?” EDCs need to have a clear sense of direction to avoid falling into the trap of being disorganized and criticized for not having produced tangible results. It is also vitally important to have a central comprehensive plan that works to complement the Chambers of Commerce, government and

tribes by maintaining a close working relationship. Typical EDC services include the following: 1) develops and maintains a commercial-industrial site inventory; 2) geographic information system overlay – working with County planning; and 3) government: a) working knowledge of local planning and zoning; b) works with the community development and the planning & zoning departments to develop the economic development component of the “Comprehensive Plan” including towns, the county, the state and tribes; c) serves as the liaison between the new business and local government in the permitting process; d) has a knowledge of state and federal economic programs and incentives; and e) provides current workforce statistics and government training incentives. Mr. Nielson continued reviewing typical EDC services as follows: 4) infrastructure including sewer; water; internet access and speed of current system and any planned improvements; general ingress and egress of a proposed site; roads, airports and others (rail and interstates if available); public transportation; and multimodal; 5) housing inventory information; 6) K-12 school information; 7) higher education and partnerships for employee training opportunities; 8) quality of life; 9) arts, culture; 10) community support/ or NIMBY (not in my back yard) attitude; 11) conduct local SWOT (strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats) analysis and develop a plan to highlight strengths and opportunities and then develop and implement a plan to address weaknesses and threats; 12) coordinate community development priorities and projects; and 13) coordinate local priorities and projects, with Economic Development District (EDD) and Central Arizona Association of Governments (CAAG). He continued on with other typical EDC services that included: 14) new business recruitment; 15) business and job retention; 16) conduct needs assessment; 17) keep current on state economic development plans-economic gardening, incubators, high technology and green business initiative; 18) keep current on federal government initiatives; 19) track economic trends and assess the impacts of state, national and international economics on the local economy; and 20) support and advocate for national and/or state legislation that stabilizes or strengthens our local economy. Mr. Nielson moved on to explain who the economic stakeholders should be. They would include the business community, all levels of government and equally important would be the residents to ensure well paying jobs for both the current residents as well as future generations. Next, what the economy of Gila County has to offer should be determined such as what services are available, tourism, retail, professional, light manufacturing, etc. Mr. Nielson then explained the structure of the EDC, which would be led by a Board of Directors, representing a fair cross section of the community with persons representing the business community, local government, the tribes and concerned citizens. The structure would also include an Executive Committee, an Executive Director and Administrative support staff. The Executive Director would be the face of the organization; would work with the Board to establish goals and objectives; implement plans to achieve the stated goals of the Board; work closely with the stakeholders for proper identification of local needs; coordinate activities with other entities; and would be accountable to the Board

for successful implementation of stated goals. Mr. Nielson concluded his presentation by stating the following: 1) The EDC plays a valuable role, often behind the scenes, to facilitate community and economic development; 2) the EDC is the liaison between business and government; 3) the EDC should serve as the clearing house of knowledge for all economic development in the County; and 4) the EDC should work closely with all levels of government to protect and support local businesses. The presentation was followed by a brief question and answer period by the Board, the audience and Mr. Nielson. Each Board member thanked Mr. Nielson for his presentation. No action was taken by the Board.

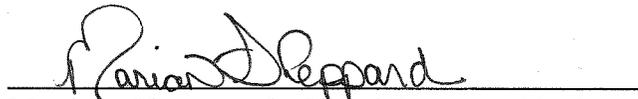
There being no further business to come before the Board of Supervisors, Chairman Pastor adjourned the meeting at 11:41 a.m.

APPROVED:



Michael A. Pastor, Chairman

ATTEST:



Marian Sheppard, Chief Deputy Clerk