

**PROCEEDINGS OF THE COCHISE COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
REGULAR MEETING HELD ON
TUESDAY, JUNE 17, 2025**

A regular board meeting of the Cochise County Board of Supervisors was held on Tuesday, June 17, 2025 at 10:00 a.m. in the Board of Supervisors' Hearing Room, 1415 Melody Lane, Building G, Bisbee, Arizona.

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

Absent: Frank Antenori, Chairman

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

Vice-Chairman Crosby called the meeting to order at 10:22 a.m.

CALL TO THE PUBLIC

Daniel LaChance thanked the supervisors for helping citizens overturn an election and urged them to schedule a working session to address constitutional violations and other issues to ensure the upcoming election is lawful.

Allison Morse defended former Cochise County elections director Lisa Marra, condemning accusations and statements made against her, asserting that she upheld election laws under extreme pressure.

Coriana Eastman shared a personal story about being injured in a cycling accident around the lavender pit in 2010, emphasizing the danger of the area and the potential life-saving benefits of the Bisbee Bikeway Project.

Radford Hyde emphasized the legal requirements for a referendum, bond usage, and the need for a supermajority vote on taxes.

Eli Dalton-Webb expressed support for appointing Pro Tem judges to avoid a lack of judges, criticized the \$10,000 spent on a flag, and raised concerns about the lack of attention to jail visitation issues.

Supervisor Gomez clarified that the \$10,000 was spent on a full memorial project including a foundation, flagpole, lighting, and multiple flags honoring Buffalo Soldiers.

PRESENTATION

Members of the Cochise County Student Advisory Council will present an overview of their Anti-Bullying Awareness Campaign.

Dr. Jacqui Clay, Superintendent of Schools, introduced the Student Advisory Council, representing students across Cochise County. She stated they are presenting their focus for the year on anti-bullying awareness and plans to implement initiatives.

The Student Advisory Council members presented this item.

Supervisor Gomez praised the Student Advisory Council for their efforts and encouraged expanding the council to include students from various communities in Cochise County.

Cynthia Meyers, Outreach Manager, stated the County Student Advisory Council will help promote a new anonymous tip reporting tool in schools.

Dr. Clay shared that the students will tour the county and brief state leaders.

CONSENT

Board of Supervisors

1. Approve the Minutes of the regular meeting of the Board of Supervisors of June 3, 2025.

County Sheriff

2. Approve the Modification to the Cooperative Law Enforcement Agreement 23-LE-11030500-048 between the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), US Forest Service and the Cochise County Sheriff's Office for overtime, employer-related expenses and fleet costs for Sheriff's deputies to patrol various recreation areas of the Coronado National Forest, in the amount of \$21,000, effective March 3, 2023, through December 31, 2027.
3. Approve FFY 2023 State of Arizona Homeland Security Grant Program Award Reallocation, Grant 230409-01 between the State Homeland Security Grant Program and the Cochise County Sheriff's Office, to purchase ballistic helmets, in the amount of \$1,907, effective May 1, 2025, through April 30, 2026.

Court Administration

4. Approve the appointment of Justin C. Allred as a Superior Court Pro Tempore Judge, pursuant to A.R.S. § 12-141 and A.R.S. § 12-142, for a term beginning June 24, 2025, and ending June 27, 2025.

Elections

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

Finance

6. Approve demands and budget amendments for operating transfers.

Supervisor Gomez made a motion to approved Consent items 1 through 6.
Vice-Chairman Crosby seconded the motion.

Vice-Chairman Crosby raised concerns about a \$340,000 payment for 87.4 hours of helicopter flight time, estimating the cost to be around \$3,890 per hour, and suggested the expenditure should be reviewed.

Vice-Chairman called for the vote and it was approved 2-0. (Antenori absent)

PUBLIC HEARINGS

Board of Supervisors

7. Approve Series 13 (Farm Winery) new liquor license application submitted by Christopher Dale Brinkmeyer for Skyhaven Wines at 5405 E Patriot Trail, Willcox, AZ 85643.

Supervisor Gomez made a motion to approve Series 13 (Farm Winery) new liquor license application submitted by Christopher Dale Brinkmeyer for Skyhaven Wines at 5405 E Patriot Trail, Willcox, AZ 85643. Vice-Chairman Crosby seconded the motion.

Vice-Chairman Crosby opened the Public Hearing.

Ms. Loewenheim, presented this item. She stated a series 13 farm winery liquor license application for Sky Haven Wines in Willcox was submitted by Christopher Brinkmeyer, reviewed with no protests, and is recommended for approval by staff.

Eli Dalton-Webb spoke in favor and discussed the reasons.

Vice-Chairman Crosby closed the Public Hearing.

Vice-Chairman Crosby called for the vote and it was approved 2-0. (Antenori absent)

ACTION

Board of Supervisors

8. Approve Community Enhancement Fund expenditures for District 2: Contribution to the Bisbee Bikeways Project West End Segment, in the amount of \$20,000.

Supervisor Gomez made a motion to approve Community Enhancement Fund expenditures for District 2: Contribution to the Bisbee Bikeways Project West End Segment, in the amount of \$20,000. Vice-Chairman Crosby seconded the motion.

