

OFFICIAL PROCEEDINGS OF THE APACHE COUNTY
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS MEETING

January 15, 2019
St. Johns, Arizona

Present were: Chairman Joe Shirley, Jr., Vice Chairman Travis Simshauser and Supervisor Alton Joe Shepherd. Also present, County Manager/Clerk of the Board Ryan Patterson, and Chief Deputy County Attorney Joe Young. Participating via the telephone was County Attorney Michael Whiting.

Chairman Shirley called to order the Board of Supervisors meeting at 10:03 a.m. in the Board of Supervisors chambers, County Annex Building, 75 West Cleveland Street, St. Johns, Arizona, and welcomed all in attendance.

Chairman Shirley presented the item following a possible executive session for legal advice pursuant to A.R.S. §38-431.03 (A)(3). There was no motion to go into executive session. Mr. Shepherd stated at this point he does not see a need for the executive session at this time but reserves the right to go into executive session later in the meeting. Sheriff Dedman stated if an executive session is held he and Chief Deputy Brannan Eagar would like to be included. Chairman Shirley presented the discussion regarding moving Emergency Management under the direction of the Board of Supervisors and stated the discussion may include, but not limited to personnel, budget, and grants associated with Emergency Management. Mr. Patterson stated at a previous meeting, the Board asked for some information and history regarding emergency management and this work session is to answer those questions.

The following individuals addressed the Board during the work session.

Apache County Sheriff Joseph Dedman
Apache County Chief Deputy Sheriff Brannan Eagar
Keri Pena, Apache County Health Department
Haley Nicoll, Apache County Emergency Management
Catrina Jenkins, Navajo County Emergency Management
Steve Erhart, Vice Mayor, Town of Eagar
Beverly Parks, Apache County (retired) citizen
Joseph Urrea, Tribal Liaison with the Arizona Department of Emergency and Military Affairs
Jason Kirk, Chairman of the Apache County Local Emergency Planning Committee
Tom Beddow, Forest Chief (retired)
Frank Adams, Fire Chief-Town of Eagar
Julius Elwood, Apache County District II
Cliff Snyder, Puerco Valley Fire Chief
Dave Niehuis, Vernon Fire Chief

Mr. Shepherd thanked everyone for the discussion and stated this will be an action item at the upcoming board meeting. Mr. Shepherd stated governments are formed to serve its constituents and he represents District II and he does not disagree with the proactive comments regarding the

positive relationship with Chief Deputy Eagar but the question is, do things need to change and he questions the current programs and how can it be made better. Mr. Shepherd stated Chief Eagar has done a great job but there is always opportunity for change, and he is glad to see the fire districts and towns represented here today. Mr. Shepherd stated his concern is if we are ready to serve all the constituents across Apache County; all the way to the State line at Utah and he is trying to overcome the barriers he is seeing. Mr. Shepherd stated the Nation is sovereign but that does not stop the county from being a partner and stakeholder and stated from when he has taken office, there has not been a good working relationship with emergency management, so this brings him to wonder are we really doing the best we can and what is missing. Mr. Shepherd stated he is hoping to one day all come together and be able to say we are here for all of Apache County. Mr. Shepherd stated there is no question Mr. Eagar has built good working relationships but with the state officials here, we need to put our minds together and overcome some of the issues facing the entire county; this is not about the person in the position, it is about the services that are provided to constituents and we need to be 100% prepared for the entire county.

Supervisor Simshauser stated he agrees with Mr. Shepherd; we need to be doing the right thing for the right reason, but one concern he has is with the timing; he is concerned that the interviewing and hiring of an emergency management director puts us right into fire season and does it make sense to put public health, emergency preparedness and emergency management into one big division and the question is what would be gained and what is wrong now and what would the cost be. Mr. Simshauser stated he still has not got all the answers he is wanting and appreciates Mr. Shepherd wanting this work session because there are many questions to be answered and this forum allows the Board to receive all the needed information and he appreciated all the opinions expressed by those in attendance today.

Mr. Shirley stated he appreciates Sheriff Dedman and Chief Eagar and their staff and all those individuals that came to express their opinion; he is a strong believer in working together and the opinions and perspectives shared today is helpful in decision making and thanked everyone for their input. Mr. Shirley stated since he has been a supervisor, he has not had any problems with emergency management and has had a good working relationship with the county and the nation when dealing with emergencies.

Mr. Simshauser moved to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Mr. Shepherd. Vote was unanimous.

Approved this 5th day of February 2019.

/s/ Dr. Joe Shirley, Jr.
Chairman of the Board

/s/ Ryan N. Patterson
Clerk of the Board