

**PROCEEDINGS OF THE COCHISE COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
REGULAR MEETING HELD ON
TUESDAY, OCTOBER 24, 2023**

A regular board meeting of the Cochise County Board of Supervisors was held on Tuesday, October 24, 2023 at 10:00 a.m. in the Board of Supervisors' Hearing Room, 1415 Melody Lane, Building G, Bisbee, Arizona.

Present: Peggy Judd, Chairman, telephonic; Tom Crosby, Vice-Chairman; Ann English, Supervisor

Staff Present: Sharon Gilman, Deputy County Administrator; Paul Correa, Deputy County Attorney; Lara Loewenheim, Clerk of the Board

Chairman Judd called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m.

ANY ITEM ON THIS AGENDA IS OPEN FOR DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

THE ORDER OR DELETION OF ANY ITEM ON THIS AGENDA IS SUBJECT TO MODIFICATION AT THE MEETING

CALL TO THE PUBLIC

Alfred Kern expressed the need to include discussions about road maintenance and improvements on the agenda, and emphasized the importance of addressing the condition of the roads near his home.

Allison Morse highlighted several issues within the elections department and expressed hope for positive changes under the direction of the new elections director.

Jeff Sturges criticized the decision to pursue a hand count audit of the 2022 general election and called for voters to replace those involved.

Tricia Gerrodette thanked Chairman Judd for her decision to stop pursuing the election case further and emphasized the need for experienced leadership in the 2024 elections.

Frances Alvarez urged the board to consider Mr. Kern's request regarding road issues and advocated for an open bid with no reserve on the Miracle Valley Bible College property, stipulating its historical preservation and potential development by sincere nonprofit organizations.

Sandy Trull emphasized the importance of securing elections, called for the reestablishment of precincts, elimination of voting technology controlled by third-party corporations, and the rejection of mass mail-in voting without proper safeguards, while asserting that the electoral process should be transparent and accountable to the people as per constitutional rights.

Rebecka (Allen) Jones discussed the Tax Deed Land sale which included the Miracle Valley Bible College property, expressed the desire for a fair and legally sound sales process involving nonprofit organizations to avoid another unsuccessful auction and to benefit the public interest.

Johnny Lee Wilson expressed concern about government control, funding sources, and the need for transparency in the use of grants and suggested that elected officials follow the Constitution, avoid lying, and work for the people's interests.

Dr. Melvin Harter advocated for an open auction with no reserve on the Miracle Valley Bible College property, expressed the need to access the property's buildings, clarified the responsibility for potential injuries, and mentioned owning nearby parcels, including the sewer system.

Rodolfo Valencia highlighted the need for interpretation services at meetings to allow non-English speakers to participate and discussed issues in the community, including job availability and young people leaving for other areas instead of staying in Cochise County.

Kara Harris expressed concern about border crossings and encouraged the Board to follow their Oath of Office to defend the county against illegal immigration, emphasizing the importance of keeping the country safe and serving their constituents.

CONSENT

Board of Supervisors

1. Approve the Minutes of the regular meeting of the Board of Supervisors of October 10, 2023.

County Schools

2. Approve Amendment 1 to Intergovernmental Agreement (IGA) 23-14-ED with Arizona Department of Education (ADE), and the Cochise County Educational Service Mental Health Consortium, decreasing the total grant from \$1,288,990 to \$542,865.58 pursuant to the revised budget, effective upon execution.

County Sheriff

3. Approve Amendment 1 to the Law Enforcement Agency - Opioid Funding Agreement, AG23-0021a, between the Arizona Attorney General's Office and the Cochise County Sheriff's Office, previously approved by the Board on December 27, 2022, to extend the termination date of the Agreement from June 30, 2023 to December 31, 2023.

Finance

4. Approve demands and budget amendments for operating transfers.

Supervisor English made a motion to approve Consent Agenda items 1 through 4. Chairman Judd seconded the motion and it was carried unanimously.

ACTION

County Attorney

5. Approve Federal Grant ISA-ARPA-DPS-050123-01, CFDA 21.027, Subgrant Award Agreement, from the Arizona Department of Public Safety, for the Victims of Crime Act Victim Assistance Program, in the amount of \$112,530, with required matching funds of \$28,133, effective October 1, 2023 through September 30, 2024.

Chairman Judd made a motion to approve Federal Grant ISA-ARPA-DPS-050123-01, CFDA 21.027, Subgrant Award Agreement, from the Arizona Department of Public Safety, for the Victims of Crime Act Victim Assistance Program, in the amount of \$112,530, with required matching funds of \$28,133, effective October 1, 2023 through September 30, 2024. Supervisor English seconded the motion.

