

**PROCEEDINGS OF THE COCHISE COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
REGULAR MEETING HELD ON
TUESDAY, JUNE 3, 2025**

A regular board meeting of the Cochise County Board of Supervisors was held on Tuesday, June 3, 2025 at 10:00 a.m. in the Board of Supervisors' Hearing Room, 1415 Melody Lane, Building G, Bisbee, Arizona.

Present: Frank Antenori, Chairman, Telephonic; Tom Crosby, Vice-Chairman; Kathleen L. Gomez, Supervisor

Staff Present: Sharon Gilman, Interim County Administrator; Joe Casey, Interim Deputy County Administrator; Bert Whitehead, Civil Deputy County Attorney; Melissa Wright, Deputy Clerk of the Board

Vice-Chairman Crosby called the meeting to order at 10:25 a.m.

CALL TO THE PUBLIC

Ronnie Maestas-Condos expressed concern over comments made by Supervisor Antenori during a recent work session and emphasized the ethical responsibility of public officials.

Allison Morse spoke about the need for courteous and timely communication from the Board when responding to constituents. She expressed concern over a lack of automatic replies and occasional dismissive responses.

Radford Hyde raised concerns about election integrity.

Chairman Antenori defended his previous comments about a former elections director, saying they were made in the context of staff oversight and policy direction. He stated that any county employee acting without Board approval, especially lobbying lawmakers, is insubordination. Chairman Antenori emphasized his right to free speech, stood by his statements, and reiterated the authority of the elected Board over county staff decisions.

CONSENT

Board of Supervisors

1. Approve the Minutes of the regular meeting of the Board of Supervisors of May 20, 2025.

Elections

2. Approve the appointment of 2 Democratic Party Precinct Committeemen, by recommendation of their Cochise County Party Chairman, to serve through the October 1, 2026 term.

Finance

3. Approve demands and budget amendments for operating transfers.
4. Adopt Resolution 25-09 designating Mrs. Monica Miranda as Chief Fiscal Officer for submitting the Fiscal Year 2026 Annual Expenditure Limitation Report (AELR).

Supervisor Gomez made a motion to approve consent agenda items 1 through 4. Chairman Antenori seconded the motion.

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

PUBLIC HEARINGS

Development Services

5. Resolution 25-12, Dockets CPA25-02 and RZ25-04: Applicant-initiated requests to change land use and growth area designations of 369 acres from *Rural* to *Developing* and *Category D - Rural Areas* to *Category B - Community Growth Areas* and adopt Zoning Ordinance 25-08 to rezone tax parcels 408-34-004A and 408-34-004D from RU-4 (Rural District, one dwelling per 4 acres) to LI (Light Industry District).

Supervisor Gomez made a motion to approve Resolution 25-12, Dockets CPA25-02 and RZ25-04: Applicant-initiated requests to change land use and growth area designations of 369 acres from *Rural* to *Developing* and *Category D - Rural Areas* to *Category B - Community Growth Areas* and adopt Zoning Ordinance 25-08 to rezone tax parcels 408-34-004A and 408-34-004D from RU-4 (Rural District, one dwelling per 4 acres) to LI (Light Industry District). Chairman Antenori seconded the motion.

Matthew Taylor, Planner II, presented this item using a PowerPoint presentation. Mr. Taylor explained that the request is to change the land designation from "Growth Area B" to "Developing" to support a future rezoning from rural to industrial. He stated the proposed warehouse use aligns with anticipated commercial activity related to the port of entry.

Vice-Chairman Crosby opened the public hearing. No one chose to speak.

Vice-Chairman Crosby closed the public hearing.

The Board and staff discussed concerns from recent land buyers who seemed unaware the area had long been planned for commercial development related to the new port of entry. Board members emphasized the importance of due diligence when purchasing property near high-growth zones. Staff confirmed plans for roadway

dedications and a 100-foot landscape buffer near residential parcels, following Planning and Zoning Commission recommendations. Staff stated Arizona Game and Fish also requested a wildlife survey, which the applicant must provide during the permitting phase.

Michael Marks addressed the Board to support the proposed warehousing project tied to the port of entry development. He acknowledged the importance of being good neighbors but requested reducing the 100-foot setback to 50 feet, citing existing zoning code allowances. He also suggested that if the nearby residential parcels are sold, the setbacks should revert to the standard 20 feet, arguing future buyers will be fully aware of the area's commercial trajectory.

