

Board of Supervisors
April 13, 2022
1:00 PM

The Board met in a Special Meeting at the Santa Cruz County Complex, 2150 N. Congress Drive, Room #120, Nogales, AZ. Present: Manuel Ruiz, Chairman; Bruce Bracker, Vice-Chairman; Rudy Molera, Member; Jennifer St. John, County Manager; Kim Hunley, Chief Deputy County Attorney; and Alma Schultz, Clerk of the Board

CALL TO ORDER/PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Chairman Ruiz called the meeting to order, and the Pledge of Allegiance was recited, led by Esther Melendez Lopez, Vice-Mayor of the City of Nogales

CALL TO THE PUBLIC:

Melanie Lawson, from South32, summarized public input and solutions for concerns and commitments and thanked the Board and the public for their cooperation in shaping the proposed agreement with South32.

Residents of Patagonia or nearby residents within the area provided questions and or comments regarding the proposed land donation from Arizona Minerals Inc. to Santa Cruz County to provide a public park over zoom and in person.

Documents to include emails from the public received by the Clerk of the Board regarding April 13, 2022, Special Board of Supervisors Meeting Agenda is available for inspection during working hours and are to be part of these minutes.

Vice-Chairman Bracker made a motion to recess the Regular Meeting to convene the Executive Session seconded by Supervisor Molera; the motion carried unanimously. (Ayes: Bracker, Molera, Ruiz)

EXECUTIVE SESSION

- 1. PURSUANT TO A.R.S 38-431.03(A)(3) AND (4), DISCUSSION AND CONSULTATION FOR LEGAL ADVICE AND DIRECTION REGARDING THE PROPOSED DEED AND COOPERATIVE AGREEMENT WITH ARIZONA MINERALS, INC (AMI), TO ACCEPT A LAND DONATION FROM AMI FOR THE PURPOSE OF PROVIDING A PUBLIC PARK (REQ: COUNTY MANAGER)**

The Board adjourned the Executive Session and convened into Regular Session. (Motion: Vice-Chairman Bracker; second: Supervisor Molera; motion carried unanimously) (Ayes: Bracker, Molera, Ruiz)

ACTION ITEM

Jennifer St. John, County Manager, briefly explained the agreement and the plans within the agreement while stressing the importance of AMI (Arizona Minerals Inc.) building a road with or without the support of the county and the benefits of the county accepting the land donation.

- 1. DISCUSSION/POSSIBLE ACTION TO APPROVE COOPERATIVE AGREEMENT WITH ARIZONA MINERALS, INC (AMI) AND RESOLUTION #2022-03, ACCEPTING**

APPROXIMATELY 134 ACRES OF REAL PROPERTY FROM AMI AND DESIGNATING THE LAND AS A COUNTY PARK (REQ: COUNTY MANAGER)

Supervisor Molera made a motion to approve, seconded by Chairman Ruiz; the motion carried unanimously. (Ayes: Bracker, Molera, Ruiz)

Under discussion:

Vice-Chairman Bracker emphasized the importance of the public process and adjustments made to relieve concerns about public comment.

Supervisor Molera thanked the community of Patagonia for their public input and research during this process and the staff for working cooperatively and mentioned this would continue the working process to make it a successful partnership.

Chairman Ruiz spoke of the difficulty of deciding as a board, especially one that will benefit all the community; mentioned those who are silent supporters of the mine in Patagonia; and work with the Mine will continue for at least 30 years with this agreement. Thanked the public for their input.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 3:23 p.m. (motion: Vice-Chairman Bracker; second: Supervisor Molera; motion carried unanimously) (Ayes: Bracker, Molera, Ruiz)