

AGENDA MATERIAL

DATE 4/16/24 ITEM NO. RA16,19

Rosy Millan

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From: Here4You Health Coach - [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, April 14, 2024 11:13 AM
To: District2; District3; District5; District1; District4; COB_mail
Subject: BoS Meeting 14 April 2024
Attachments: BoS Meeting 14 April.docx

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Janet Neustedter
Functional Medicine Health Coach



Stay Positive Work Hard and Make it Happen

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To: BoS Pima County

RE: 14 April BoS Meeting

FR: Janet Neustedter

Date: 14 April 2024

Dear Board Members and Supervisor Grijavla:

Bi-weekly when you have your upcoming meetings, I pour over the agenda with like minded people to see what looks a little crooked. I have spoken before your many times, and would especially like to be there for this weeks meeting.

There are so many budget items on this agenda one wants to step back and ask how, indeed you maintain a budget for Pima County. Looking in, it looks as if there is absolutely no fiscal restraint at all. The amount of money being approved for each item is staggering. To That Point:

**Agenda Item #16: UNFINISHED BUSINESS (12/5/23, 1/9/24 and 1/23/24)
Outside Agency Program Funding**

Discussion/Direction/Action: Increasing the overall budget for the Outside Agency Program social services category grants (CWD grants) for FY25 from the current \$3.26M to \$3.86M, an increase of \$600,000.00. As we know, the pandemic exacerbated long-standing inequalities in American society, including here in Pima County. Those who experienced the greatest hardship in terms of housing, employment, food insecurity and more, were those who already were among the most vulnerable in our community. The needs, therefore, for additional support for our community members who are low-income, elderly, disabled, and the young, are greater than ever before. The Outside Agency Program is funded through the General Fund. All programs are administered by nonprofit partners across the county through a competitive RFP process. (District 2)

\$600,000 looks small after you see the huge amounts of money the county spends. But all of these \$100k's add up to more than we have. There is a budget process and agreed-to amounts that keep getting increased with no balance required. These Outside Agency programs are so spread out it is hard to see how the money makes a difference. **There are 75 programs listed and most get under \$75k each.** This money could be used to make a huge difference to Gospel Rescue Mission or the Salvation Army or the Community Food Bank -- organizations that have a track record of fiscal responsibility. You can read all about it [here](#).

SHOW SOME RESTRAINT. No more funding until the budget is under control.

Agenda Item #19: Revised American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) Coronavirus State and Local Fiscal Recovery Fund (CSLFRF) Budget

This budget is absolutely mind-blowing, and begs the question: how is there any money left in the budget to do anything? In Ms. Leshner's recommendations to approve the project budgets, we would advise that much more fiscal discretion be utilized. For example:

- Public Health Communication and Outreach: \$421,691.35 left to spend

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- Emergency Eviction Legal Services: \$3,967,111.61
- Emergency Housing Support, etc.: increased to \$4,115,323.51 (*could this increase be due to the illegal immigration problem with our border wide open?*)

It seems that if the BoS would think about the citizens of Pima County, we wouldn't be in the fiscal hole that we are in. The above items are just 3 items out of **3 pages** of budget expenses which we taxpayers are funding.

Recommended Action: Trim this budget down on every level. The fiscal lack of restraint is staggering.

Agenda Item #24: Amendment No. 2, to provide for Summer Youth short-term work experience and basic education ... [from the] General Fund, for the following:

At the last meeting (on April 2), the Board voted to shut down their County alternative charter school of 20+ years (Pima Vocational High School) which focused on jobs training and education-remediation for older teens. By all accounts of those involved (and by its description, and in comparison to other "alternative" schools), it was a unique school with successful impacts on the lives of disenfranchised youth. But Chair Grijalva led the charge to close it down because in her opinion, the County should not be in the business of operating schools and there was simply too much money being spent. So the board and staff quickly and quietly aimed to close it with very little communication to those involved. From listening to the many opponents of that closure during last meeting's Call to the Audience, it appears that the board's process was sudden and less than heartfelt.

Now that the Board has saved itself \$1.5 million per year, this week's meeting includes extending contracts with five outside vendors for an approximate total of \$630,000 for summer teaching and training to no more than 270 youths (for a price of at least \$2,300 per youth for the summer alone).

