

**PROCEEDINGS OF THE COCHISE COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS  
SPECIAL/EXECUTIVE MEETING HELD ON  
TUESDAY, JULY 13, 2021**

A special meeting of the Cochise County Board of Supervisors was held on Tuesday, July 13, 2021 at 10:00 a.m. in the Board of Supervisors' Hearing Room, 1415 Melody Lane, Building G, Bisbee, Arizona.

Present: Ann English, Chairman; Peggy Judd, Vice-Chairman; Tom Crosby, Supervisor

Staff Present: Richard G. Karwaczka, County Administrator  
Sharon Gilman, Associate County Administrator  
Christine Roberts, Chief Civil Deputy County Attorney  
Kim Lemons, Clerk of the Board  
Camila Rochin, Public Information Officer

Attendees: Daniel Duchon, Budget Manager

Chairman English called the meeting to order at 12:10 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**

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***PUBLIC HEARINGS***

**Board of Supervisors**

1. Adopt Resolution 21-14 to adopt the Final County Budget for fiscal year 2021-2022 in the amount of \$222,391,550 (this amount is composed of \$95,376,068 in General Fund and 127,015,482 in Special Revenue funds) and approve the Funding Requests as set forth in the attached exhibit.

Mr. Karwaczka and Mr. Duchon presented this item using a PowerPoint presentation. Mr. Karwaczka stated that the Board is being asked to approve the budget, not the tax rate. The budget includes a proposal that would potentially increase the tax rate, which is why the Truth in Taxation Hearing is required. There have been no changes to the budget since the Tentative Budget was approved.

Vice-Chairman Judd made a motion to adopt Resolution 21-14 to adopt the Final County Budget for fiscal year 2021-2022 in the amount of \$222,391,550 (this amount is composed of \$95,376,068 in General Fund and 127,015,482 in Special Revenue funds) and approve the Funding Requests as set forth in the attached exhibit. Supervisor Crosby seconded the motion.

The Board discussed the budget setting a limit on expenditures; being unable to spend money that is not received; tax levies being set at a future Board meeting; and, that money that is received but not included in the budget cannot be spent. In response to the Board, Mr. Duchon explained the differences between the General Fund, Special Revenue Funds, Capital Projects Funds and Enterprise Funds.

Supervisor Crosby made a motion to strike "An increased rate of 2.7282 will result in a Levy of \$27,140,155, providing \$532,218 directly to the Public Safety Personnel Retirement System (PSPRS). The budget includes this option for a 2% increase in Property Tax Levy to be applied directly to PSPRS." In either case, staff is directed to take necessary actions consistent with the intent of this amendment. The Board discussed today's purpose being to pass the budget, not to set the tax levy; and, addressing the proposed 2% increase in the future. The motion failed for lack of a second.

Chairman English called for the vote on the motion to adopt the Final Budget and it was approved 2-1 (Crosby opposed).

2. Truth in Taxation Hearing to receive public comment on the proposed increase in the primary property tax levy of fiscal year 2021-2022.

Chairman English opened the Public Hearing.

The Board discussed constituents who are against the proposed tax levy increase; the history of tax increases by various taxing entities, and the County's history of not increasing taxes; and, their thoughts on tax increases. In response to the Board, Mr. Duchon stated that the maximum tax increase is 2% year over year from when the baseline was set; legally, it could be raised by approximately \$13 million this year. The Board noted that they will review PSPRS funding options in the future.

Ms. Karen Weilacher addressed the Board and discussed various reasons in opposition to the proposed property tax levy increase. Ms. Donna Pulling requested to speak but was unable to attend the meeting.

No one else chose to speak and Chairman English closed the Public Hearing.

Chairman English adjourned the meeting at 12:29 p.m.

APPROVED:

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Ann English, Chairman

ATTEST:

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Kim Lemons, Clerk of the Board