Mr. Taylor clarified that the required *setback* between industrial and rural zones is 80 feet, not 40 feet as previously misstated. He stated the building setback is mandatory and can only be reduced through a variance granted by the Board of Adjustment. He stated a *landscape buffer* is not required by ordinance. He stated the proposed 100-foot landscape buffer is a condition of the rezoning, and the Board may consider reducing it based on the vegetation's density and type.

Heather Gardner commented on the likely traffic impact at the Kings Ranch and Puzzi Ranch intersection. She noted the area will see heavy truck activity due to its role as a connector road. She stated whether the buffer is 50, 100, or even 150 feet, it won't significantly lessen the overall impact on nearby residential properties.

Kim DePew, Chairperson from the Planning and Zoning Commission shared concerns about the impact on a few nearby residents. She agreed that the landscape buffer could be adjusted during the permitting phase, whether it's 100 feet or 80 feet, using appropriate foliage to help mitigate the transition for those affected.

The Board and staff discussed clarifying the applicant's request, which was not for a setback variance but rather to reduce the landscape buffer due to potential land loss. Staff recommended removing Condition #2, which mandated a 100-foot buffer, and instead resolving landscaping details during permitting. Staff suggested striking Condition #2 and addressing the buffer specifics later in the permitting phase.

Supervisor Gomez made a motion to approve to strike number 2, a 100' landscape buffer is required at the time of development along all property lines shared with established residential uses. Chairman Antenori seconded the motion.

Vice-Chairman Crosby called for the vote for item number 5 as amended and it was approved 3-0.

Engineering & Natural Resources

6. Adopt Resolution 25-10 to authorize the abandonment of the 100 foot public right-of-way known as Jacobo Place located in the Townsite of Naco.

Supervisor Gomez made a motion to approve and adopt Resolution 25-10 to authorize the abandonment of the 100 foot public right-of-way known as Jacobo Place located in the Townsite of Naco. Vice-Chairman Crosby seconded the motion.

Vice-Chairman Crosby opened the public hearing.

Lisa Enriquez, Right-of-Way Agent, presented this item using a PowerPoint

presentation. Ms. Enriquez explained that the Engineering Department received a request from Renee Reid to abandon a portion of public right-of-way known as Jakobo Place. She stated one letter of opposition was submitted by the Naco Sanitation Chair, who wanted to preserve the area as a public trail and wildlife benefit. She stated the applicant paid all required fees and owns the adjacent parcels, with plans to combine them without fencing off the area. She noted the road is not currently open to vehicles and remains natural desert terrain, and there were no objections from utility companies or County planning staff.

Vice-Chairman Crosby closed the public hearing.

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

ACTION

Board of Supervisors

7. Adopt Resolution 25-11 Clarifying the role, authority, and responsibilities of the County Administrator and rescinding Resolution 03-15.

Supervisor Gomez made a motion to adopt Resolution 25-11 clarifying the role, authority, and responsibilities of the County Administrator and rescinding Resolution 03-15. Chairman Antenori seconded the motion.

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

8. Approve the updated Cochise County organizational chart reflecting the current reporting structure and departmental organization under the County Administrator.

Supervisor Gomez made a motion to approve the updated Cochise County organizational chart reflecting the current reporting structure and departmental organization under the County Administrator. Chairman Antenori seconded the motion.

Allison Morse expressed concern about the Board having operational control over all directors. She urged the Board to support lawful practices to avoid further disruption and legal issues in the elections department.

Supervisor Gomez clarified that the Elections Director is not an elected position and reports to the Board of Supervisors. She concluded by stressing the importance of creating a non-toxic work environment where everyone clearly understands their roles under state law.

In response to the Board, Ms. Gilman explained the main difference between the old and new organizational charts. She stated that in the new version, solid lines from the Board to directors indicate operational control, while the County Administrator has administrative control, including hiring and evaluations. She also clarified a change involving the Clerk of the Board, who now reports directly to the Board of Supervisors, aligning with state statute.

Chairman Antenori noted the updated chart should help reduce confusion. He emphasized that the Board of Supervisors functions as both a legislative and executive body. Under Title 11, it is within the Board's authority to oversee county offices and

departments.

