

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

Date: January 22, 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 (participated via telephone); 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 - Presentation of employee service awards.**

Tiffany Poarch, Gila County Public Fiduciary, and the Board presented the Employee Service Awards for 2007. Five year service awards were presented to the following employees: Dennis Hanson, Johnny Holmes, Margarita Chapman, Misty Price, Judy Esteves, John Garrett, Laura Short, Richard Hobson, Claudia Brooks, Michelle Daly, Marquis Clark, Steve Stratton, Lynn O'Leary, Andrea Hamm, Mary Stemm, Judith Michel, Jo Perea, Stephanie Canizales, Terry Hudgens, Michael Snively, Mary Allen, Travis Shields, Forrest Bennett, George Hernandez, Janie Bennett, Antoniette McEuen, Cheryl Sluyter, Virgilio Dodd, William Newman and Peggy Cox. Ten year service awards were presented to the following employees: Jesse Bolinger, Vicki DeAnda, Sylvia Badilla, Linda Soderman, Ken Doss, Nyra Hillery, Glen Farnham, Marian Sheppard, Ethel Hammer, Esther Rios, Karin Gilbert, Lonny Cline, Bree'na York, Shannon Coons, Rose Grice, Robert Hickman, Mary Andrade, Cecelia Gonzales, Carol Branch and Dean Pederson. Fifteen year service awards were presented to the following employees: Gabriel Eylicio, Johnna Kemper, Tina DeSchaaf, Larry Huffer, Jendean Sartain, Bryan Chambers, Donna Smith, Linda Ortega, Loren Chesley, Annette Mueller, Richard Croy, Marilyn Cruz and Barbara Guthrey. Twenty year service awards were presented to the following

employees: Diana Ortiz, David Franquero, Dorothy Little and William Seeley. Twenty-five year service awards were presented to Richard Taylor, Claudia DalMolin and Belinda Licano. A thirty-year service award was presented to John Root. Each Board member expressed their appreciation for the work and dedication of all the employees. Chairman Sanchez publicly thanked Mrs. Poarch for the many years she has volunteered to administer the Employee Service Awards Program.

**Item 3 - Information/Discussion/Action: Arizona Department of Transportation (ADOT) area update.**

Steve Stratton, Public Works Division Director, introduced Vicky Bever, ADOT Project Manager, who presented an update on ADOT highway improvement projects. Ms. Bever advised that beginning tonight public meetings will be held at various locations to inform the public of ADOT's projects and to answer any questions or concerns. She provided a summary of 3 highway improvement projects, which were listed on a handout she presented to the Board, as follows: Pinto Valley Improvements – ADOT is planning to improve US 60 in the Pinto Valley area. The project area begins at the Pinal/Gila County line and extends east past Pinto Valley Road from MP (mile post) 236 to MP 240. The new passing lane will begin east of the Pinto Creek Bridge and will end east of Pinto Valley Road (MP 238 to MP 240). The roadway improvements consist of pavement resurfacing, addition of an eastbound passing lane, and constructing ditches to help contain rocks that fall from adjacent slopes. The purpose of this project is to maintain the structural integrity of the pavement, improve traffic flow, and reduce potential hazards from rocks falling onto the roadway. Roadway construction activity is anticipated to begin in fall 2008 and continue for 10 to 12 months. Travelers will experience delays on US 60 during construction and are encouraged to allow extra travel time during the roadway improvements. SR 177 Improvements – ADOT is planning to reconstruct a portion of SR 177. The project area is located on SR 177 between MP 163 and MP 164, approximately 3 miles south of Superior. The purpose of the project is to realign the roadway in the project area to improve safety. Construction of the project is anticipated to begin in spring 2009 and last 4 to 6 months. Traffic restrictions along SR 177 will be necessary during project construction. Blasting may be required. It is anticipated that during blasting activities, the roadway will be closed for 15 to 30 minute intervals. Delays will be expected for travelers on SR 177 during this time. State Route 77 Improvements – Starting this fall, ADOT will be constructing roadway improvements within a 2 mile segment of SR 77 near the Dripping Springs community, between MP 145 and MP 147. This project consists of widening roadway shoulders and creating a rock-fall ditch. Nearly one-half million cubic yards of rock will be blasted during construction. The roadway will be closed during the day due to the required blasting activities. These daytime closures will begin September 2008 and continue through April 2009. Daytime travel – The general public will not be allowed to travel during the day along the

