

OFFICIAL PROCEEDINGS OF THE APACHE COUNTY
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS WORK SESSION MEETING

May 12, 2020
St. Johns, Arizona

Due to the COVID-19 Health crisis, the Board of Supervisor's work session was held telephonically with availability for members of the public to listen to the meeting via the telephone. Participating by telephone was: Chairman Alton Joe Shepherd and Vice Chairman Joe Shirley, Jr. Present at the meeting was Supervisor Travis Simshauser, County Manager/Clerk of the Board, Ryan Patterson, and County Attorney Michael Whiting.

Chairman Shepherd called to order the Board of Supervisors work session at 1:00 p.m. MST in the Board of Supervisors chambers, County Annex Building, 75 West Cleveland Street, St. Johns, Arizona.

Mr. Patterson presented the item for a work session for discussion and update on the COVID -19 response and available resources. Mr. Shirley stated the Navajo Nation would be receiving a Cares Act grant for excess of 650 million dollars and this meeting today was to exchange ideas to possibly submit a grant request to the Navajo Nation from Apache County to obtain some of those available funds. Mr. Shirley stated it is his understanding that the Navajo Nation must expend the funds before December 31, 2020. Mr. Shirley stated one of the things the county assisted with

Mr. Patterson stated the county should be reimbursed for assisting the Navajo Nation during the pandemic, this virus may resurface in September or October, so we need to be ready with such things like PPE, drinkable water trucks, and backhoes for digging burial sites.

Mr. Shepherd stated as a county we need to be doing more to help the citizens; we need rapid testing kits, the curve is still going up one the reservation, so we need funding, the general fund and HURF cannot support the expenses we are facing.

Chief Deputy Sheriff Brannon Eagar stated that currently the officers have enough PPE that the health department has provided, and his office has been able to obtain enough hand sanitizer but his issue is with overtime costs for responding to assist with road closures, curfews and lockdowns. So that will affect the sheriff's budget. Chief Eagar stated Jail Commander Cirivello has put together a plan for quarantining inmates if needed but has not had any inmate or staff test positive for corona.

Mr. Shepherd asked about the contact tracking process. Preston Raban, Health Director, stated there are five health department employees who are now certified in contact tracing and two employees in District II that are now certified, to set up task forces to track active corona cases.

District I Manager, Patrick Sandoval stated since dealing with everything related to the pandemic, he outlined a needed equipment such as 2-way radios, forklifts, skid steer, and traffic control equipment, water hauling vehicles, generators, dumpsters, and a storage facility to house donated water and food. Mr. Sandoval stated he would like to see an emergency fund set up to be

able to use in case of chapter house shutdowns again that left people without water and wood. Mr. Sandoval stated staff needs to attend trainings for pandemic procedures for essential workers for information on how not to infect family members. Mr. Shirley stated wood cutting is essential and needs to obtain wood cutting equipment and generators as well as refrigeration units for perishable food.

Chairman Shepherd requested Mr. Patterson work with the District Managers, Health Department and Emergency Management to put together a grant request application that contains a list of what was discussed today to be submitted to the Navajo Nation to obtain possible funding.

Mr. Simshauser moved to adjourn, seconded by Mr. Shirley. Vote was unanimous.

Approved this 2nd day of June 2020.

/s/ Alton Joe Shepherd
Chairman of the Board

/s/ Ryan N. Patterson
Clerk of the Board