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

9. Approve Community Enhancement Fund expenditures for District 2: Architectural Design of Flag Pavilion for those stationed at Camp Naco (9th/10th Cavalry, 24th/25th Infantry flags) in the amount of \$10,000.

Supervisor Gomez made a motion to approve Community Enhancement Fund expenditures for District 2: Architectural Design of Flag Pavilion for those stationed at Camp Naco (9th/10th Cavalry, 24th/25th Infantry flags) in the amount of \$10,000. Chairman Antenori seconded the motion.

Supervisor Gomez explained that the flag pavilion's architectural design honors the 9th and 10th Cavalry and the 24th and 25th Infantry regiments stationed at Camp Naco. The funding would fully cover the design and leave a small amount for materials.

Christine Rhodes, a member of the Naco Heritage Alliance, appreciated Supervisor Gomez for honoring the camp's historical significance during the Mexican Revolution. She also mentioned a related exhibit currently on display at the Bisbee Mining and Historical Museum.

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

10. Approve Community Enhancement Fund expenditures for District 2: Sponsor Mundo Basketball program in Douglas, in the amount of \$4,000.

Supervisor Gomez made a motion to approve Community Enhancement Fund expenditures for District 2: Sponsor Mundo Basketball program in Douglas in the amount of \$4,000. Chairman Antenori seconded the motion.

Supervisor Gomez shared that plans are in place to start two basketball leagues for middle and high school students in Douglas, potentially involving around 600 kids. She stated the initiative aims to fill a gap, as the city currently lacks a Boys and Girls Club or youth center. She stated the program, supported by discussions with the mayor, is intended to provide meaningful summer activities for local youth.

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

Clerk of Superior Courts

11. Approve Interagency Service Agreement (ISA) 2024-252 between the Arizona Supreme Court Administrative Office of the Courts (AOC) and Cochise County Clerk of the Superior Court for the use of Digital Evidence Portal under the terms of the statewide contract with Thomson Reuters (AOC Contract NO 2021-0006).

Supervisor Gomez made a motion to approve Interagency Service Agreement (ISA) 2024-252 between the Arizona Supreme Court Administrative Office of the Courts (AOC) and Cochise County Clerk of the Superior Court for the use of Digital Evidence Portal under the terms of the statewide contract with Thomson Reuters (AOC Contract NO 2021-0006). Chairman Antenori seconded the motion.

Amy Hunley, Clerk of the Court, presented this item. Ms. Hunley explained that the agreement involves a digital evidence portal allowing litigants to submit evidence electronically for hearings and trials. The clerk's office will pay \$5 per case, with funds coming from the document and digital evidence storage and retrieval fund.

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

County Sheriff

12. Approve the annual Work Plan for Cooperative Service Agreement 24-73-04-0228-RA between Cochise County and the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service and Wildlife Services, effective July 1, 2025, through June 30, 2026, in the amount of \$61,736.41.

Supervisor Gomez made a motion to approve the annual Work Plan for Cooperative Service Agreement 24-73-04-0228-RA between Cochise County and the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service and Wildlife Services, effective July 1, 2025, through June 30, 2026, in the amount of \$61,736.41. Chairman Antenori seconded the motion.

Kenny Bradshaw, Commander, presented this item. Commander Bradshaw explained the item was the annual renewal of the contract for the county's Wildlife Services Officer. He stated the officer handles destructive and sick wildlife across the county.

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

Development Services

13. Approve an extension request of the Assurance Agreement for Kings Ranch at Coronado Subdivision with Pioneer Title Agency, Inc, as Trustee under Trust No. 321365 and K Ranch, LLC as beneficiary of Trust No. 321365, effective through February 14, 2030.

Supervisor Gomez made a motion to approve an extension request of the Assurance Agreement for Kings Ranch at Coronado Subdivision with Pioneer Title Agency, Inc, as Trustee under Trust No. 321365 and K Ranch, LLC as beneficiary of Trust No. 321365, effective through February 14, 2030. Chairman Antenori seconded the motion.

Paul Esparza, Building Official, presented this item using a PowerPoint presentation. He presented a request from KL Ranch LLC to extend the assurance agreement for completion of subdivision improvements. He stated the Board originally approved in 2012, the last extension was granted in 2018, and this new extension would last through February 14, 2030.

