

The Board met in a Special Meeting at the Santa Cruz County Complex, 2150 N. Congress Drive, Room #120, Nogales, AZ. Present: Rudy Molera, Chairman; John Fanning, Vice-Chairman; Luis Carlos Davis, Member; Jesus Valdez, County Manager; Mauricio Chavez, Deputy County Manager; Robert May, Civil Bureau Chief; Alma Schultz, Clerk of the Board.

CALL TO ORDER/PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Chairman Molera called the meeting to order, and the Pledge of Allegiance was recited, led by Maya Donnelly.

ADOPTION OF AGENDA

Supervisor Davis made a motion to adopt the Agenda and deviate from the Agenda sequence as necessary; seconded by Vice-Chairman Fanning; motion carried unanimously. (Ayes: Davis, Fanning, Molera)

CALL TO THE PUBLIC:

Richard Ohnstad, resident of District #28, expressed concerns regarding the tax rate, budget approval, and communication.

Kerri Pottinger, resident of Nogales and member of District #28, stated that their process was legally correct. She commented on press releases issued by the County, noting that the district has received criticism for matters beyond its control. She requested that the district be included in the process before press releases are issued, in order to maintain public trust.

Alejandro Castaneda, resident of District #28, requested transparency, cooperation, and adherence to lawful governance.

David Cook, resident of District #28, reiterated Alejandro Castaneda's points and compared figures between districts. He stated that he should not have to act as an accountant to oversee these matters.

Vanessa Register, resident of District #28, participated in the meeting and noted that the School Board indicated the Treasurer performs the calculations, while they only receive the results. She expressed that this situation negatively impacts her and asked whether the County will inform mortgage companies to prevent continued overcharging. She also commented on a possible relationship with another district.

Suzanne Lang, resident of Patagonia Lake, voiced concerns about property taxes, asking where these funds are allocated and whether they are subject to audits.

STUDY SESSION

1. SANTA CRUZ ELEMENTARY SCHOOL DISTRICT #28 TAX RATE PRESENTED BY ALEJANDRO PAZ, SANTA CRUZ COUNTY TREASURER AND MAYA DONNELLY, SANTA CRUZ SCHOOL SUPERINTENDENT (REQ: COUNTY MANAGER)

Alejandro Paz, County Treasurer and Maya Donnelly, School Superintendent, presented an overview of the FY26 property tax rate process for SCESD #28, including statutory requirements, timelines, and coordination with state agencies. The discussion also addressed tax bill errors, planned refunds, and future collaboration between the Treasurer's Office and Superintendent's Office to ensure accurate FY27 tax rate calculations.

Vice-Chairman Fanning thanked the public for attending and expressed appreciation for the collaborative efforts to ensure that such mistakes do not happen again.

Supervisor Davis noted that he had invited Alejandro Paz and Maya Donnelly to present, and they accepted. He thanked the public for their comments and emphasized the need for a public hearing after

certifying the tax rates to keep the public informed. Affirmed that the presentation was posted online. Chairman Molera thanked School Superintendent Donnelly, County Treasurer Paz, and their staff. He stated that communication and procedures need to be established and also addressed the importance of audits. He informed the public that they could email staff or board members if they have any questions.

Mr. Paz apologized for the mistakes and ensured the public that he will do his best.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 1:57 p.m. (motion: Supervisor Davis; second: Vice-Chairman Fanning; motion carried unanimously) (Ayes: Davis, Fanning, Molera)