



OFFICE OF BOARD OF SUPERVISORS  
YAVAPAI COUNTY, ARIZONA

Prescott, Arizona

April 3, 2019

MINUTES OF THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS SPECIAL SESSION HELD ON APRIL 3, 2019, 9:00 A.M., in the BOARD ROOM located at 1015 FAIR STREET, Prescott, Arizona.

**CALL TO ORDER**

Chairman Garrison called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m.

**INVOCATION/PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

Pastor Mike Gaston, The Heights Church, gave the invocation and led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Chairman Garrison called for a moment of silence to honor former Sheriff Buck Buchanan and two marines lost from an aircraft accident.

**ROLL CALL**

**Present:**

Randall W. Garrison, Chairman  
Craig L. Brown, Vice-Chairman  
Supervisor Rowle P. Simmons  
Supervisor Thomas Thurman  
Supervisor Jack R. Smith

**Absent:**

None

Kim Kapin, Clerk of the Board, called roll and informed the Chairman a quorum had been met.

**ACTION**

1. **Board of Supervisors** - Appoint State Representative to Legislative District 1, from the three nominees submitted by the state party chairman of the republican party, pursuant to A.R.S §41-1202, to fill a vacancy created by the resignation of State Representative David Stringer.

**Steven Sensmeier**, Legislative District 1 nominee, introduced himself and spoke about his interest to fill the vacancy.

Vice Chairman Brown asked where Mr. Sensmeier worked. Mr. Sensmeier said he was in-between jobs. Supervisor Brown asked what his professional field was. Mr. Sensmeier said he received a degree in global security and intelligence from Embry Riddle Aeronautical University but spent the past year as a political organizer for the Republican Party.

Supervisor Smith was concerned with the candidate hitting the ground running. He asked what Mr. Sensmeier knew about the Elected Officials Retirement Program (EORP) and if he would support the retirement related bills. Mr. Sensmeier was unfamiliar with the bills but was in favor of pension reform and taking the financial burden off counties and cities.

Supervisor Thurman believed there was a need for the younger population to be involved with politics. He asked if Mr. Sensmeier would run again for the position if appointed. Mr. Sensmeier was unsure.

Discussion ensued between Supervisor Thurman and Mr. Sensmeier regarding the low salary for the position and how Mr. Sensmeier would support himself financially if appointed.

Chairman Garrison asked where Mr. Sensmeier stood regarding the second amendment and noted that gun laws were a topic of concern among constituents. Mr. Sensmeier stated he was pro second amendment, supported the concealed carry laws, was in favor of universal reciprocity and reducing gun laws.

**Steve Pierce**, Legislative District 1 nominee, introduced himself and explained that he was asked to put his name in for the vacancy. He said he was ready to hit the ground running and work for the County but would not run for the office again.

Supervisor Smith asked if he would support the County's agenda regarding EORP and reducing the burden to the County. Mr. Pierce affirmed and noted there was a lot of work to be done to the pension system.

Vice Chairman Brown commented that the candidates were an asset to the communities and was basing his vote on the influence the candidate would have at the State level. He pointed out that it was an important budget season and wanted to ensure taxes were not going to be raised unnecessarily.

Mr. Pierce talked about getting funding back to rural Arizona. He spoke about his National Rifle Association (NRA) lifetime membership and said he believed strongly in the second amendment.

Supervisor Simmons shared his concern about information he heard regarding Mr. Pierce's stance relating to the second amendment and said he appreciated the comments made to clarify the concerns. He respected that Mr. Pierce did not want to run again.

Supervisor Thurman asked how Mr. Pierce's relationship was with Governor Doug Ducey. Mr. Pierce said he had a good standing relationship.

Supervisor Thurman brought up a discussion about the Red 4 Ed campaign. Mr. Pierce believed the situation could have been handled differently and noted that the campaign got out of hand. Mr. Pierce felt teachers needed to be paid and funded, but thought the situation was over the line.

Supervisor Thurman inquired about minimum wage. Mr. Pierce did not care for minimum wage and believed it should be an open market.

**Ken Bennett**, Legislative District 1 nominee, introduced himself and spoke about his history in the County. He explained that he was also asked to put his name in for the vacancy. He did not seek reelection or to start another career at the legislature. Mr. Bennett spoke about the State's budget, the impact to counties and how he would restore money to the County during his term.

Vice Chairman Brown appreciated Mr. Bennett's efforts on the budget. He asked how Mr. Bennett would overcome the budget that had already been created. Mr. Bennett said the vacancy was the 31<sup>st</sup> Republican Representative seat in the House of 60 members. Mr. Bennett discussed the importance of the one seat at the legislature and the positive impact he could make for the County.

Supervisor Smith spoke about the great nominees brought forward. He explained there needed to be a good relationship with Governor Ducey and asked how Mr. Bennett would work with him during the current and following sessions. Mr. Bennett did not believe the Governor would veto bills because of his stance in the legislature.

Mr. Bennett talked about the State retirement systems and the unfunded liability.

Supervisor Thurman inquired if Mr. Bennett would run for governor during the next term. Mr. Bennett said no.

Vice Chairman Brown talked about the County's credibility with the State and the recent negative attention. He wanted to ensure the confidence of the State was renewed in Yavapai County's ability to be a leader.

Chairman Garrison reiterated the process to fill the vacancy. He hoped each candidate left the room knowing how much they were respected and appreciated for their willingness to serve. He said it was an important vote during a time of a divided legislative session. Chairman Garrison wanted rural Arizona and Yavapai County to have a voice at the legislature.

Supervisor Simmons believed Mr. Pierce could achieve what was needed at the State level.

Vice Chairman Brown requested a roll call vote.

**SUPERVISOR SIMMONS MOTIONED TO APPOINT STEVE PIERCE AS STATE REPRESENTATIVE TO LEGISLATIVE DISTRICT 1, FROM THE THREE NOMINEES SUBMITTED BY THE STATE PARTY CHAIRMAN OF THE REPUBLICAN PARTY, PURSUANT TO A.R.S. §41-1202, TO FILL A VACANCY CREATED BY THE RESIGNATION OF STATE REPRESENTATIVE DAVID STRINGER; SECONDED BY SUPERVISOR SMITH; PASSED BY A 4 TO 1 VOTE, CHAIRMAN GARRISON OPPOSED.**

**AYES: SIMMONS, THURMAN, BROWN, SMITH**

**NAYS: GARRISON**

**ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business to discuss, the special session of the Board of Supervisors held on April 3, 2019, adjourned at 9:53 a.m.

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Randall W. Garrison, Chairman

**ATTEST:**

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Kim Kapin, Clerk of the Board

**CERTIFICATION**

I hereby certify that the foregoing minutes are a true and correct copy of the minutes of the Special Session of the Board of Supervisors of Yavapai County, Prescott, Arizona, held on the 3<sup>rd</sup> day of April, 2019. I further certify that the meeting was duly called and held and that a quorum was present.

Dated this \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 2019.