

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

Date: March 29, 2016

MICHAEL A. PASTOR
Chairman

MARIAN E. SHEPPARD
Clerk of the Board

TOMMIE C. MARTIN
Vice-Chairman

By: Laurie J. Kline
Deputy Clerk

JOHN D. MARCANTI
Member

Gila County Courthouse
Globe, Arizona

PRESENT: Michael A. Pastor, Chairman; Tommie C. Martin, Vice-Chairman (via ITV) John D. Marcanti, Member; Don E. McDaniel, Jr., County Manager; and Laurie J. Kline, Deputy Clerk.

ABSENT: Marian E. Sheppard, Clerk of the Board, and no County 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. Eric Mariscal led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Item 2 – REGULAR AGENDA ITEMS:

A. Information/Discussion to increase the Sheriff's Office fee schedule effective July 1, 2016, for out-of-county housing costs for self-surrenders from \$54.63 per day to \$175 for the first day and \$90 for every day thereafter.

Sheriff J. Adam Shepherd stated that the Sheriff's Office fee schedule has not been increased for "decades" and he believes that it has become necessary to do so. Gila County currently has the lowest cost, compared to other Arizona counties, to house self-surrender inmates who are from other counties and have the option to serve their sentence [jail time] in Gila County. Sheriff Shepherd stated that research was done to formulate a fair rate to charge for these services.

William “Swede” Carlson, Detention Officer Lieutenant, stated that when the current rate of \$54.63 per day to house a self-surrender inmate was established, there weren’t very many self-surrenders from other counties housed in the Gila County Jail. When the rate was offered to Maricopa County, Gila County received copious amounts of self-surrender inmates opting to be housed at the Gila County Jail rather than the Maricopa County Tent City Jail to serve their jail sentences. The cost to house an inmate in Gila County is \$85 a day, and does not include utilities and medical expenses. The proposed fee schedule, as stated above, is right in the middle of what the other Arizona counties charge for this service and will cover the cost to house a self-surrender inmate.

The Board held a discussion regarding the logistics of housing inmates in either Payson or Globe. It was determined that if there is no room in the Payson jail, the male inmates are transported to the Globe jail, and that all female inmates are transported to the Globe jail.

Justin “Matt” Solberg, Detention Commander, explained that since the length of time inmates are housed varies, there is usually room to house the inmates in either Payson or Globe. Sheriff Shepherd concurred and added that self-surrenders are usually housed for a lot less time and that it is easier to project the Sheriff’s Office needs for a five to ten day inmate stay than an inmate that is held indefinitely.

Vice-Chairman Martin inquired if the first day fee of \$175 covers booking and medical expenses. Sheriff Sheppard explained that there is a lot more staff time involved in processing an inmate into the facility on the first day, and that after that it is routine and less costly. The \$90 fee for each subsequent day an inmate is held does cover the cost with a little buffer for unforeseen expenses.

The Board members commented that they appreciated the presentation and supported approving the increase to the fee schedule at a future meeting when it is presented as an action item.

B. Information/Discussion/Action to the canvass the election results contained in the Official Canvass of the Presidential Preference Election held on March 22, 2016, in Gila County, Arizona, and declare the results official.

Eric Mariscal, Elections Director, reviewed the contents of the canvass of the Presidential Preference Election results. He stated that the number of district polling sites has been reduced, based on voter registration numbers of one district polling site per every 2,000 registered voters, for a total of 17 district polling sites in Gila County. Three of the 17 precincts are small enough to

have all-mail ballots. Gila County had the third highest percent in the State with an overall voter turnout of 57.06%. He stated that the participation at the polling places was “very slim,” and that the majority of the ballots were received by early ballots. Mr. Mariscal stated that no major issues or delays were experienced at any of the polling places.

Vice-Chairman Martin asked Mr. Mariscal to review the information pertaining to the number of early voters in contrast to the number of voters who voted at polling places. Mr. Mariscal again reviewed the information pertaining to the number of early votes received compared to the number of votes received at the polling places and stated that the early voting does seem to be the trend throughout the County. She added that it is important to clear up some of the confusion, if there is another Presidential Preference Election, with regard to the Independent Voters, when only registered Democratic, Republican and Green Voters, and not Independent, may vote. Mr. Mariscal stated that there might be Arizona State legislation passed to assist with this, but he was unsure. He added that it *was* helpful that the Recorder’s Office distributed literature regarding this election and he hopes for improvement in keeping the voters well informed.