Vice-Chairman Crosby called for the vote and it was approved 3-0.

County Schools

6. Approve Memorandum of Agreement between Berean Academy and Cochise County School Superintendent, also known as Cochise County Education Service Agency (CochisESA), to provide Special Education Services, at the rate detailed in Exhibit A, effective July 1, 2023 through June 30, 2024.

Supervisor English made a motion to approve Memorandum of Agreement between Berean Academy and Cochise County School Superintendent, also known as Cochise County Education Service Agency (CochisESA), to provide Special Education Services, at the rate detailed in Exhibit A, effective July 1, 2023 through June 30, 2024. Vice-Chairman Judd seconded the motion.

Charlotte Taylor, Mental Health Consortium Manager, presented this item. Ms. Taylor thanked the Board for considering this agreement for their work for at the schools.

Vice-Chairman Crosby called for the vote and it was approved 3-0.

7. Approve an Intergovernmental Agreement (IGA) between Palominas Elementary School District and Cochise County School Superintendent, also known as Cochise County Education Service Agency (CochisESA) to provide Special Education Services, at the rate detailed in Exhibit A, effective July 1, 2023 through June 30, 2024.

Chairman Judd made a motion to approve an Intergovernmental Agreement (IGA) between Palominas Elementary School District and Cochise County School Superintendent, also known as Cochise County Education Service Agency (CochisESA) to provide Special Education Services, at the rate detailed in Exhibit A, effective July 1, 2023 through June 30, 2024. Supervisor English seconded the motion.

Ms. Taylor presented this item and had no further comments.

Vice-Chairman Crosby called for the vote and it was approved 3-0.

County Sheriff

8. Approve the receipt of \$450,000 from the Arizona State Treasurer, under Arizona Senate Bill 1720, Section 116 to be allocated to the Cochise County Sheriff's Office for search and rescue-related equipment.

Supervisor English made a motion to approve the receipt of \$450,000 from the Arizona State Treasurer, under Arizona Senate Bill 1720, Section 116 to be allocated to the Cochise County Sheriff's Office for search and rescue-related equipment. Vice-Chairman Judd seconded the motion.

Tricia Gerrodette spoke in opposition to this item and discussed the reasons.

Kenneth Bradshaw, Sheriff's Office Commander, presented this item. Commander Bradshaw stated that the funds would be used for vehicles, medical equipment, technical rescue equipment, and more. He stated that a detailed list of the equipment to be purchased is still in development due to changes in the funding rules.

Vice-Chairman Crosby called for the vote and it was approved 3-0.

Emergency Services

9. Approve Subrecipient Agreement for the Emergency Management Performance Grant EMF-2023-APP-00008-S01 with the Arizona Department of Emergency and Military Affairs, in the amount of \$146,489.50, effective July 1, 2023 through July 1, 2024.

Chairman Judd made a motion to approve Subrecipient Agreement for the Emergency Management Performance Grant EMF-2023-APP-00008-S01 with the Arizona Department of Emergency and Military Affairs, in the amount of \$146,489.50, effective July 1, 2023 through July 1, 2024. Supervisor English seconded the motion.

Dan Duchon, Emergency Services Director, presented this item. Mr. Duchon stated that this is a grant received from the state of Arizona, Department of Emergency and Military Affairs, which is a federal grant, with a 50% match from the state and a 50% match from Cochise County, totaling \$292,000, which funds the Emergency Management department and its two employees locally.

Vice-Chairman Crosby called for the vote and it was approved 3-0.

REPORT BY RICHARD G. KARWACZKA, COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR -- RECENT AND PENDING COUNTY MATTERS

Ms. Gilman spoke on behalf of Mr. Karwaczka in his absence. Ms. Gilman welcomed the new Health Department director, Barb Lang, who is fully onboarded and ready to start work at the Health Department.

SUMMARY OF CURRENT EVENTS

Report by District 1 Supervisor, Tom Crosby

Vice-Chairman Crosby deferred his report.

Report by District 2 Supervisor, Ann English

Supervisor English mentioned a successful chili cook-off fundraiser by the Sheriff's Department in Douglas, where they raised about \$7000. She stated these funds will benefit the food banks in Pearce and Douglas, and she highlighted the department's positive community involvement.

Report by District 3 Supervisor, Peggy Judd

Chairman Judd mentioned the success of recent events in her district, including a fall wine festival and the availability of attractions like Apple Annie's corn maze and pumpkins in Willcox. She highlighted the positive experiences in the area and the annual sighting of sandhill cranes.

Vice-Chairman Crosby adjourned the meeting at 10:44 a.m.

APPROVED:

Tom Crosby, Vice-Chairman

ATTEST:

Sharon Gilman, Interim Clerk of the Board