

Board of Supervisors
October 5, 2021
9:30 a.m.

The Board met in a Regular Meeting at the Santa Cruz County Complex, 2150 N. Congress Drive, Room #120, Nogales, AZ. Present: Manny Ruiz, Chairman; Bruce Bracker, Vice-Chairman; Rudy Molera, Member (telephonically); Jennifer St. John, County Manager; Laura Roubicek, Deputy County Attorney; Lizbeth Tolano, Deputy Clerk of the Board.

CALL TO ORDER/PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Chairman Ruiz called the meeting to order, and the Pledge of Allegiance was recited, led by John Hays.

ADOPTION OF AGENDA

Chairman Ruiz made a motion to adopt the Agenda removing Action Item H4 and tabling Action Item H6 for the 10/19/2021 regular meeting and deviate from the Agenda sequence as necessary; seconded by Vice-Chairman Bracker; motion carried unanimously. (Ayes: Bracker, Molera, Ruiz)

CALL TO THE PUBLIC:

Steve McEwen, a Rio Rico resident, expressed his objection to Action Item #5 COVID-19 on the vaccine incentive program for all County employees.

David Goodman, a county resident, briefed the Board on the history and clean-up process of the Calabasas Cemetery; he also thanked them for their support.

Jennifer St. John, County Manager, recognized Commander Raoul Rodriguez for his 25 years of service and congratulated him on retiring.

Chairman Ruiz read Commander Rodriguez's biography.

Board members thanked him for his service and congratulated him on his retirement and future endeavors.

CURRENT EVENTS

David Goodman, a county resident, briefed the Board on the history and clean-up process of the Calabasas Cemetery; he also thanked them for their support.

1. BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

VICE-CHAIRMAN BRACKER reported he attended the 2021 Annual CSA Summit in Prescott and referenced they spoke about pending legislation and county priorities, especially the unfunded mandates and transportation infrastructure.

SUPERVISOR MOLERA thanked his two colleagues for attending the CSA summit and providing good input for our community.

CHAIRMAN RUIZ echoed his colleagues' comments, especially addressing the high tax rates for constituents.

2. MANAGER

JENNIFER ST. JOHN, COUNTY MANAGER, attended a Port Authority meeting; reported she has been working with Mauricio Chavez to explore options to fund the unfunded liability for PSPRS; she has had bi-weekly meetings with ADOT & ADEQ; she also attended the CSA Summit.

DEPARTMENT REPORTS AND ACTIVITIES

1. FINANCE: CASH & INVESTMENTS, EXPENDITURES & REVENUES REPORTS

Mauricio Chavez, Administrative Services Department Director, reported \$11,933,416 in the General Fund, of which \$10,286,129 is invested; \$1,763,272 in the Road Fund, of which \$815,240 is invested; \$1,972,721 in the Flood Control District Fund, of which \$1,862,176 is invested; \$1,965,258 in the Jail District Fund, of which \$1,001,830 is invested; \$34,791,618 total for all funds, of which \$15,779,793 is invested; \$10,602,838 estimated end of month balance, compared to \$2,612,756 cash at October 2020, a difference of \$7,990,081.

FLOOD CONTROL

1. DIRECTOR'S/PROJECT REPORT

Submitted in writing.

2. MONTHLY REPORT FROM CITY OF NOGALES

No report.

3. MONTHLY REPORT FROM THE TOWN OF PATAGONIA

No report.

4. PUBLIC COMMENT

Steven McEwen asked John Hays if he could repeat the monsoon comparison numbers.

John Hays repeated the information to Mr. McEwen.

The Board adjourned as the Flood District Board and convened to the Board of Equalization. (Motion: Vice-Chairman Bracker; second: Chairman Ruiz; motion carried unanimously) (Ayes: Bracker, Molera, Ruiz)

BOARD OF EQUALIZATION

1. PETITIONS FOR REVIEW OF VALUATION (REQ: CLERK)

Chief Deputy Assessor, Edmundo Paz, informed and confirmed the State Board of Equalization Hearing Officer's decisions on the Petitions for Review appeals.

Vice-Chairman Bracker made a motion to approve the Petitions for Review of Valuation submitted by the State Board of Equalization Hearing Officer, seconded by Chairman Ruiz; the motion carried unanimously. (Ayes: Bracker, Molera, Ruiz)

The Board adjourned as the Board of Equalization and reconvened Regular Meeting. (Motion: Vice-Chairman Bracker; second: Chairman Ruiz; motion carried unanimously) (Ayes: Bracker, Molera, Ruiz)

ACTION ITEMS

1. DISCUSSION/POSSIBLE ACTION FOR AUTHORIZATION TO FILL:

a) Three (3) vacant court clerk positions (Req: Justice of the Peace)

b) Court Clerk position (Req: Clerk of the Superior Court)

