



**Gila County Community College District
Governing Board Work Session Meeting
Gila Pueblo Campus
June 2, 2016
** APPROVED****

A Work Session Meeting of the Gila County Community College District Governing Board was held via ITV on June 2, 2016 in Room 522 at the Gila Pueblo Campus and Room 402 at Payson Campus, Gila Community College, pursuant to A.R.S. §38-431.02(B), notice having been duly given.

Governing Board Members Present:

Jay Spehar, President
Jan Brocker, Member (Arrived late)
Samuel I. Moorhead, Member
John Zilisch, Secretary (Via Phone)

Governing Board Members Absent:

Jerry McCreary, Member

Staff Present:

B. Stephen Cullen, Senior Dean, Pat Burke, GPC and SC Dean, Ron Carnahan, Project Coordinator IT Gila County, Susan Gallo, Fiscal Coordinator, Trena Grantham, PR Coordinator, L Q.Harris, Software Support Specialist, and Leitha Griffin, Administrative Assistant.

OTHER GUESTS: No guests were present when the meeting was called to order. Kurt Knauss of Freeport arrived after the meeting was called to order.

1. Call to Order * Roll Call * Pledge * Acknowledge Guests

President Spehar called the work session to order at 8:30 a.m. and called roll. Members Brocker and McCreary were absent. He stated that there was a quorum. President Spehar led the Pledge.

2. Discussion

A. Truth in Taxation Hearing, on the proposed 2016-2017 Budget /Information/Discussion

President Spehar reminded the Board that the Truth in Taxation hearing is scheduled for 9:00 a. m. He stated that the budget had been thoroughly reviewed by all Board members. This overall budget has gone down 3.2% notwithstanding the proposed 2% property tax increase. He stated that by looking at historical data for no levy for GCC this year's levy of \$87.35 is well below the high water mark of \$95.94 which indicates fluctuation and is in line with the historic levy. He provided each year's levy amounts for the Board. President asked for comments. (Copies attached and made a part of the official minutes.)

B. Public Hearing on the proposed 2016-2017 Budget/Information/Discussion

President Spehar asked for comments. Member Moorhead stated that Member Zilisch's email will state his comments.

C. Consider a 2% increase in property tax levy plus new construction/Information/Discussion

Member Moorhead and Secretary Zilisch provided comments on the 2% increase.

D. Consider adoption of the 2016-2017 Budget

Senior Dean Cullen stated that the budget was crafted so that it was not necessary to reduce programs or staff.

Member Brocker arrived late and President Spehar proceeded to catch her up on the meeting discussions.

Secretary Zilisch requested that his letter referencing the Property Tax Vote be included in the minutes.

Reference: Property Tax Vote

As I stated when last the Governing Board of The Gila Community voted to increase the property tax, "this is the last time I am going to support and vote for a tax increase".

It is our responsibility to explore every means possible to provide adequate financial funding for the Gila Community College operation. And, to take the easy road of increasing taxes, even though we are fully within our rights to do so, should be the last resort.

Considering the value of college course credits, and the level of instruction we are providing, our tuition rates must be about the lowest in the country. I have watched with interest our struggle with tuition rates and the non-support as I recommended that rates increase and that we partner with banks to provide the students with financial help with tuition. I also watched with interest the discussion with regard to asking seniors to become dues paying members of the college which would have resulted in added income. This proposal was also cast aside.

But, once again, I suspect that I will be out voted on this issue and the board will follow the lead of so many other government institutions with the justification that "everything else is going up in price, why should our property taxes be any different".

Well, here is the answer to that: Yes, everything is going up in price. Inflation is with us even though it is denied by the government. But, income, expendable income, social security and fixed incomes are not going up. They are going down in real dollars. Citizens all over the Gila County are suffering from lack of good jobs or any jobs at all. Business owners are giving up and property owners are not far behind.

Let us not be another brick in the wall. There is the easy way or the right way. And, I am willing to step up and take on the challenge of facing our financial short fall the hard way. (Copy attached and made a part of the official minutes.)

John Zilisch

3. Adjournment/Action

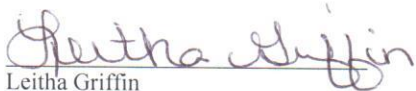
President Spehar called for a motion to adjourn the work session. .

Motion 06022016 #1

Member Moorhead moved to adjourn the Work Session. Member Brocker seconded the motion. Vote taken; motion passed unanimously. Meeting adjourned at 8:59 a.m.

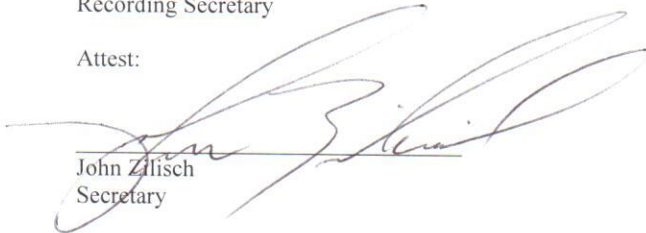
President Spehar asked the Board to move to the Truth in Taxation Hearing.

Respectfully submitted,



Leitha Griffin
Recording Secretary

Attest:



John Zilisch
Secretary