

ARIZONA STATE LEGISLATURE

JOINT BORDER SECURITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Minutes of the Meeting
December 12, 2017
10:00 a.m., Senate Hearing Room109

Members Present:

Senator Gail Griffin Co-Chair
Senator Sylvia Allen
Senator Steve Smith
Bas Aja
Sheriff Mark Dannels
Sheriff Mark Lamb
Major General Michael McGuire

Representative Mark Finchem
Frank Milstead
Charles Ryan
Sheriff Leon Wilmot

Members Excused:

John Halikowski
Speaker Javan D. Mesnard

Representative Darin Mitchell, Co-Chair
Gilbert Orrantia
Sheriff Paul Penzone

Staff:

Jeffrey Ong, Senate Research Staff
Jason Theodorou, House Research Staff

Co-Chairman Griffin called the meeting to order at 10:06 a.m. and attendance was taken.

OPENING REMARKS

Senator Griffin distributed handouts to the Committee members entitled "More Border Patrol agents needed to curb opioid crisis" (Attachment A), "BP agents arrest Mesa couple for smuggling" (Attachment B) and "Fentanyl seizures at the border jump dramatically" (Attachment C).

Senator Griffin gave opening remarks and asked the members of the Committee to introduce themselves.

Mark Dannels, Cochise County Sheriff, introduced himself and Thad Smith, Chief Deputy, Cochise County Sheriff's Office, Tim Williams, Southern Arizona Border Regional Enforcement Supervisor, (SABRE) and John Ladd, Legacy Rancher, who will be giving today's presentations.

Sheriff Dannels gave an overview of a program entitled "Border to your Backyard" and introduced Thad Smith, Chief Deputy, Cochise County Sheriff's Office to give the first presentation.

PRESENTATION–USE OF BORDER SECURITY TRUST FUND MONIES TO ENHANCE BORDER SECURITY

Cochise County Sheriff's Office, Sheriff Mark Dannels

Thad Smith, Chief Deputy, Cochise County Sheriff's Office, distributed and explained a PowerPoint presentation entitled "Joint Border Security Advisory Committee 2017 Review" (Attachment D) and answered questions posed by the Committee.

Chief Deputy Smith continued with the PowerPoint presentation and answered additional questions posed by the Committee.

Senator Griffin offered comments.

Chief Deputy Smith answered additional questions posed by the Committee.

Senator Griffin offered additional comments.

Sheriff Mark Dannels introduced John W. Ladd, Legacy Rancher.

PUBLIC TESTIMONY

John W. Ladd, Legacy Rancher, testified in support of the SABRE Team and gave an overview of the Virtual Fence and answered questions posed by the Committee.

Senator Griffin offered comments.

Mr. Ladd continued with his testimony and answered additional questions posed by the Committee.

Senator Griffin offered additional comments.

Mr. Ladd offered additional comments.

DISCUSSION ON ADDITIONAL EFFORTS TO SECURE THE BORDER

Senator Griffin called for discussion.

PRESENTATION–REQUEST FOR THE DISBURSEMENT OF BORDER SECURITY TRUST FUND MONIES

Sheriff Dannels distributed a letter dated November 27, 2017 addressed to Senator Gail Griffin, Co-Chair, Border Security Trust Fund (Attachment D) and a proposal letter dated December 4, 2017 addressed to Border Security Advisory Committee (Attachment E) and offered comments.

Senator Griffin offered additional comments.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Senator Griffin stated if there are no corrections, without objection, the Joint Border Security Advisory Committee minutes of November 9, 2015 and December 12, 2016 will stand approved as distributed.

DISCUSSION

Senator Griffin called for discussion on the proposal. However, no discussion was offered from the Committee.

POSSIBLE VOTE TO GRANT MONIES FROM THE BORDER SECURITY TRUST FUND

Senator Griffin stated that there are two motions to be voted on.

Motion #1

Senator Smith moved "Pursuant to, and in accordance with A.R.S. 41-113, I recommend that the Joint Border Security Advisory Committee authorize the State Treasurer to disburse from the Border Security Trust Fund the amount of \$55,633.94 to the Cochise County Sheriff's Office for the purpose of enhancing border security as specified in that Office's request letter dated December 4, 2017."

Sheriff Mark Dannels stated as the author of this proposal and the Sheriff of Cochise County he would like to recuse himself from the vote.

Senator Griffin stated so moved.

The motion CARRIED with a roll call vote of 6-3-1 (Attachment 1).

Senator Griffin stated 6 ayes, 3 not voting, 1 abstention, authorizes the disbursement of the monies to the Cochise County Sheriff's Office.

COMMENTS AND COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS

Senator Griffin called for any comments. No comments were offered.

Motion #2

Senator Smith moved that "the Joint Border Security Advisory Committee does the following:

Recommend to the full Legislature the adoption of legislation that repeals A.R.S. 41-113 establishing the Joint Border Security Advisory Committee and the Border Security Trust Fund; and Direct staff to take down the Joint Border Security Advisory Committee website."

DISCUSSION

Senator Griffin stated that since it is difficult to obtain a quorum for this Committee at times and because there is less money in the two funds this is the reason for these two motions. We fully intend to continue having meetings on this issue as previously discussed. The problems of securing the border, the drugs and the traffic still needs much attention, but we think we can have different meetings and try to find different funds to correct that. This is the reason for the two motions.

Senator Smith offered comments.

Sheriff Dannels offered comments.

Senator Griffin offered comments.

Representative Finchem offered comments.

The motion CARRIED with a roll call vote of 6-1-3 (Attachment 2).

Bas Aja and Sheriff Leon Wilmot explained their vote.

Senator Griffin stated by your vote of 6 ayes, 1 nay and 3 not voting you have voted to recommend the adoption of legislation that repeals A.R.S 41-113 and direct staff to take down the Joint Border Security Advisory Committee website.

Attached is a form noting the individual who submitted a Speaker Slip on the agenda items (Attachment F).

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 11:47 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Toy Brown
Committee Secretary

(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>)