

Work Session

March 11, 2015

The Pinal County Board of Supervisors convened at 9:33 A.M. this date. Chairwoman Chase called the meeting to order.

Presentations and audio files of the meeting can be found at www.pinalcountyz.gov

Present: Chairwoman Cheryl Chase; Vice-Chairman Pete Rios; Supervisor Stephen Q. Miller; Supervisor Anthony Smith; Supervisor Todd House; Chief Civil Deputy County Attorney, Chris Keller; County Manager, Greg Stanley; Assistant County Manager for Administrative Services, Leo Lew; Assessor, Douglas Wolf; Recorder, Virginia Ross; Clerk of the Court, Amanda Stanford; Deputy Clerk of the Court, Lynn Hurley; County Attorney, Lando Voyles; Honorable Shawn Babeu; Treasurer, Dodie Doolittle; Sheriff Paul Babeu; Clerk of the Board, Sheri Cluff; Deputy Clerk of the Board, AmberLee Taylor and Assistant to the Clerk of the Board, Diane Gardner.

There were several Directors, staff and members of the public present in the audience.

Chairwoman Chase allowed Mr. Rich Wist to speak on behalf of the group present to discuss the RV issue. He recognized the need for regulations, but would like to work with the County to develop those regulations. He does not believe the Arizona Article refers to RVs on private property and felt that RVs on private property should be treated differently.

9:40 A.M. – Chairwoman Chase recessed for a short break

9:47 A.M. – Chairwoman Chase reconvened the meeting.

Discussion of the General Fund status, forecast, and policy guidance for the next fiscal year 2015-16 budget development.

County Manager, Greg Stanley discussed in detail the issues with a structural balance, affects the Governor's budget will have on the County, sales tax, state shared sales tax and the impact of the state legislature's budget. Mr. Stanley talked about recent adjustments made and the possibility of eliminating vacancy savings

Sheriff Paul Babeu and Public Health Director, Tom Schryer, commented that they would prefer to meet a budget target rather than freeze positions and eliminate the vacancies. County Attorney Lando Voyels, agreed that it would eliminate their ability to manage their departments within the resources they have been given.

Mr. Stanley talked about the option of a tax rate increase from 3.79 to 3.99 while Sheriff Babeu asked the Board to consider using the rainy day funds to help balance the budget.

Supervisor Miller asked for a breakdown of services that are statutorily required versus services that are provided but legally could be eliminated.

Mr. Stanley presented 6% and 8% budget cut scenarios and the group discussed them at length.

Supervisor Smith asked staff to present a scenario that would include a tax increase to 3.99, a 5% budget reduction, \$2 million for wage adjustments and a 5% reserve.

Supervisor Rios asked staff to present a scenario that would include a tax increase to 3.99, a 5% budget reduction, \$2 million for wage adjustments only for those making \$50,000 or less and an 8% reserve.

Assessor Doug Wolf said that he would rather cut on a case by case basis. He encouraged the Board to look further into selling County property to get it back on the tax roll, making healthcare affordable so that long time employees could retire, and was supportive of a 5% reserve.

Treasurer Dodie Doolittle would like to see the budget reduction kept under 5%. She felt the sales tax option was worth exploring and suggested putting a sunset date on it. Mrs. Doolittle would like to see the reserve kept at 10%.

11:48 A.M. - Chairwoman Chase recessed for lunch. The meeting would reconvene in the Board of Supervisors hearing room.

1:10 P.M. – Chairwoman Chase reconvened the meeting.

Supervisor Miller, County Attorney, Lando Voyles, Clerk of the Court, Amanda Stanford and Deputy Clerk of the Court, Lynn Hurley were not present for the afternoon session.

Assistant County Manager, Leo Lew, presented the scenarios as requested by Supervisor Smith and Supervisor Rios in the morning session.

Supervisor Smith suggested allowing smaller departments to work together to find the 2% in cuts and recommended staying with the last two scenarios presented. There might possibly be a third scenario depending on the State impact.

Supervisor Rios asked staff to prepare the worst case scenario as well.

Dwight Fujimoto would like to see the elected official have the ability to manage the personnel side of their office as long as the budget is maintained.

Mr. Stanley said that was a philosophical question that could be discussed by the Board at a future meeting. Staff will send direction to departments to present their budget reduction impacts and discuss with the Board between April and May.

The meeting stood adjourned at 1:42 P.M. The next regular meeting of the Pinal County Board of Supervisors will be on Wednesday, March 18, 2015 at 9:30 A.M.

PINAL COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
AmberLee Taylor

AmberLee Taylor, Deputy Clerk of the Board