

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

Date: April 24, 2012

TOMMIE C. MARTIN
Chairman

JOHN F. NELSON
Clerk of the Board

SHIRLEY L. DAWSON
Vice-Chairman

By: Marilyn Brewer
Deputy Clerk

MICHAEL A. PASTOR
Member

Gila County Courthouse
Globe, Arizona

PRESENT: Tommie C. Martin, Chairman (via ITV); Shirley L. Dawson, Vice-Chairman; Michael A. Pastor, Supervisor; Don McDaniel, Jr., County Manager; John Nelson, Deputy County Manager/Clerk; and Marian Sheppard, Chief Deputy Clerk. No attorney was present.

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 O’Driscoll led the Pledge of Allegiance.

2. Information/Discussion to review the Gila County Community Wildfire Protection Plans.

Chairman Martin stated that she had requested this item be placed on the agenda for discussion prior to the County’s wildfire season. Chairman Martin stated that she held a meeting with the Northern Gila County Community Wildfire Protection Plan group a couple of weeks ago to review and update the Plan; however, she is not as familiar with the Southern Gila County Community Wildfire Protection Plan. She noted that the first Plan for northern Gila County (known as the Rim Country Community Wildfire Protection Plan) was put in place in October 2004 and has been used ever since and it was absolutely community driven. The Southern Gila County Plan is more “County” driven so the language and focus are different. Also, at that time Tonto Basin and Young considered having their own Plan, but they didn’t have the resources to implement same so it drug on until Matthew Bolinger, the former Director of Emergency Services, secured funding, which required that a Plan be put in place. She stated that eventually Tonto Basin and Young may want to have more community involvement in updating the Plan, particularly because of all the forest surrounding Young. Vice-Chairman Dawson stated that the Southern Gila County Wildfire Protection Plan has been a great

frustration to her and she believes the community will not get involved in any Plan until a fire comes closer to the Globe-Miami area. She stated that last year the Pinal Mountains had some fairly hefty forest fires and the U.S. Forest Service was very pleased with its control of those fires because it thinned the forest, which seems to be the standard management plan because the community isn't speaking up about the U.S. Forest Service having some preventive measures for thinning the forest. She stated that if a road is closed in the Pinal Mountains, she can motivate a few people to show up at a rally; however, until the cabins up there burn or the towers are in serious danger there won't be any community interest, which is frustrating to her. Vice-Chairman Dawson disagrees with allowing so much burning of timber in the forest in order to thin the forest when that good wood could be used if the forest was properly thinned. Supervisor Pastor stated that he, too, was glad to see this item for discussion and adoption of this Plan in the near future because his constituents in Roosevelt are very concerned about the dryness and the overgrowth along the highways. Also a house fire near Rye could have created a very disastrous situation if it had gotten out of hand. Chairman Martin then called on Michael O'Driscoll, Health & Emergency Services Division Director, who in turn called on Debra Williams, Deputy Director of Emergency Services, to review the Plan with the Board, as she was involved in the process from the beginning. Ms. Williams stated that the Southern Gila County Community Wildfire Protection Plan was created with the intent to engage the communities in identifying the wildfire risks in southern Gila County and find ways to mitigate those risks. The intention was also to engage the fire departments and the communities in the types of activities that could provide and create defensible space around homes and businesses. The core team that was created consisted of local fire chiefs, state representatives and members of public businesses, so that everyone could have input on the identified risks. Vice-Chairman Dawson inquired about previous public community meetings and the level of community involvement. Ms. Williams stated that in the planning process in 2010, there were a series of posted public meetings held. The Plan was also placed on the County's website and a public service announcement was issued through the local media to request public involvement. Ms. Williams was unsure as to the number of attendees at the meetings because she did not attend the meetings, but rather was acting as a technical support consultant in regard to obtaining the grant. She advised that she has the sign-in sheets, email and other records on file in her office and could provide those to the Board. Supervisor Pastor stated that at his monthly Tonto Basin and Roosevelt meetings, it was mentioned that this project was in the process. Vice-Chairman Dawson inquired if the current Plan includes Young and Tonto Basin, and inquired whether a meeting had been held in Young. Ms. Williams stated that she would research it and get back to the Board. Supervisor Pastor inquired if Ms. Williams was going to present the Plan today and then have the Board adopt it at a future meeting. Ms. Williams replied that at the next regular Board meeting, she would be requesting the Board's signature stating that they concur with the Plan; this would be