restricted portion of SR 77 from September 2008 through April 2009. Nighttime travel – During nighttime hours, SR 77 will be open for restricted northbound and southbound travel. One lane will be open, with signals at each end of the work zone to control one-way traffic. Expect an approximate 10-minute wait at these signals for travel along this route. Ms. Bever stated that due to the SR 77 improvement project taking place in an environmentally sensitive area because endangered species of fish and birds in the area, blasting cannot commence until September 16<sup>th</sup>. There is a period of 7 months from September 16<sup>th</sup> that blasting can occur until another endangered bird migrates to the area at about April 15<sup>th</sup>. The Board questioned the location for disposing the blasted rock and Ms. Bever advised that ADOT will most likely dispose of the rock at Freeport McMoRan's Christmas mine site. Each Board member thanked Ms. Bever for the presentation. Vice-Chairman Martin expressed a concern regarding a potential project being discussed by ADOT which may take place further into the future, which is the highway route from Superior, Arizona, to Lordsburg, New Mexico. If such a highway route is established, the concern is that it would bypass the towns of Superior and Globe-Miami. Vice-Chairman Martin would like to be informed the status of any projects that could possibly bypass the Globe-Miami area. Ms. Bever advised that a bypass study was recommended by an ADOT board member and it is her understanding that project would be very expensive and environmentally sensitive. Ms. Bever advised the Board to convey any and all concerns to ADOT and she stated, "It's never too late to let your desires be known." Supervisor Dawson questioned whether a traffic light would be installed at some point at the entrance road to the Pinto Valley mine. Ms. Bever replied that a decision to install a traffic light at that location has not yet been made. She advised that the goal is to make the route from Superior to Globe-Miami accessible via a four lane highway. Issues such as traffic control devices will be included in the final study and implemented in stages. Steve Besich, County Manager/Clerk, inquired about the SR 77 road closure and how it would impact children residing in the Dripping Springs area who ride the school bus to Hayden. Ms. Bever stated that ADOT's goal is for safety and ADOT will be working with the school district to accommodate the school bus going to Hayden. In ending this discussion, Chairman Sanchez invited the public to attend tonight's meeting being held by ADOT at the Copper Rim Elementary School.

**Item 4 - Information/Discussion/Action to authorize the Gila County Sheriff to increase the number of Sheriff's Office fleet vehicles in order to provide two 4-wheel drive patrol vehicles for use by the Sheriff's Payson Posse.**

Sheriff John Armer advised that for many years the Payson Posse has provided a vital service to his Office in northern Gila County. The Posse is comprised of volunteer members that assist the Sheriff's Office on an as-needed basis. Some of the duties provided by the Posse include providing security at closure points

during forest closures, patrolling the forests, providing security over the County's water bladders that are used during forest fires, transporting prisoners and providing security at crime scenes. Sheriff Armer advised that many times the Posse members use their own vehicles on patrol. He requested to purchase two 4-wheel drive vehicles that will be housed at County facilities for use by the Posse when they are called upon by the Sheriff's Office. Sheriff Armer advised that he met with the County Manager on this request and John Root of the Public Works Division, who has identified two vehicles that could be purchased to satisfy this request. If this purchase is authorized by the Board, the vehicles could be delivered in the spring or early summer. Supervisor Dawson inquired whether the Sheriff's Office budget has sufficient funds to provide maintenance on these vehicles. Sheriff Armer replied that there is sufficient funding in the Sheriff's Office budget to maintain the vehicles because he has several unfilled positions within his Office. Sheriff Armer introduced Officers Bob Schwenki and Art Decker, Payson Posse members. Upon motion by Vice-Chairman Martin, seconded by Supervisor Dawson, the Board unanimously authorized Sheriff Armer to increase the number of Sheriff's Office fleet vehicles in order to provide two 4-wheel drive patrol vehicles for use by the Sheriff's Payson Posse.

Supervisor Dawson requested that Consent Agenda item 5E, the personnel report/actions, be moved to the regular agenda for discussion. Upon motion by Supervisor Dawson, seconded by Vice-Chairman Martin, item 5E was moved to the regular agenda. Supervisor Dawson advised that she did not want the Board to approve items 17 and 18 on the personnel agenda until the Board conducts a strategic planning session in the near future to set priorities regarding the upcoming fiscal year budget. Personnel agenda items 17 and 18 address a request for permission to post two job openings at the County fairgrounds: Building and Grounds Maintenance Worker and Building and Grounds Maintenance Supervisor. Supervisor Dawson made the motion to table personnel items 17 and 18, which was seconded by Vice-Chairman Martin. Chairman Sanchez advised that one of the vacant positions is to fill a supervisory position and he questioned how the fairgrounds would operate efficiently if that position were not filled. He asked for the County Manager's comments. Mr. Besich understands the reason for Supervisor Dawson's request; however, he advised that many events at the fairgrounds have already been scheduled into the future. He further advised that future scheduled events may have to be cancelled; otherwise, there would be a great deal of overtime built up by those remaining staff that work during special events held at the fairgrounds. Supervisor Dawson suggested hiring temporary employees during those events or asking the present supervisor to come out of retirement and work on an as-needed basis. Vice-Chairman Martin stated that issues such as this may prompt the Board to schedule the strategic planning session as soon as possible. Chairman Sanchez advised that a motion was made and seconded to table personnel items 17 and 18. The motion passed by a 2 to 1 vote, with Chairman Sanchez voting against the motion.

