

**NAVAJO COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES
MONDAY, JULY 24, 2006**

10:06 a.m. CALL TO ORDER: Supervisor Deal led the Pledge of Allegiance and Invocation. Chairman Thompson welcomed all present.

PRESENT: Jesse Thompson, Chairman; Percy Deal, Vice-Chairman; J.R. DeSpain, Member; David Tenney, Member; Jerry Brownlow, Member; Mel Bowers, County Attorney; James G. Jayne County Manager, and Darlene Fraley, Clerk of the Board

CALL TO THE PUBLIC: No Response

FINANCE: Consideration and possible call for an election on November 7, 2006 to request a permanent increase in the Navajo County constitutional base limit in the amount of \$1,873,732.00 and call for arguments (no more than 300 words) for or against the proposed increase to be submitted to the Navajo County Clerk of the Board by August 9, 2006 to be included in the publicity pamphlet to be distributed before the election: Chairman Thompson advised that two public hearings have been conducted on this issue. James Menlove reported that following last week's presentations, this item was scheduled to give the opportunity for the Board of Supervisors to vote on putting this issue on the ballot. Chairman Thompson invited Supervisors to comment. Supervisor Deal inquired what happened at the public hearing in Show Low and Mr. Menlove provided a report, stating the issue was favorably received. Supervisor Deal inquired if there have been arguments received and was advised that the board is will take action on whether to call for the arguments today. Chairman Thompson invited comments. Recorder Laurette Justman, Bill Fraley, Deputy Director of Planning and Zoning, Dusty Parsons, Public Works Director, Treasurer Manny Hernandez, Assessor Cammy Darris, Clerk of the Court Juanita Mann, and Bob Heming, IT Director, encouraged the board to go to a vote of the people on this and cited areas within their department that have been impacted by growth and reported the ability to meet those needs are limited by funding available. Supervisors indicated they have talked with employees and county residents and are receiving reports of support. Kelly Dastrup, Elections Director, discussed the need for educating the public on this issue and discussed the election department's involvement. Supervisor Deal advised the elected officials that their opinions matter to him as they have been through a lot together in the past. He said he would like to see a greater and improved relationship between the county and Native American communities, stressing that attitudes need to be a positive reflection on neighbors and relations. He inquired how the \$1.8 million increase would be available to be spent and Mr. Menlove discussed the fact that the actual amount available would be higher as the adjustment is on the base limit and the formula allows for increases each year. He advised if the voters approve the measure, the funds will be incorporated in the 07-08 budget. He advised that an additional \$2-\$3 million is a sustainable amount that could be used to provide these services to the county.

Supervisor Deal shared a letter written by ADOR and provided by Senator Albert Hale discussing approximately \$40 million in taxes collected by Indian Reservations within the state with the greatest amount collected from the Navajo Reservation. He stated Senator Hale wanted to introduce legislation so some of this funding will go back to the Native American community but his legislation did not go anywhere, indicating that people making policies are hesitant to share revenues with the Native American community. He stated that should voters of this county support an expenditure of this amount he would like to see the supervisors and county manager not be consistent with legislators' actions; rather recognize that we are neighbors and will endure the blessings and the hardships together. He discussed positive changes in services provided that he had witnessed over the years including a Justice of the Peace, constable, election, and public health presence on the reservation; he said he is seeing positive changes in

transportation due to the attitude and performance of Dusty Parsons and the County Manager. He said he is still very concerned about the non-presence of public safety on these three reservations as crime rates and other social ills continue to increase everywhere. He said if we only concentrate on one side of the line we can not resolve the issue. He said he would like to see a commitment from the county that they will have a greater positive attitude toward all citizens in the county. He said the population up north asks if the limit change would help in making a positive outcome for them and his response is he does not know as it depends on the administration and elected officials who have the power to determine how the money is spent. He advised they realize certain policies regulate a lot of these expenditures and they also know these regulations are man-made so they could be changed to the positive. He said he has been approached by people asking him to seriously consider joining the majority in making this statement to all of the voters to be united in this and he wants the county to be united with a positive result from the action they are about to take. He said he does agree with the elected officials and program directors and appreciates their concern.

Chairman Thompson thanked Supervisor Deal for his remarks, stating Supervisor Deal is one of the first from the Native American community to step up and be part of the decision making process. He expressed appreciation for his contribution as part of the roots of Navajo County. He also expressed appreciation to elected officials and department directors who all worked together to put the budget together and provide raises.

Supervisor Tenney thanked Supervisor Deal for his comments and stated he agrees with the position that improving services to citizens of the county means all citizens of the county should have improved services. He stated that the majority of the funding that is unspent each year is what the State shares with us, stating the county comes up short because the State provides funding we can't spend. He stated the county has been headed in the right direction recently providing improved services to all citizens of the county regardless of where their home is located and the board is committed to improving the quality of life to all county citizens.

Supervisor DeSpain concurred that Supervisor Deal's point is well taken and that the county is in a forward movement with services for the Native Americans, stating that there are still struggles with some issues and they will work out. He expressed appreciation to the elected officials and department heads who are here expressing support. He encouraged employees, friends, and neighbors to educate those around us advising that there will be no tax increase just the ability to use funds already generated. He said the county is growing and there are constantly growing demands for services. He said he is personally in favor of this measure.

Supervisor Brownlow thanked everyone here, stating he supports going to the voters with this issue. He said this is his second term on this board and funding has been a struggle the entire time. He said it is a complicated issue and he is willing to meet with any voter to discuss the measure. He advised it is important to note that there will not be a tax increase and this will be a benefit to county residents. He expressed appreciation for Supervisor Deal's comments stating we are all neighbors even though at times it is difficult due to the way political subdivisions are set up. He said that all the supervisors were born in Arizona and are sitting on this board because they want to do the right thing.

Supervisor Brownlow made a motion to call for an election on November 7, 2006 to request a permanent increase in the Navajo County constitutional base limit in the amount of \$1,873,732.00 and call for arguments (no more than 300 words) for or against the proposed increase to be submitted to the Navajo County Clerk of the Board by August 9, 2006 to be included in the publicity pamphlet to be distributed before the election; motion seconded by Supervisor Tenney; vote unanimous approving the motion.

James Jayne stated they will move forward with placing Prop 400 on the ballot, that a press release will be sent out and arguments will be called for, reminding everyone they are due to the Clerk of the Board by August 9, 2006 and must be 300 words or less. He said he will move forward with public education through radio, newspaper and public hearings and will use the legally approved fact sheet and PowerPoint presentation that can be taken to public presentations. He said managers meet together monthly and he is willing to sit down with anyone on staff who has specific questions.

James Jayne announced that Mark Spitzer, member of the Arizona Corporation Commission, is to be sworn in as Chairman of FERC which is good for energy policy and the future of this state. Supervisor DeSpain requested a letter of congratulations be sent.

At 11:07 **Supervisor Tenney made a motion** to adjourn, seconded by Supervisor Brownlow and carrying unanimously.

APPROVED:

DATE:

Jesse Thompson, Chairman

ATTEST:

Clerk of the Board