

Pima County Sales Tax Advisory Committee Public Hearing

January 17, 2018
Picture Rocks Community Center
5615 N. Sanders Road
6 PM

Summary

Attendees

DeWayne
Carol Owens
Candy
Albert Lannon
Raul Richardson
Melvin Coley
Ed Cassidy
Christopher Banks
Rich McKnight
Bette Richards
Barbara Baraway
Lisa Furlough
Dorothy Banks
About 10 other people attended but did not provide a name or comment
Committee Chairman Wendell Long
Pima County staff

The hearing began at 6:05 p.m. with an introductory presentation by Chairman Wendell Long. The hearing included comments, questions and answers, and involved members of the public, Chairman Long, and County staff.

Main themes from speakers and those that submitted comments

There were many comments about the dirt roads in Picture Rocks, some which are maintained by the County and some which are private, but the sales tax proposal is to fix paved roads. Many of the speakers stated that they could not support the sales tax because they didn't think that the revenues would be actually be spent to fix their roads in Picture Rocks, which most stated were in poor condition.

Albert Lannon (also see 1 page proposal for unincorporated Pima County dirt roads attached)

- Stated that we already have a half cent sales tax and it goes to the Regional Transportation Authority (RTA), and assumes the RTA plan could be amended to include road repair.
- Read through his proposal for dirt roads (attached) and asked that dirt road maintenance be added to the plan.
- Requested that the Pima County Department of Transportation (PCDOT) research which dirt roads in Picture Rocks are County-owned versus private because there is a lot of confusion.
- Opposes the County's financial assistance to Worldview and County support in ADOT report for I-11 through Avra Valley.

Raul Richardson

- Roads are a disaster.
- Called the County in the past and they said they never maintained a certain road but he thinks they did and that they lied about it.
- Does not support a sales tax unless it goes towards fixing his road.

Melvin Coley (also see comment card attached)

- Asked questions about dirt road maintenance.
- Yes supports a sales tax if it was used only for roads and if it is spent where his community decides it should be spent.

Ed Cassidy (also see comment card attached)

- Asked about why the new Twin Peaks pavement project stops near the concrete plant and how it was funded.
- Asked why the County can't use sand from the cement plant that is tearing down Twin Peaks.
- Stated that 90 percent of roads are washed out and impassible.

Christopher Banks (also see comment card attached)

- Lived in the community since 1971 with his wife and back then there were only two paved roads.
- Has dealt with the County about the dirt roads but clearly the County should be taking care of the paved roads.
- Would support the sales tax if he thought the County would spend the funding on roads in Picture Rocks, but they won't and therefore he can't support it.

Rich McKnight (also see comment card attached)

- Opposes a sales tax.
- Doesn't trust politicians and compared them to crooks.
- Stated that the Board should be able to find the funding with current revenue sources and offered to personally go through the budget with the Board to find the funding for roads.
- Not in favor of the RTA having an oversight role.

Bette Richards (also see comment card attached)

- Stated that she's hearing that she shouldn't trust the County because they haven't done anything.
- Asked about the priority for road maintenance and why the County keeps fixing good roads instead of poor roads.
- Has two broken down cars because of the poor road conditions.

Carol Owens

- Stated that she has been working on transportation issues in the community for years, and asked the audience to sign up for a community committee that could begin with a brainstorming session about transportation.
- Stated that she has been working on trying to get a SunTran bus to service Picture Rocks, is active on the I-11 issue and other road issues.

Barbara Baraway

- Supports a temporary sales tax for road repair if it's for less than 10 years so that if the community doesn't see any improvement, then it would not continue.

Candy

- Asked about the 25 cent property tax, how much money that generates and if Picture Rocks roads were included to be repaired from that funding – the response was no, and therefore she stated that she would not be in favor of a new tax.
- Stated that the sales tax can be used for anything and so why would she think that the County would spend it in a rural area.

Lisa Furlough

- Lived in Picture Rocks since 2001 and Tucson since 1985.
- Does a lot of driving and is not opposed to paying to get roads fixed.
- Questioned if the funding was really going to be used for roads and is not confident the County will spend it that way.

Dorothy Banks

- Stated that if the County could reassure the community about where the funding would go and how it would be spent, then the County would have a fair chance of getting support, but doesn't think that will happen since the attitudes of the speakers appears to be that they will not support it unless the funding fixes their particular road.

Hearing ended at 7:10 p.m.

Comment cards attached.

