

Roosevelt Community Meeting Minutes August 8, 2022

Supervisor Humphrey covered his recent activities.

- Attended 3 Agenda Meetings
- Arizona Office of Tourism Best Marketing Program Awards Gala for Discover Gila County Website
- Attended a Republican Club Meeting
- Attended a Miami Town Council meeting for a presentation by Copper Corridor Blight Busters
- Held a Gisela Community Meeting
- Will hold a Tonto Basin Community Meeting tomorrow evening
- Will be on KQSS on this evening at 5:30 PM
- Will attend a Stagecoach Drainage Project Meeting on Wednesday
- Will attend the Gila County LEPC Conference on Thursday

Supervisor Humphrey gave an update on the Stagecoach Project: Update regarding Tierra Water. In summary, they don't have the money needed to lower their watermains and don't anticipate having the money anytime soon. Their cost estimate now exceeds \$120,000.00. They will have to secure a loan from WIFA and pass this onto the residents with a rate increase. TDS Telecom will have their communication lines lowered within a few weeks. They have some splicing issues to resolve. Dibble Engineering is working on a redesign for a better drainage project. This enhanced design will drain water better, provide a better structural section for the road, and better protect the home at the north end of the project.

Supervisor Humphrey gave an update on the Buyout Grant: The grant has been finalized and submitted to FEMA. We have no new information as of today. We hope to hear by October (or possibly sooner) the results of the application. Gila County is one of three jurisdictions included in a big application from DEMA to FEMA.

Supervisor Humphrey gave an update on the Fairgrounds: On Tuesday August 2nd the Board of Supervisors awarded Sunland Asphalt the contract to remove and replace the asphalt at the fairgrounds. They will have the work completed prior to the fair on September 22 through the 25th. Convenient Mobile Services, LLC was awarded the contract for material hauling, ground preparation, and installation of the portable roping arena at the Gila County Fairgrounds. The arena work is scheduled to be complete on September 1st. Dixon Rock also demolished and removed the old racetrack, outbuildings, and announcer booth. We will be holding a meeting for stakeholders at the fairgrounds on August 16th to discuss future plans and uses of the facility.

Supervisor Humphrey gave a brief overview of Brownsfield grants and how they work. He told residents that the Tempe Marketplace was once chop shops and landfills. Through Brownsfield grants the area was cleaned up and is not an upscale shopping area.

John Ballard with SRP was a guest speaker at the meeting. A resident asked John to walk them through how power outages are handled by SRP. John began by explaining that the area is on two different circuits. He said that SRP can switch circuits to cover both communities. At the current time, both are being served by the Frazier circuit which comes from the north. He said it is common during storm season. He said all of SRP's lines are overhead lines. Due to Roosevelt's rural location, when power goes out, there is no backup. He said that the way the system operates during the summer is different. Normally if your power goes out, the system will automatically try 3 times to re-energize the line. In fire season this automatic feature is disabled due to risk of starting a fire. When power goes out during fire season the line has to be checked by staff with boots on the ground. Because there are no local workers this could lead to power being out for a number of hours. Staff comes from the valley to check the lines and travel time makes the outages longer. When fire season ends, the automatic re-energizing feature will be turned back on. A resident asked John who lives in the SRP housing by the lake. John said that the houses are used for SRP staff to rent for vacations. A resident asked why helicopters had been in the area in February. John said that a pole and lines had been broken by a storm. Due to the location of the damage a helicopter was used to get in and do repairs. He reminded residents that the system in this area is old and doesn't get the same upgrades as the systems in metropolitan areas.

Eric Mariscal from Gila County Elections spoke to the residents about the August 2nd primary election. He said that the average voter turnout statewide was 35% and that in Gila County it was 47%. He said that his department had processed 15,574 ballots and that it had been a smooth process. A resident asked if the election results would be in the newspaper. Eric said that the newspapers don't usually print election results unless it is a very big race. He said that the results are available at the Gila County website and that all results are still unofficial until they go before the Board of Supervisors. Eric said that he is trying to recruit poll workers and said that if anyone would like to volunteer, please let him know.

Tom Homan, Gila County Rural Addressing, Tom discussed the changes he had implemented in the new ordinance. Residents will now be able to obtain an address for their land by submitting a site plan and paying the \$200 fee. He said that if residents build on the land within one year, the \$200 fee will be transferred to Community Development to help cover costs of building permits. He said that having an address on vacant land will not qualify residents for a free PO box due to post office policy. In order to get a free PO box residents must actually reside on the addressed property. Tom explained that the 911 addressing was originally to help first responders locate people that called 911. With the advent of cell phones 911 works differently now. Instead of using the address of the landline telephone number, 911 operators utilize the GPS in callers cell phone to pinpoint their location.

Jeremy Plain, USFS, let residents know that fire restrictions have been lifted thanks to the recent rains. He said that the bathroom is still in Eads Wash, but it is under contract to be removed. He said that the 396 road is closed due to three or four washouts and that his

department will have it fixed in a few weeks. He said that the HWY 88 paving project will begin next month, and it is an 18-month project.

Sgt. Don Engler, Gila County Sheriff's Department, gave his monthly update. He said there had been 160 calls for service in Tonto Basin, 80 calls in Roosevelt, 20 rescues performed on the lake, 6 accidents, 73 contacts, 2 warnings, 47 hours on the water, and 86 hours on watercraft items. He said that there is a lot of moss on Cholla boat ramp, and 3 trucks have gone into the water there. He urged folks to exercise caution. A resident asked Sgt. Engler if he knew who was responsible for fixing the fence that had been cut in the recent car accident. Jeremy Plain said that his department will be repairing the fence.

A resident asked Supervisor Humphrey what the plans are for Bobcat Wash. Supervisor said that he was there during the last storm and took pictures of where the water is washing away the riprap the county installed. He said the county has a lot of flood issues to deal with and that Bobcat Wash is on his radar. Jeremy said that he would go take a look at it after the meeting and see if there is anything his department can do.

A resident said that there are problems with many of the culverts in the Estates and that they need to be cleaned out. Supervisor said that before covid we had been working on them. But then covid hit followed by the Telegraph and Mescal fires and the flooding that resulted from the fires. He said it has slowed us down, but we are still working on it. A resident asked what was going to be done about the potholes in Stagecoach. Supervisor said that they will be repaired after TDS telecom finishes lowering their communication lines. A resident said that more sandbags are needed in the area. We will have them delivered tomorrow. A resident said that they had heard that the cell tower by the church had been sold. Supervisor said he hadn't heard that, but Tom Homan volunteered that he had gotten an email saying that Verizon was interested in servicing the area and that initial engineering had been started.

A resident said that the dam the county build by his road washed out and caved in. It was done through USFS and Jeremy said he would look at it after the meeting.

Residents asked that we have a Tierra Water representative present at our September meeting.

Guests:

John Ballard – SRP

Tom Homan – Rural Addressing Ordinance Change