followed by obtaining signatures from all the fire chiefs and members of the local cities and town councils in southern Gila County. The Plan will then be forwarded to the Arizona State Forester for his signature and once he signs off, that will complete the Plan. The Board then held a lengthy discussion on the next steps for the Plan and recommended the following courses of action, as follows: A) after adoption of the Plan, the Department of Emergency Management will call together the core team to review and identify projects to begin with or plan for and research available funding; B) continue to move forward with a public outreach plan and engage southern Gila County communities and work in conjunction with the University of Arizona Cooperative Extension; C) that the Plan be updated now and every 2-3 years thereafter and statistics reviewed on how many acres were treated, how many fires were in the area, how many bladders and tanks are available, identify the other partners who are in on the conversation, identify the number of fire departments that have bladders for their personal use. etc.; D) provide a list of the assets from a County perspective that would be available in the event of a fire; E) encourage the communities to take leadership roles in managing the program and determine a person to spearhead the Plan in each fire wise community; F) encourage communities to work together to organize specific tasks such as cleaning up the right-of-ways and neighborhoods of debris and weeds and creating buffer zones; G) provide a step-by-step guidance program for how people could use the Plan to obtain funding; H) provide a copy of the Plan to all of the fire chiefs and give them ownership in the Plan and then have them report back to the County as to how they are going to implement the Plan; I) address the issues that could arise for those residents who do not reside within a fire district including evacuation plans and liability issues for other fire districts; J) in particular, review the area of El Capitan as it is listed as a high risk area for the year; K) review ways to incorporate the San Carlos Apache Tribe into the Plan including use of their top-trained fire fighters because sections of the reservation are next to the El Capitan area; L) bring together crews as a part of the Plan by discussing a prevention plan to thin out and clean up brush; and M) ensure that all communities within Gila County are included in either the Northern or Southern Gila County Community Wildfire Protection Plans. Don McDaniel, County Manager, suggested that since this item will be on the May 1st agenda, between now and then staff can prepare a list of items that can be done with the Plan, with the County taking the lead, and things that can be done after the Plan is officially adopted so it doesn't just become another document on the shelf. No action was taken by the Board.

3. Information/Discussion to review the Gila County Community Health Assessment and Community Health Improvement Plan in consideration of accreditation by the Public Health Accreditation Board.

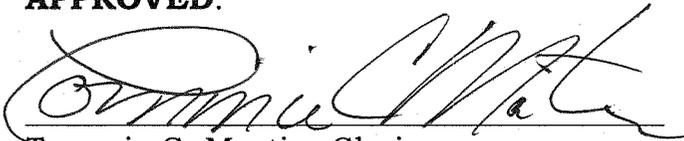
Mr. O'Driscoll stated that this is an exciting proposal for Gila County. He advised that there is a nationwide trend in public health with shrinking

resources that is directing local health departments to do more with less and with direction to partner up with community organizations such as the local hospitals, schools, businesses, etc. to create programs to affect positive change in public health. He stated that this is the first step toward what's known as the PHAB (Public Health Accreditation Board) – a nationwide accreditation process. It's very similar to hospitals that must be accredited by the Joint Commission for the standardization of programs that are in place and offered to the public. The accreditation process is based on the theory that public health is best served by going out to the public and offering services to the public. A Community Health Assessment (CHA) is the first step toward accreditation that a local health department takes to actually go out to the community and ask for their feedback to identify the public health issues within the community. Once the information is received, it will be reviewed by the Gila County Health Department and then experts will be consulted to direct the County as to ways to target the health issues within the County in order to affect change. He advised that the state of Arizona has graciously offered money through a grant process to pay to complete a CHA in Gila County. The next step towards accreditation is that after the CHA has been completed, the Gila County Health Department will be required to use that information to create policies and then the programs will be actively monitored to determine their effectiveness. If it is found that those programs aren't working, a different approach will be taken. This particular grant also involves a quality improvement component, so part of the measurable outcomes will be implemented and documented. The Health Department will then go back to the state and show that it is using quality improvement models in what it is doing in public health. The state will evaluate that process and will assist in drawing up a strategic plan to move forward. The state of Arizona is really looking hard at trying to get all 15 counties involved in the accreditation process. Mr. O'Driscoll reviewed the partnerships that will be formed with this particular grant, which will include 3 local hospitals (San Carlos, Payson and Globe), a new federally qualified health care center opening in Globe in June, and the University of Arizona in order to come up with a good CHA. Supervisor Pastor inquired whether this is a new program or if it will overlap some previous studies conducted by the University of Arizona. Mr. O'Driscoll replied that the Center for Disease Control recently released a University of Wisconsin (Madison) nationwide assessment of all counties. He cautioned that the methods used can be up to 60-70% faulty because they don't actually come into the counties to conduct studies, but instead use the state's information as well as some local county information. This program will be a combination of both working with the state utilizing a lot of the data that will be needed as well as working with the partners, who will conduct public surveys to determine the actual health indicators. He also noted that this program will be countywide and after everything has been completed, the County Health Department will create some programs that target those health issues to affect change in the County. Chairman Martin stated that she believes there are different populations with different health issues and questioned if the statistics may

not be accurate because of confusion caused by looking at the average and not separating out the north, south and reservation health issues, and if there are differences what are they and how can they be helped individually? She also inquired about the County's existing health programs and inquired if some of those may no longer be necessary. She also wanted to know whether this new program will assist in refocusing the efforts. Mr. O'Driscoll replied that this CHA will help the County identify which programs should be placed in what areas of the County to affect the most change. Chairman Martin also inquired if the County has programs because there was available money at a particular time or does the County have programs because there is a need for the program? Mr. O'Driscoll stated that the state of Arizona has been extremely open to providing a lot of support to him in general, which will allow flexibility to shift the County's focus to where it's most needed instead of having grants for one specific service, but rather that funds can be shifted to a more needed area without losing any funding. No action was taken by the Board.

There being no further business to come before the Board of Supervisors, Chairman Martin adjourned the meeting at 10:58 a.m.

APPROVED:


Tommie C. Martin, Chairman

ATTEST:


Marian Sheppard, Chief Deputy Clerk