A MODEST PROPOSAL FOR PICTURE ROCKS AND OTHER UNINCORPORATED PIMA COUNTY DIRT ROADS

1. THE PROBLEM:

- A. The sales tax increase proposal advanced by the county administrator applies to paved roads only.
- B. Most dirt roads in Picture Rocks are considered easements and the responsibility of the adjacent property owners.
- C. Many, perhaps most, residents do not want those dirt roads paved; some have had ground-up asphalt laid down that has held up well.
- D. Our dirt roads need maintenance like grading and filling.
- E. The county maintains that the law would consider easement maintenance by the county a violation of the Gift Clause.
- F. For the above reasons, a sales tax increase will be a hard sell as we are being asked to pay for things we will never get any local benefit from. Our working families and seniors are being asked, in effect, to subsidize much better-off communities. That is perceived as simply not fair, and it isn't.

2. A POSSIBLE SOLUTION:

- A. Use part of the sales tax revenue for planning and implementation to:
 - (1) Canvas property owners along dirt roads to see if they would be willing to deed their easements to the county. **Some dirt road easements are so deeded and are county maintained.**
 - (2) The county commits to accepting any such deeded dirt road easements with no alterations like widening, etc. Size of deeded dirt road easement to conform to present realities.
 - (3) Use some of the sales tax revenue to cover any costs associated with such deeding and acceptance.
 - (4) As part of the canvas of property owners, the county to prepare and provide them with a plan for twice-yearly – during summer and winter rainy seasons -- grading and filling.
 - (5) Where neighboring property owners cannot agree or there is some dispute about an easement, bloc grants be made available to those wanting their parts of dirt roads graded and filled. There are local people that can be hired to do this.
- B. (1) Details of dirt road maintenance to be discussed in community meetings with county open to revisions based on resident input.
 - (2) Dirt road maintenance to be included in all county long-term plans for road repair.
 - (3) Inclusion on county planning committees of dirt road representatives from affected communities.

Respectfully Submitted,

Albert Lannon

Picture Rocks

Email: albertlannon@powerc.net

PR

Pima County Sales Tax Advisory Committee

We Want to Hear from YOU!

1. Should the Pima County Board of Supervisors adopt a half-cent general sales tax?

YES / NO / NOT SURE (circle one)

Comment: _____

2. Should the sales tax revenue be spent on road repair, property tax reduction or some combination of both?

Road Repair ONLY / Property Tax Reduction ONLY / Combination of Both (circle one)

Comment: _____

3. Should the sales tax be temporary or permanent?

Temporary / Permanent (circle one)

Comment: _____

For additional information or to provide comments electronically please visit www.pima.gov/salestax or County Administrator's Office at (520) 724-8661.

Name: Melvin Coley
Address: 7800 N Little Owl Ln City: Tuc State: AZ Zip Code: 85743
Email Address: melcp1@yahoo.com

*See back for additional space to write comments.

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Temporary / Permanent (circle one)

Comment: should not be

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Name: ED Cassin

PK

Pima County Sales Tax Advisory Committee

We Want to Hear from YOU!

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YES / NO / NOT SURE (circle one)

Comment: What about Dirt Roads + DM Dedicated Roads

2. Should the sales tax revenue be spent on road repair, property tax reduction or some combination of both?

Road Repair ONLY / Property Tax Reduction ONLY / Combination of Both (circle one)

Comment: _____

3. Should the sales tax be temporary or permanent?

Temporary / Permanent (circle one)

Comment: Needs tested for awhile to see Perm

For additional information or to provide comments electronically please visit www.pima.gov/salestax or County Administrator's Office at (520) 724-8661.

Name: Christophe W. Banks
Address: 6955 N. Bluebird City: Tucson State: AZ Zip Code: 85743
Email Address: _____

*See back for additional space to write comments.

PK

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1. Should the Pima County Board of Supervisors adopt a half-cent general sales tax?

YES / NO / NOT SURE (circle one)

Comment: The budget should be reviewed + money found elsewhere

2. Should the sales tax revenue be spent on road repair, property tax reduction or some combination of both?

Road Repair ONLY / Property Tax Reduction ONLY / Combination of Both (circle one)

Comment: N/A - Should not be collected

3. Should the sales tax be temporary or permanent?

Temporary / Permanent (circle one)

Comment: It passed at all

For additional information or to provide comments electronically please visit www.pima.gov/salestax or County Administrator's Office at (520) 724-8661.

Name: Rich McKnight
Address: _____ City: _____ State: _____ Zip Code: _____

Comments:

Rural Area - especially here
in Poudre Rocks have over 40 years
Not been maintained adequately for
the amount of TAX - County we
have PAID

Too GAS Not Dirt Roads
What about Dust
And AIR Pollution?

Comments:

The road budget should be taken from cuts elsewhere.
Why is this never pursued - You always ask for
more money?

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YES / NO / NOT SURE (circle one)

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Name: Bette Richards

Comments:

Be roads scheduled for priority because of
condition or highly traveled.