Jackie Watkins, Engineering and Natural Resources Director, explained that the subdivision, developed around 2005, had a hydrology report completed, but due to its rural nature, it was not mass-graded like urban developments. She stated the subdivision followed design standards, and drainage continues along natural paths.

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

Facilities

14. Approve Lease Agreement Renewal 9 between Cochise County and Northrop Grumman Systems Corporation, for leased space at the Bisbee-Douglas International Airport, effective May 1, 2025, through April 30, 2026, in the amount of \$1,500 per month.

Supervisor Gomez made motion to approve Lease Agreement Renewal 9 between Cochise County and Northrop Grumman Systems Corporation, for leased space at the Bisbee-Douglas International Airport, effective May 1, 2025, through April 30, 2026, in the amount of \$1,500 per month. Chairman Antenori seconded the motion.

Darrel Crowley, Facilities Director, presented this item. Mr. Crowley clarified that this is a continuation of a lease agreement with Northrop Grumman at the Bisbee-Douglas International (BDI) airport, which dates back to 2017.

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

Health & Social Services

15. Approve Intergovernmental Agreement (IGA) GRA-STATE-24-1242-01-Y2 between the Early Childhood Development and Health Board (First Things First) and Cochise County Health & Social Services to provide child care center health consultations county-wide, effective July 1, 2025, through June 30, 2026, in the amount of \$138,420.

Supervisor Gomez made a motion to approve Intergovernmental Agreement (IGA) GRA-STATE-24-1242-01-Y2 between the Early Childhood Development and Health Board (First Things First) and Cochise County Health & Social Services to provide child care center health consultations county-wide, effective July 1, 2025, through June 30, 2026, in the amount of \$138,420. Chairman Antenori seconded the motion.

Emily Harris, Clinical Services Director, presented a request for continued approval of the grant, which has been fully funded since 2015 and is renewed annually. She stated the grant amounts to \$138,420 and supports two part-time staff members who provide consultation, training, and safety checks for 43 childcare centers across the county, serving over 2,700 children.

In response to the Board, Barb Lang, Health Director, clarified that the star rating system is required by regulation for funding eligibility and could financially hurt the center, and the state may decide to close it down.

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

16. Approve Delegation Agreement EV24-0014 between Arizona Department of Environmental Quality and Cochise Health & Social Services Environmental Health Division with expiration year of 2050.

Supervisor Gomez made a motion to approve Delegation Agreement EV24-0014 between Arizona Department of Environmental Quality and Cochise Health & Social Services Environmental Health Division with expiration year of 2050. Chairman Antenori seconded the motion.

Natalie Johnson, Director of Environmental Health, presented this item. She stated the agreement allows the county to handle reviews and inspections for on-site residential septic systems. She stated without the agreement, the county could lose approximately \$158,000 in revenue.

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

STATE & FEDERAL LEGISLATION

17. Discussion and possible action regarding state and federal legislative matters listed or described in the attached County Supervisors Association Legislative Policy Committee Agenda, the Arizona Association of Counties (AACo) Legislative Policy Committee Agenda, and the proposed State budget, and other matters related thereto.

Chairman Antenori shared an update from state representatives indicating budget negotiations are still ongoing and the County may need to finalize its own budget without knowing the state's decisions. He stated Federal funding details are also delayed, likely not becoming clear until after July 4th, 2025.

REPORT BY SHARON GILMAN, INTERIM COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR -- RECENT AND PENDING COUNTY MATTERS

Ms. Gilman shared she will be attending a County Managers Association meeting and the Arizona County Insurance Pool Trustees meeting in Prescott on June 12th and 13th, 2025.

SUMMARY OF CURRENT EVENTS

Report by District 1 Supervisor, Tom Crosby

Vice-Chairman Crosby stated his 36th wedding anniversary is June 4th, 2025.

Report by District 2 Supervisor, Kathleen L. Gomez

Supervisor Gomez shared that Miguel Pelayo will perform in Douglas on June 14th, 2025. She said tickets can be purchased online using a QR code available through the City of Douglas.

Report by District 3 Supervisor, Frank Antenori

Chairman Antenori deferred his report.

Vice-Chairman Crosby adjourned the meeting at 11:42 a.m.

APPROVED:

Tom Crosby, Vice-Chairman

ATTEST:

Melissa Wright, Deputy Clerk of the Board