

**PROCEEDINGS OF THE COCHISE COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
WORK SESSION HELD ON
THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 5, 2020**

A work session of the Cochise County Board of Supervisors was held on Thursday, November 5, 2020, at 3:00 p.m. in the Board of Supervisors' Executive Conference Room, 1415 Melody Lane, Building G, Bisbee, Arizona.

Present: Thomas E. Borer, Chairman; Ann English, Vice-Chairman; Peggy Judd, Supervisor, telephonic

Staff Present: Richard G. Karwaczka, County Administrator
Christine Roberts, Chief Civil Deputy County Attorney
Kim Lemons, Clerk of the Board

Attendees: Gabe Lavine, Emergency Management Director
Jackie Watkins, Director Eng & Natural Resources
Bradley Simmons, Field Engineer
Judy Lynn, Deputy Director Emergency Management
Jennifer Lakosil, Interim H&SS Director
Craig Janiszewski, Emerg Preparedness Specialist
Tammi-Jo Wilkins, Emerg Preparedness Specialist
Elda Orduno, HR Director
Henry Meraz, Facilities Director
Julie Morales, Risk Management Director
Amy Hunley, Clerk of the Court
Rita Shipley, Superior Court Budget Manager
Keith Buonocore, Finance Director
Brian McIntyre, County Attorney
Cathy L. Traywick, Treasurer
Maria C. Pitzlin, Chief Deputy Treasurer
Xochitl Orozco, Legal Advocate
Melissa Wirthlin, Constable

Chairman Borer called the meeting to order at 3:00 p.m.

ANY ITEM ON THIS AGENDA IS OPEN FOR DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION

THE ORDER OR DELETION OF ANY ITEM ON THIS AGENDA IS SUBJECT TO MODIFICATION AT THE MEETING

ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION

Board of Supervisors

1. Discussion and Possible Direction on the current status of the Covid-19 Pandemic and local response.

Mr. Gabe Lavine, Emergency Management Director presented this item. Mr. Lavine stated the County had not met recently to discuss the status of Covid-19. He gave a broad overview of the outbreak and current trends: Increase in spread of flu-like symptoms, with the County rating of moderate. Total cases reported is 2,307, with 207 active, and 76 deaths as of this morning. The increase is due to better access to testing through primary physicians and clinics in the County and rapid testing machines in healthcare facilities. There is one private lab, Embry, working out of Buena High School for free non-rapid testing. With expanded lab capacity throughout the U.S., results are typically received within a few days. Mr. Lavine said Personal Protection Equipment (PPE) has been sent out for potential surges, and there is an additional supply of PPEs at the County for essential/emergency workers and critical health care workers in case of shortfalls. All covid-related services are functioning normally. The County is also planning for a potential vaccine, with a Point of Distribution (POD) for administering mass vaccines in a short amount of time. Last month the department did several tabletop exercises and three full size exercises focusing on health care facilities and fire departments administering flu vaccines to their personnel. With state and federal funding, the County is also prepared to store refrigerated vaccines.

Mr. Lavine said the County's website is updated three times a week with automatic updates from the State starting on November 6.

There was a short discussion of concentration by zip codes, and impact on local hospitals for individuals seeking help for flu-like symptoms but no increase in hospitalizations at this time.

Mr. Lavine spoke of the current outbreak at the Willcox High School. He said the CDC defines an outbreak of Covid-19 as two or more positives with no epidemiological association within a 14-day timeframe. For measles one positive is considered an outbreak. The Health Department must report and notify stakeholders, the community, and the school, of the outbreak and requested the high school close for 14 days. A quarter of the cases are in the Willcox area, another factor in the recommendation. He listed the assistance the County offers with guidelines, notifications, mitigation, and required press releases, along with outreach to other areas.

Vice-Chairman English clarified that the Willcox School Board had met and said they are not closing the school. Every step the County has taken was required or prescribed to abide by laws in order to keep the public well and it is not politically based.

Mr. Lavine said the Health Department would follow the same procedures for other communicable disease outbreaks.

Supervisor Judd said community members from her district did not feel that the County had pressured them to close and commended the school board's decision.

The Board asked to be notified if future update meetings were required.

Chairman Borer adjourned the meeting at 3:30 p.m.

APPROVED:

Thomas E. Borer, Chairman

ATTEST:

Kim Lemons, Clerk of the Board