

OFFICIAL PROCEEDINGS OF THE APACHE COUNTY  
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS WORK SESSION

March 1, 2022  
St. Johns, Arizona

Present were Chairman Nelson Davis Vice Chairman Joe Shirley, Jr., and Supervisor Alton Joe Shepherd. Also present was County Manager/Clerk of the Board Ryan Patterson, County Attorney Michael Whiting, Ferrin Crosby, County Engineer, Brian Hounshell, Emergency Management Director, Angela Romero, Election Director, Larry Noble, County Recorder, Chief Deputy Recorder Geneva Jackson, Patrick Sandoval, District I Manager, Timothy Hinton, Finance Director and Katherine Belzowski with the Navajo Nation Department of Justice.

Due to a late start, the work session began at 9:30 a.m. in the County Annex Building, County Manager's Conference Room, Second Floor, 75 West Cleveland Street 75 West Cleveland Street, St. Johns, Arizona.

Chairman Davis presented the first item on the work session agenda for discussion regarding the 2020 Census and the Apache County redistricting boundaries and asked County Attorney Michael Whiting for a legal overview of the process related to redistricting the county district supervisor boundaries. Mr. Whiting stated based on the results from the 2020 Census, redistricting is a requirement and is the responsibility of the Board of Supervisors to approve the district boundaries. Mr. Whiting stated based on the 2020 census result figures, the supervisor's district boundary lines need to be adjusted, but in doing so, we must ensure voters are not disenfranchised by a change to their voting precincts or violate their voter rights. Mr. Whiting stated a 10% margin is allowed but the goal is to stay under a 5% within each district.

Mr. Patterson stated it is believed Apache County was under counted during the Census due to the Covid Pandemic and presented a map that included the new count of citizen within each supervisory district. Mr. Patterson presented some options for moving voting precincts to ensure no voters were disenfranchised and that would least affect the voters.

A discussion was held regarding the possible options of moving precincts out of supervisory districts without disenfranchising's voters and staying within the 5% margin.

Supervisor Shepherd expressed his ideas for moving precincts and his concern with disenfranchising voters.

Vice Chairman Shirley asked if the public had any say in moving the boundaries. Mr. Whiting stated they do, but we also need to work with the Navajo Nation Department of Justice, the United States Department of Justice, the Arizona Attorney General and Secretary of State to work to keep voters from being disenfranchised and striving to stay within our goal of the 5% margin will help ensure Apache County isn't sued.

A discussion was held regarding the timeline to get this done. Mr. Patterson stated we have until June 30, 2022 to complete the redistricting. Mr. Whiting stated we could get sued if not approved by that date.

A discussion was held regarding each supervisor's district boundary and if changed, would it affect funding for roads and school bus routes within each district. Mr. Patterson explained the funding allocation formula for the districts. Mr. Whiting stated that road assignments for roads within another supervisor's district can be done by putting an item on the agenda for board action, so road service coverage is maintained.

Vice Chairman Shirley stated he is concerned with citizens in a precinct not wanting to be moved to another supervisor's district. Supervisor Shepherd stated he believed the Houck chapter approved a resolution encouraging the county to move them to District III.

A discussion as held regarding putting together three options and to reach out to the Navajo Nation Department of Justice see if they think those scenarios are something they could work with that ensured no voter was disenfranchised.

Recorder Noble stated on behalf of his office, he would prefer no precinct be split and all precincts stay intact if they are moved to another supervisory district.

Mr. Whiting stated in regard to Mr. Shirley's concerns, in order to allow citizen input, information can be put on the County's website for citizens to look at and see the maps and proposals and be able to comment.

Vice Chairman Shirley requested the Board meet again on this issue in 30 days for an update. Mr. Patterson informed the Board the next scheduled regular Board meeting is to be held in Ganado on April 5<sup>th</sup>.

Chairman Davis presented the next item on the work session agenda regarding the FY2022-2023 Budget.

Timothy Hinton, Finance Director, presented an overview of the budget that included a breakdown of the special districts.

Library District has a \$245,000 cash balance and is at 46% of their budget.

Health District has a cash balance of about 1 million dollars and is at 52% of their budget.

Jail District has a negative cash balance of \$196,000 and is at 85% of their budget.

A discussion was held regarding the jail district and the need to bring in outside prisoners to be housed in the jail to offset the jail's expenditures.

Mr. Patterson stated one big issue is affecting the revenue for the jail is, the jail cannot utilize an entire inmate pod since it was turned into a covid positive jail pod, to segregate covid positive prisoners. Mr. Patterson stated we need about 25 inmates to offset the jail district budget.

Chairman Davis called for the Broadband Infrastructure discussion.

Mr. Patterson stated the County continues to apply for grants and meet with potential providers on proposals and possibilities for broadband infrastructure.

Work session ended at 10:30 a.m.

Approved this 5<sup>th</sup> day of April, 2022.

/s/ Nelson Davis  
Chairman of the Board

/s/ Ryan N. Patterson  
Clerk of the Board