Supervisor Lee at the last meeting requested that staff report back on redundancies in services performed by county and by outside vendors. Chair Grijalva ostensibly agreed but then made it clear that she wants to make sure that outside vendors continue to get their money. So here we are. **Missing from the current agenda is any indication of the past metrics performance of each of the five vendors above.**

CCSSA now has a CEO who makes \$200k per year and a net assets balance of more than \$16 million. One asks oneself, "How much of that am I paying for?"

Recommended action Please reiterate Supervisor Lee's request. What the total amount of taxpayer money in total is going to Catholic Community Services of Southern Arizona?

Agenda Item #29: Partners in Health, Amendment No. 1, to provide for consultation for Vaccine Equity Program, extend contract term to 6/30/25, amend contractual language and scope of services, CDC/ADHS Fund, contract amount \$97,613.00 (CT-HD-22-203)

The title "Partners in Health Vaccine Equity Program" has every fiber of my being screaming NO WAY. Once again, the BoS is swimming in vaccine push and vaccine education, and extending the term for one year and ADDING \$97,613.00 to the budget.

The BoS should be reminded that there are 1,635,048 Reports Through March 29, 2024 of vaccine injuries, just from the Covid jab. The BoS would be wise to read this article from Childrens Health Defense. **Get out of the health care business. You stink at it.** The CDC has now stated that Covid is just the flu. People have died from the injection. Get yourselves on the right side of this issue.

The Wall Street Journal (WSJ) Sunday took vaccine makers and federal agencies to task for pushing the bivalent COVID-19 boosters without having any data to demonstrate that they are either safe or effective.

In an op-ed, Allysia Finley, a WSJ editorial board member, said people shouldn't be surprised by the "deceptive advertising" touting the boosters on radio stations across the country, which is sponsored by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.

"Federal agencies took the unprecedented step of ordering vaccine makers to produce them and recommending them without data supporting their safety or efficacy," she wrote.

Recommended action: Emphatically vote NO.

Agenda Item #33: Amendment of Award: Master Agreement No. MA-PO-20-204, Amendment No. 6, Ancon Marine, Inc. and Riley Industrial Services, Inc., to provide for pipe and tank cleaning Vactor truck services. This amendment is for a one-time increase in the shared amount of \$280,872.00 for a cumulative not-to-exceed contract amount of \$894,872.00.

"Amendment No 6" identifies that this is the **6th adjustment to this cost. It was \$100k** on 5-21-20 with 4 one-year renewal options:

- 8-7-21, amendment #1: \$100k, same deal -- 3 one-year options left.
- 8-7-22, amendment #2: third-year agreement, but with 2 raises added in 12.5% average price increase (when do you get a 12.5% raise?) and a separate fuel surcharge. Hold on, it gets better...
- 1-19-23, amendment #3: add \$64k to the base agreement, now \$164k per year with the 12.5% increase fee schedule approved and the fuel surcharges. We are only at amendment #3...
- 8-7-23, amendment #4: to go ahead for another year with another 11% price increase.
- 1-8-24, amendment #5: 3 months ago, and more than halfway through the year, there is another increase of \$86k; now the agreed-to cost is \$250,000 instead of the original agreed-to \$100,000.

Amendment #6.... **This \$400k agreement is now \$894,872.** Is it any wonder we are out of money?

Recommended action: Please explain why we can not make a good contract. We hire lots of specialized individuals and pay them well. This is not too much to expect. **Get the spending under control!**

Agenda Item #38: International Business Machines Corporation, d.b.a. IBM Corporation, Amendment No. 5, to provide for enterprise resource planning (ERP)

system implementation services, amend contractual language and scope of services, Non-Bond Projects Fund (Capital Project Funds), contract amount \$891,000.00 (MA-PO-23-125)

This is the agenda item from 2 weeks ago: 4-2-24, item #29: International Business Machines Corporation, d.b.a. IBM Corporation, Amendment No. 4, to provide for enterprise resource planning (ERP) system implementation services, amend contractual language and scope of services, Non-Bond Project Fund (Capital Project Fund), contract amount \$216,000.00 (MA-PO-23-125)

This is a staggering amount of money -- \$20 million to change to a different operating system? There are many such expenses and the transparency could certainly be improved. Wouldn't it be great if our roads were repaired, the jail was safe, and property taxes were not among the highest in the state?

Once again, please get the spending of PC resident tax monies under control. I would like to remind you all that elections are coming. You work for the people of PC. Please, would someone on the BoS show some fiscal responsibility?