

OFFICIAL PROCEEDINGS OF THE APACHE COUNTY  
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS WORK SESSION

April 5, 2022  
Ganado, Arizona

Present were Chairman Nelson Davis, Supervisor Alton Joe Shepherd and County Manager/Clerk of the Board Ryan Patterson. Vice Chairman Joe Shirley, Jr. was excused from the work session.

The work session began immediately following and in conjunction with the regular Board meeting at 9:30 a.m. MST at the Ganado Road Yard Conference Room, Highway 264 Mile Marker 446.8 in Ganado, Arizona.

Chairman Davis presented the item on the work session for discussion regarding the Apache County redistricting boundaries and noted that we did not have legal representation present, and the work session was just to share any updates on the proposed redistricting process.

Mr. Patterson stated he has spoken with the community members in Houck area regarding their concerns with being disenfranchised voters. Mr. Patterson stated at the last work session it was discussed that there was a resolution passed by the Houck Chapter that supported the Houck community being moved into District III boundaries, but he has not seen or received that resolution. Mr. Patterson stated Houck was excited about being in District III for the road yard coverage but was leery about the voting redistricting possibility due to being disenfranchised.

Mr. Patterson stated another concern expressed at the last work session was how the road budget would be disbursed and stated the current road miles for each District are:

District I 351 road miles  
District II 405 road miles  
District III 798 road miles

Mr. Patterson stated he has spoken with District I regarding Wheatfields moving into District I and believes they are in support of the lines being moved.

A discussion was held regarding the concerns and benefits of moving Houck and Wheatfields to make the numbers right and how the budgets would be impacted by the moving of road miles. Mr. Shepherd stated he wants to be in balance instead of battling out road miles; that it shouldn't be more miles equal more money, it should be equal. Chairman Davis stated logistically speaking, lines straight across road yards are great, but it won't get past legal review for the voting districts; our legal department has already indicated at the last work session that moving Houck into District III won't be approved by the Department of Justice.

Mr. Shepherd stated he would like to see more options presented and see this issue explored more so that we don't disenfranchise the voters.

Chairman Davis stated his concern is, we approve something and then it is not approved by the Department of Justice and then we are past the time frame deadline and end up in a lawsuit. Mr.

Shepherd stated if we get a lawsuit from the Navajo Nation we will deal with it. Chairman Davis stated Katherine Belzowski with the Navajo Nation Department of Justice was present and asked her if she had any insight on the issue.

Ms. Belzowski stated that she has looked and has not seen any maps regarding redistricting on the County's website and Coconino County had 7-9 maps and Navajo County had 3-4 maps showing different redistricting options.

Mr. Patterson responded that the maps were put on the website the same day as the last work session.

Ms. Belzowski stated a section on the website for people to comment would also be helpful.

Ms. Belzowski asked Mr. Patterson who he has contacted at the Navajo Nation Department of Justice regarding the redistricting. Mr. Patterson stated he personally hadn't contacted the Navajo Nation Department of Justice, but the County's legal team has been in contact with them.

Ms. Belzowski stated a way to fix the county's voting precinct problem is to put in voting centers. Mr. Patterson stated he had a conversation with Mr. Leonard Gorman with the Navajo Nation Human Rights Commission recently, and Mr. Gorman had indicated that he is not in support of voting centers on the Navajo Nation.

Mr. Shepherd stated one thing the Navajo Nation needs to understand is, we also must abide by the Arizona Constitution and meet the mandates of the census redistricting.

A discussion was held for the need for another work session to look at some other options for district voting lines.

Work session ended at 9:45 a.m.

Approved this 3<sup>rd</sup> day of May, 2022.

/s/ Nelson Davis  
Chairman of the Board

/s/ Ryan N. Patterson  
Clerk of the Board