

**NAVAJO COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS MINUTES**  
**FRIDAY, JUNE 13, 2008**

**2:05 P.M. Call to Order:** Supervisor Thompson led the Pledge of Allegiance and offered the invocation.

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

**BOARD OF SUPERVISORS:** Chairman DeSpain welcomed all present and reviewed the agenda. Supervisor Deal requested a description of the panel process. Carla Bowen of the Citizens' Panel advised that Mr. Bowers had explained the selection process to the panel. She stated that four names were put forward to the panel and only one was unanimous with all panel members—Sylvia Allen. She reported the panel was committed to put forth a person who would be dedicated to Senator Flake's agenda as his whole interest was serving his district. She said with this main focus, the panel submitted three names to this board in order of priority and it was a unanimous decision to put Sylvia Allen first due to her knowledge of and commitment to issues important to our rural area.

- a. Consideration of the proposed list of three registered Republicans who reside in the Navajo County portion of District 5 to fill the vacant Senate Seat in District 5 as received from the recently formed Citizens' Panel: The three candidates, Gerry Whipple, Sylvia Allen and Charles Hendrickson all spoke to the board, providing brief biographies that outlined their personal history, their involvement in Navajo County, familiarization with tribal issues, their political commitments, their strengths, and their willingness to serve in this capacity. All responded to questions from the Supervisors. Brad Click of the Citizens' Panel spoke confirming the panel's selection of the three names, advising that the three names submitted were all considered very highly qualified. He also reported that Sylvia Allen was the panel's top choice because of her electability, that she would carry forward with Senator Flake's positions on what is best for rural Arizona. All Supervisors discussed the strengths and qualifications of each of the candidates and thanked the Citizens' Panel for their willingness to serve and arrive at three qualified candidates. Chairman DeSpain discussed this process; that this board will select the candidate for the remainder of Senator Flake's term and then the precinct committeemen of all counties will choose the name to go on the ballot. He stated that he believed Representative Konopnicki should go on the ballot as Senator with Sylvia Allen to remain on the ballot as Representative to maintain the best representation following the election. Chairman DeSpain asked each supervisor to provide their thoughts on who should be selected today as the Senator. All supervisors discussed the outstanding job Senator Flake had done in the legislature for rural counties and the importance of maintaining Navajo County representation in the Senate. Supervisors Deal, Brownlow and Tenney stated they concurred with the recommendations put forth by the panel and would support naming Sylvia Allen Senator. Supervisor Thompson stated he felt Gerry Whipple would also be an excellent Senator for appointment today. Supervisors Deal and Tenney discussed the variation from normal board procedure today when opinions were to be expressed prior to making a motion and stated since the Chairman had required this of them that they would like to hear his recommendation. Chairman DeSpain discussed his reluctance to submit a name in opposition of Representative Konopnicki and after further requests from supervisors, named his choice as Senator to be Charlie Hendrickson. Supervisors Deal, Thompson, Brownlow and Tenney discussed the importance attached to the Citizens' Panel recommendation and that nine citizens from widely diverse backgrounds and geographical areas had arrived at one name, expressing appreciation for their dedication and the importance of giving weight to their recommendations. Supervisor Tenney reported that he, James Jayne, and Rod Ross met with Mary Louise Flake and other family members advising the family that the board meant no disrespect to the Senator by the speed of this process. Mrs. Flake asked him to report to the Board that she understood the process and would not

take offense; that Senator Flake would want the board to move forward. He said they also spoke about the statement attributed to Representative Konopnicki in the newspaper that it was the family's wish that a family member be named as Senator and Mrs. Flake requested he convey that this is not the wish of the family.

- b. Selection from the proposed list of the Navajo County Republican to fill the vacant Senate Seat in District 5: Supervisor Brownlow made a motion to appoint Sylvia Allen to fill the vacant Senate Seat in Legislative District No. 5; motion seconded by Supervisor Deal, the motion carried with a roll call vote of 5-0. Chairman DeSpain-aye; Vice-Chairman Brownlow-aye; Supervisor Deal-aye; Supervisor Tenney-aye; Supervisor Thompson-aye.

LeeAnn Arganbright, daughter of deceased Senator Jarrett, presented Senator Jarrett's "big stick" that she carried with her to the Senate to Senator Allen. She stated this stick served to always remind her mother of Snowflake and that she was always a country girl.

Senator Sylvia Tenney Allen addressed the board and thanked them for their support, stating she will fight for county and rural issues and regardless of what happens tomorrow she will move forward to work as hard as possible to represent the constituents of Legislative District 5.

James Jayne explained the process for the Clerk's Certificate of Appointment and the appointment process by the Senate on Monday.

**ADJOURN** At 4:40 p.m., **Supervisor Thompson made a motion** to adjourn; motion seconded by Supervisor Brownlow; vote unanimous approving the motion.

**APPROVED:**

**DATE:**

---

**J. R. DeSpain, Chairman**

**July 15, 2008**

**ATTEST:**

---

**Darlene Fraley, Clerk of the Board**