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

- A. Approval to appoint Alma Marie Walker as a Gila County Republican Precinct Committeeman.**
- B. Ratification of the Chairman’s signature on the Fourth Amendment to the Statute of Limitations Tolling Agreement between Gila County and Chaparral Pines Investors, LLC, whereby paragraph 2 has been amended to extend the term of the Agreement. Said Agreement is dated January 15, 2008.**
- C. Approval of the December 2007 monthly departmental activity reports submitted by the Globe Regional Justice of the Peace and the Gila County Recorder.**
- D. Approval of the December 28, 2007, and January 8, 2008, BOS meeting minutes.**
- E. Approval of personnel reports/actions for the week of January 22, 2008.**

Departure from County Service:

- 1. Laborer – Constituent Services II – 01-11-08 – General Fund – Andrew Vargas – DOH 12-24-07 – Temporary Position
- 2. Court Clerk – Clerk of Superior Court – 11-28-07 – Superior Court Document Conversion Fund – Tara DeMario – DOH 08-28-06 – Attend School

Hire to County Service:

- 3. Administrative Services – Administrative Clerk – 01-07-08 - General Fund – Kim Rust
- 4. Automotive Service Worker – Public Works/Auto/Equipment Maintenance – 01-22-08 – Public Works Fund – Justin McNeil

Temporary Hire to County Service:

- 5. Laborer – Constituent Services II – 01-14-08 – General Fund – Carl Russell

Departmental Transfers:

- 6. From Automotive Mechanic To Lube Specialist – Public Works/Auto/Equipment Maintenance – 01-22-08 – Public Works Fund – Merle Ray

Position Review:

- 7. Change in title – From Building Safety Assistant Senior To Environmental/Planning Technician – Community Development - 07-09-07 – General Fund – Jo Lynn Chase
- 8. Change in title – From Environmental Engineering Technician To Environmental/Planning Technician – Community Development – 07-09-07 – General Fund – Cynthia Shafe

9. Change in title – From Building Safety Assistant Senior – To Code Enforcement Supervisor – Community Development – 07-09-07 – General Fund - Margie Chapman
10. Change in title – From Code Compliance Specialist To Code Compliance Officer – Community Development – 07-09-07 – General Fund - William Hanna
11. Change in title – From Planning Technician To Executive Administrative Assistant – Community Development – 07-09-07 – General Fund – Beverly Valenzuela
12. Change in title – From Community Development Supervisor – To Floodplain Coordinator – 07-09-07 – General Fund – Carlos Ozuna
13. Change in title – From Administrative Assistant To Contracts Support Specialist – 07-09-07 – Public Works Fund 50%/General Fund 50% - Valrie Bejarano
14. From Accounting Clerk To Finance and Purchasing Specialist – Purchasing – 07-09-07 – General Fund – Misti Williams
15. Change in hours – Planner – Community Development – 02-04-08 – General Fund – Rudy Frost

Request Permission to Post

16. Environmental Health Specialist Senior – Health and Community Services – Position vacated by Bhishm Naraine
- ~~17. Building and Grounds Maintenance Worker – Fairgrounds – Position vacated by Ronnie Sanchez - **tabled** (see above)~~
- ~~18. Building and Grounds Maintenance Supervisor – Fairgrounds – Position vacated by Fred Casillas - **tabled** (see above)~~

**SHERIFF’S PERSONNEL ACTION ITEMS:**

Hire to County Service:

19. Detention Officer – Sheriff’s Office/Globe – 01-21-08 – General Fund – Marion Faubush – Replacing Shannon Lopez

End Probationary Period:

20. 911 Dispatcher – Sheriff’s Office/Payson – 01-21-08 – General Fund – Deniece Platt –
21. Detention Officer – Sheriff’s Office/Globe – 01-21-08 – General Fund – Joy Lynn Curtice

**F. Approval of the finance reports which lists disbursements that will be issued during the week of January 22, 2008. (separate handout)**

\$910,976.28 was disbursed for County expenses by check numbers 205161 through 205162 and 205292 through 205457. **(An itemized list of disbursements is permanently on file in the Board of Supervisors’ Office.)**

Upon motion by Supervisor Dawson, seconded by Vice-Chairman, the Board unanimously approved Consent Agenda Action Item numbers 5A-5F, which

included the amended item 5E whereby personnel items 17 and 18 were tabled.

**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 11:35 a.m.

**APPROVED:**

  
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Jose M. Sanchez, Chairman

**ATTEST:**

  
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Steven L. Besich, County Manager/Clerk