

ARIZONA STATE LEGISLATURE

JOINT AD HOC COMMITTEE ON COUNTY BOUNDARIES

Minutes of the Meeting
October 29, 2019
1:00 p.m., Sonoita Elgin Fire District
3173 Highway 83, Sonoita, Arizona 85637

Members Present:

Senator Andrea Dalessandro
Senator David Gowan
Todd Bostock
David Green
Richard Searle

Representative Gail Griffin, Co-Chair
Representative Becky A. Nutt
Kent Callaghan
Matt Parrilli

Members Excused:

Senator Sylvia Allen, Co-Chair
Craig Sullivan

Members Absent:

Representative Rosanna Gabaldón
Jennifer Stielow

Staff:

Mike Hans, Senate Research Staff
Paul Bergelin, House Research Staff

Co-Chair Griffin called the meeting to order at 1:05 p.m. and attendance was noted.

Representative Griffin requested that Committee members introduce themselves.

CHARGE OF COMMITTEE

Paul Bergelin, House Research Staff, explained the Charge of the Committee and distributed the following handouts:

- "Arizona Bill" (Attachment A)
- "2019 Property Tax Rates & Assessed Values" (Attachment B)
- "Table 1: Estimated Population of Cochise County and its Incorporated Cities and Towns As of July 1, 2018" (Attachment C)
- "Federal Public Land Surface & Subsurface" (Attachment D)
- "The Tradition of Respectful Argument" (Attachment E)

Sharon Carpenter introduced herself as the House Policy Advisor for this Committee.

IDENTIFY POTENTIAL TOPICS FOR WORKING GROUPS AND ASSIGNMENT OF TASKS

Representative Griffin talked about working groups that will need to be arranged to address the various topics important to Communities in the area.

Senator Dalessandro volunteered to head the working group on taxes.

David Green distributed a handout entitled "Joint Ad Hoc Committee on County Boundaries Sonoita/Elgin Community Group Summary" (Attachment H) and offered to provide to the Committee a survey that was taken of the Communities' opinions regarding County Boundaries.

Richard Searle suggested another topic for discussion should be planning and zoning differences.

Representative Griffin stated that any topics the Committee wants to discuss will be added to a list of topics.

PUBLIC TESTIMONY

Sandra Ruppel, representing herself, testified regarding the discontent with lack of representation in areas of Santa Cruz County.

Senator Dalessandro offered comments.

Mr. Searle offered comments.

Frances Garcia, representing herself, testified regarding discontent with lack of representation in her area, the survey sent out not reaching enough of the people and the issues of property taxes. Ms. Garcia answered questions posed by the Committee.

Mr. Green offered comments regarding the survey that went out.

Laura Sink, representing herself, testified against becoming part of Cochise County and the discontent with lack of representation in the Sonoita area.

Senator Dalessandro questioned the process to redistricting counties.

Fritz Sawyer, representing himself, testified regarding moving county lines, the need for public input and future taxing revenue.

Glenn Wolfgang, representing himself, requested a paper copy of his comments be submitted for the record (Attachment I). Mr. Wolfgang testified in opposition to moving

county lines and addressed other problems that have been discussed. Mr. Wolfgang answered questions posed by the Committee.

Ruth Ann LeFebvre, representing herself, questioned the timeline for the subject of this meeting.

Representative Griffin explained the process going forward.

Senator Dalessandro further explained the Committee will report to the Speaker of the House of Representative, the President of the Senate and the Governor. She then explained the process to take the question to the voters.

Representative Griffin further explained what topics will be part of the whole situation. She also explained how the Committee process works.

Garry Gilbert, representing himself, testified in support of joining Cochise County due to taxes and lack of services in the area.

Michelle Cardillo, representing herself, testified in support of joining Cochise County because of the constant raising of taxes without representation or services in this area.

Katherine Prentice, representing herself, testified in support of getting more community input and putting pressure on the county officials to provide representation and services.

Ms. Cardillo offered comments.

Ms. Ruppel testified in regard to taxes being correct, getting the representation that is needed and fear for the continuation of the county fairgrounds.

Gary Cooper, representing himself, testified regarding the need for a vote of the people and to implement this vote.

Mr. Searle offered comments in response to complaints mentioned by some of the speakers.

Mr. Parrilli offered comments regarding taxing procedures.

Mr. Green offered comments regarding taxes and services.

Senator Dalessandro offered comments regarding the political atmosphere regarding the points being made by speakers.

Ms. Garcia testified regarding receiving services for law enforcement and roads.

Jack Lunsford, President, Lunsford Group, Consultant, Santa Cruz Provisional Community College District, gave a brief overview of the history of property taxes in Arizona and the different subdivisions involved. Mr. Lunsford answered questions posed by the Committee.

Dr. Stella Perez, CEO/Executive Director, Santa Cruz County Provisional Community College District, gave an overview of the educational situation and the classes and financial aid being offered by the Provisional Community College District. Dr. Perez testified regarding taxes, representation and answered questions posed by the Committee.

COMMITTEE DISCUSSION

The Committee discussed what needs to be addressed in the future.

Representative Griffin summarized the meeting discussion and how the Committee can proceed on the topics discussed.

Attached are forms noting the individuals who submitted a Speaker slip on the agenda items (Attachment J).

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 2:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Shelley Ponce
Committee Secretary
Audio Transcription

(Audio recordings and attachments are on file in the Secretary of the Senate's Office/Resource Center, Room 115. Audio archives are available at <http://www.azleg.gov>)