Vice-Chairman Bracker made a motion to approve 1a and 1b, seconded by Chairman Ruiz; the motion carried unanimously. (Ayes: Bracker, Molera, Ruiz)

2. DISCUSSION/POSSIBLE ACTION TO APPROVE PROPOSALS WITH ADT COMMERCIAL FOR VARIOUS COURT BUILDING SECURITY ENHANCEMENTS: (REQ: SUPERIOR COURT)

a) No. 891228222, for door access control, in the amount of \$8,719.46

b) No. 891228223, main lobby, in the amount of \$9,281.55

c) No. 891228224, door, in the amount of \$920.48

Vice-Chairman Bracker made a motion to approve 2a through 2c, seconded by Chairman Ruiz; the motion carried unanimously. (Ayes: Bracker, Molera, Ruiz)

3. DISCUSSION/POSSIBLE ACTION TO APPROVE PROCLAMATION DESIGNATING OCTOBER 2021 AS SANTA CRUZ COUNTY ARTS MONTH (REQ: SCHOOL SUPERINTENDENT)

Vice-Chairman Bracker made a motion to approve 1a and 1b, seconded by Chairman Ruiz; the motion carried unanimously. (Ayes: Bracker, Molera, Ruiz)

Chairman Ruiz thanked School Superintendent, Alfredo Velasquez for showing the importance that art plays in our community.

Alfredo Velasquez introduced Evan Kory as the Art Director for the Santa Cruz County School Superintendent's Office.

Evan Kory presented some "art titles" in appreciation for the support and thanked the Board.

Supervisor Molera commended Evan for all his hard work.

5. DISCUSSION/POSSIBLE ACTION TO APPROVE A COVID-19 VACCINE INCENTIVE PROGRAM FOR ALL COUNTY EMPLOYEES FULLY VACCINATED BEFORE DECEMBER 31, 2021, IN THE AMOUNT OF A ONE-TIME CASH PAYMENT OF \$500 (REQ: COUNTY MANAGER)

Jennifer St. John briefed the Board on the voluntary COVID-19 vaccine incentive program, stating that the total cost would be shy of \$200,000 if all employees were to get vaccinated, and the American Rescue Plan Act funds would pay for the program.

Chairman Ruiz asked if the program had been reviewed and approved by legal.

Chief Deputy Attorney, Kim Hunley, confirmed.

Vice-Chairman Bracker asked the County Manager what has been the cost to date for COVID-19 related infections or exposures.

County Manager said the county had approximately \$500,000 expenses in Covid related illnesses, including loss of employees' time.

Vice-Chairman Bracker made a motion to approve; seconded by Chairman Ruiz; the motion carried unanimously. (Ayes: Bracker, Molera, Ruiz)

7. APPROVAL OF MINUTES: 09/21/2021

Vice-Chairman Bracker made a motion to approve; seconded by Chairman Ruiz; the motion carried unanimously. (Ayes: Bracker, Molera, Ruiz)

8. DEMANDS were approved in the total amount of \$1,180,779.63, of which \$246,543.07 is from the General Fund. Details of these expenditures are available for inspection during working hours and are to be considered as part of these minutes. (motion: Vice-Chairman Bracker; second: Chairman Ruiz; motion carried unanimously) (Ayes: Bracker, Molera, Ruiz)

The Board recessed and convened into Executive Session for H8 & H9 (Motion: Vice-Chairman Bracker; second: Chairman Ruiz; motion carried unanimously) (Ayes: Bracker, Molera, Ruiz)

EXECUTIVE SESSION (*Pursuant to A.R.S. § 38-431.03(a)(3) and (4)*)

The Board adjourned Executive Session and reconvened Regular Meeting. (Motion: Chairman Ruiz; second: Vice-Chairman Bracker; motion carried unanimously) (Ayes: Bracker, Molera, Ruiz)

ACTION ITEMS (continued)

9. DISCUSSION/POSSIBLE ACTION TO EXECUTE ONE ARIZONA DISTRIBUTION OF OPIOID SETTLEMENT FUNDS AGREEMENT (REQ: COUNTY ATTORNEY)

Vice-Chairman Bracker made a motion to approve and execute the Opioid Settlement Agreement, seconded by Chairman Ruiz; the motion carried unanimously. (Ayes: Bracker, Molera, Ruiz)

10. DISCUSSION/POSSIBLE ACTION TO APPROVE A POSSIBLE SETTLEMENT ON A NOTICE OF CLAIM MADE BY SHOW BASEBALL, INC.: Vice-Chairman Bracker made a motion to have legal counsel and staff proceed as directed in the Executive Session, seconded by Chairman Ruiz; the motion carried unanimously. (Ayes: Bracker, Molera, Ruiz)

ADJOURNMENT

Meeting adjourned at 10:54 a.m. (Motion: Vice-Chairman Bracker; second: Chairman Ruiz; motion carried unanimously) (Ayes: Bracker, Molera, Ruiz)