Supervisor Marcanti stated that he feels that there will always need to be polling places in San Carlos because the voter turnout at the polling places is higher than the early mail-in ballots received. He added that he agreed with consolidating polling places where it is possible to do so.

Chairman Pastor confirmed that it was a requirement to have 1 polling place for every 2,000 voters; however, it may be possible to trim that number for the next election. Mr. Mariscal stated that there is no formula set for the next election with regard to the number of polling places required. He added that most likely there would always be polling places at the outlying areas of the County, and that the consolidation of the polling places is mostly in the Globe, Miami, and Payson area.

Chairman Pastor inquired when the recently purchased voting equipment would be utilized. Mr. Mariscal stated that the implementation of the new voting equipment would be functional for the election in May.

Don McDaniel, County Manager, stated that he wanted to recognize Mr. Mariscal for his foresight and tenacity in reducing the number of polling sites, and for his direction to reduce the number of potential problems associated with an election. Upon motion by Vice-Chairman Martin, seconded by Supervisor Marcanti, the Board unanimously canvassed the election results contained in the Official Canvass of the Presidential Preference Election held on March 22, 2016, in Gila County, Arizona, and declared the results official.

C. Information/Discussion regarding the accomplishments and activities of the Elections Department in 2016.

Mr. Mariscal stated that one of the successes during 2015 was to acquire new voting equipment. One of the events that transpired in 2015 was that the vendor that provided ballot layout services was no longer available, so the decision was made to do the ballot layout in-house. He stated that in 2015 there were two elections, Tri-City Regional Sanitary District and the Miami Unified School District for which the ballots were created in-house by the Elections Department. On February 24, 2016, the voting election software purchased from Election Systems and Software (ES&S) was received, set up, and functioning properly. On February 29, 2016, software training from ES&S was provided and was initially set for five days; however, Alfonzo Alvarez, Elections Specialist, completed the training in three days. He was able to do the ballot layout for the two aforementioned elections ballots and most recently the Presidential Preference Election ballot layout. (Each Board member was provided a paper copy of a sample ballot.) The new elections software is employed and being utilized. The elections software is closed and kept separate on a server; therefore, it cannot be accessed by the outside. On March 11, 2016, the majority of the equipment was received, inventoried and accepted. Later that day, two ES&S technicians arrived to set up the DS850 scanner. It took the Elections Department a day and a half to scan all of the ballots that came in for the Presidential Preference Election. The DS850 scanner has the ability to scan the same number of ballots in approximately an hour and a half. The technicians also set up the Express Vote Units and were in good working order. April 6-8, 2016, ES&S technicians will be here to conduct training on electronic poll book tablets and the ballot on demand printers.

Vice-Chairman Martin requested that as soon as Mr. Mariscal has a sample ballot prepared that she can share with the media, that he provide it to her.

Supervisor Marcanti inquired as to how electrical outages would be handled. Mr. Mariscal replied that one precinct (Carrizo) has been identified as needing special connectivity accommodations; therefore, paper ballots will be used at that location. If connectivity is lost or there is an electrical outage, voters would still be able to vote provisionally until power and or a signal is restored.

Chairman Pastor thanked Mr. Mariscal for the presentation.

Mr. McDaniel stated that Gila County Merit System Rule 7 – Political Activity will be shared with employees during this election season so that employees

will know what rights, responsibilities, and limitations they have as a County employee.

Item 3 – CALL TO THE PUBLIC: Call to the Public is held for public benefit to allow individuals to address the Board of Supervisors on any issue within the jurisdiction of the Board of Supervisors. Board members may not discuss items that are not specifically identified on the agenda. Therefore, pursuant to Arizona Revised Statute §38-431.01(H), at the conclusion of an open call to the public, individual members of the Board of Supervisors may respond to criticism made by those who have addressed the Board, may ask staff to review a matter or may ask that a matter be put on a future agenda for further discussion and decision at a future date.

There were no comments from the public.

Item 4 – At any time during this meeting pursuant to A.R.S. §38-431.02(K), members of the Board of Supervisors and the County Manager may present a brief summary of current events. No action may be taken on information presented.

Each Board member presented information on current events. Mr. McDaniel provided no comments at this time.

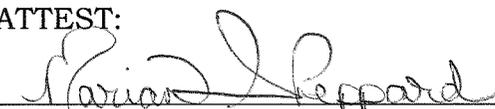
There being no further business to come before the Board of Supervisors, Chairman Pastor adjourned the meeting at 11:12 a.m.

APPROVED:



Michael A. Pastor, Chairman

ATTEST:



Marian Sheppard, Clerk of the Board