

**MINUTES
OF THE
LA PAZ COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
Monday, July 19, 2021, 9:00 a.m.
Special Meeting**

Chairman Minor called the July 19, 2021, special meeting of the La Paz County Board of Supervisors to order at 9:03 a.m. Elected Officials and Department Heads present were: Chairman Duce Minor, Vice-Chairman Holly Irwin, Supervisor David Plunkett, County Administrator Megan Spielman, Chief Deputy County Attorney Ryan Dooley, Health Director Marion Shontz, Public Works Director Don Braska, Assessor Anna Camacho, Community Development Director Tonya Hoogerwerf, Recorder Richard Garcia, Sheriff William Ponce, Parker Justice Precinct Judge Tiffany Dyer and Clerk of the Board Diane Green. Others present: Arizona House of Representative Regina Cobb.

Discussion regarding the American Recovery Plan Act (ARPA) - *Board of Supervisors*

Chairman Minor stated that this discussion is being held regarding the American Recovery Plan Act, the latest federal funding coming to municipalities around the country to assist making them whole during the COVID outbreak. He stated that there has been discussion with finance as to how to use those funds. He added that Representative Regina Cobb was invited to the meeting to contribute any information and to find out what may be learned.

Representative Cobb stated that the county has asked if these funds could be used for funding the Jail District; however, it could not be used for those purposes unless the losses were associated with COVID, or if the jail dealt with medical for undocumented prisoners, increase in costs/losses in 911 due to the pandemic, or to eviction expenses.

Discussion ensued regarding potential qualifying uses of ARPA funds, noting that these funds have not been figured into the budget and the county was exploring ways to make up the deficit; continual monitoring of the budget and the expenditure limit (EL), in which the State allowed a penalty relief of \$7.5 million in 2018, before the voter approved increase of the EL; and an emphasis on conservative budgeting in the next two years until the expected additional revenue

will be coming into the County and allow payoff of the deficit.

Discussion ensued regarding possible voter approval for an excise sales tax to replace the judgement bond sales tax to fill the gap for support of the Jail or the Public Safety Personnel Retirement System (PSPRS) costs.

Representative Cobb encouraged development of a "water infrastructure fund", noting she felt the county should be compensated as the "water holder", as well as receive updated information as to how much water is in the Harquahala Valley.

Discussion continued on the possibility of an excise tax, suggesting a poll be taken from the public to see if it would be supported; talk to Sheriff's from other counties to see what their needs are; the possibilities of getting prisoners temporarily "funneled" into the County.

County Administrator Spielman thanked Representative Cobb for coming, as her words "resonated" with what the County needed to do; live within our means, address the deficit and raise a surplus.

Adjournment

Chairman Minor adjourned the meeting at 9:47 a.m.

APPROVED:

Duce Minor, Chairman

ATTEST:

Diane Green, Clerk of the Board