Supervisor Gomez shared a personal experience involving a near accident with a pedestrian near Bisbee and expressed strong concern for safety, supporting a pathway project that could connect nearby communities and protect walkers and cyclists.

Meggen Connolley, executive director of Bisbee Bikeways, voiced strong support for a \$20,000 allocation from District 2's Community Enhancement Fund to help fund the West segment of the Lavender Pit shared-use path and explained her reasons.

Carolyn Harris secretary of Bisbee Bikeways, urged the Board to approve the \$20,000 contribution toward the multi-use path around the Lavender Pit and explained her reasons.

Jeremy Fricke, Executive Director of Naco Heritage Alliance, expressed strong support for the \$20,000 contribution to Bisbee Bikeways and explained his reasons.

David Lloyd, a member of the Naco Heritage Alliance, expressed his support for the bike path project and explained his reasons.

Karen Schumacher a Bisbee city council member, expressed strong support for the bikeways project and explained her reasons.

Vice-Chairman Crosby called for the vote and it was approved 2-0. (Antenori absent)

9. Approve Community Enhancement Fund expenditures for District 2: Sponsor Douglas Boys and Girls Club, in the amount of \$10,000.

Supervisor Gomez made a motion to approve Community Enhancement Fund expenditures for District 2: Sponsor Douglas Boys and Girls Club, in the amount of \$10,000. Vice-Chairman Crosby seconded the motion.

Supervisor Gomez presented this item. She stated that the City of Sierra Vista is sponsoring the initiative. With a commitment of \$150,000 to support a contingency fund for the club. She stated the Mayor of Douglas has successfully secured a building, and the Supervisor Gomez emphasized the need for such a program for the youth in Douglas, noting the success of similar clubs in Bisbee and Sierra Vista.

Vice-Chairman Crosby called for the vote and it was approved 2-0.(Antenori absent)

10. Approve Office Lease Agreement between Cochise County and Arizona Board of Regents on behalf of the University of Arizona Cooperative Extension, for the use of a single office space at the Cochise County Service Center in Douglas, at \$0 lease, effective July 1, 2025, through June 30, 2026.

Supervisor Gomez made a motion to approve an Office Lease Agreement between Cochise County and the Arizona Board of Regents on behalf of the University of Arizona Cooperative Extension, for the use of a single office space at the Cochise County Service Center in Douglas, at \$0 lease, effective July 1, 2025, through June 30, 2026. Vice-Chairman Crosby seconded the motion.

Bert Whitehead, Civil County Attorney, presented this item. He stated that the establishment of office space for the University of Arizona Extension Office is mandated by Arizona state law, which requires each county to provide space for this purpose. He stated the selected office in Douglas is a small, 150-square-foot space equipped with basic furnishings like a desk and phone, with the Extension Office providing their own computer. He stated the office agreement includes indemnity clauses and is in compliance with state statutes, requiring no cost or lease fees from the county.

Vice-Chairman Crosby called for the vote and it was approved 2-0. (Antenori absent)

County Attorney

11. Approve Grant Agreement HT-25-2909 City of Tucson High Intensity Drug Trafficking Area (HIDTA), between the City of Tucson and Cochise County, in the amount of \$150,353, effective January 1, 2025, through December 31, 2026.

Supervisor Gomez made a motion to approve Grant Agreement HT-25-2909 City of Tucson High Intensity Drug Trafficking Area (HIDTA), between the City of Tucson and Cochise County, in the amount of \$150,353, effective January 1, 2025, through December 31, 2026. Vice-Chairman Crosby seconded the motion.

Kenny Reeves, County Attorney's Office Chief of Staff, presented this item. He shared that their office has had the grant for over 20 years, with this being the 23rd consecutive year. He stated the grant covers 72% of a senior prosecutor's salary in the drug unit and 84% of a legal secretary's salary, who is now working as a paralegal. He stated the grant requires no county match, as it is supported by indirect costs, and also covers employee benefits.

Vice-Chairman Crosby called for the vote and it was approved 2-0. (Antenori absent)

County Sheriff

12. Approve Grant Agreement HT-25-2912 with the City of Tucson, Southwest Border Arizona Region High Intensity Drug Trafficking Area (HIDTA) Program, and the Cochise County Sheriff's Office, to participate in the Southern Arizona Major Investigative Team (SAMIT) for salaries, partial employee related expenses (ERE), services, and supplies, in the amount of \$100,616, effective January 1, 2025, through December 31, 2026.

Supervisor Gomez made a motion to approve Grant Agreement HT-25-2912 with the City of Tucson, Southwest Border Arizona Region High Intensity Drug Trafficking Area (HIDTA) Program, and the Cochise County Sheriff's Office, to participate in the Southern Arizona Major Investigative Team (SAMIT) for salaries, partial employee related expenses (ERE), services, and supplies, in the amount of \$100,616, effective January 1, 2025, through December 31, 2026. Vice-Chairman Crosby seconded the motion.

John Gjerde, Cochise County Sheriff Captain, presented this item. He stated the grant specifically covers narcotics-related cases and partially pays for emergency services Employee Related Expenses (ERES) costs.

Vice-Chairman Crosby called for the vote and it was approved 2-0. (Antenori absent)

13. Approve Grant Agreement DC-26-003 between Arizona Criminal Justice Commission (ACJC) Drug, Gang and Violent Crime Control and the Cochise County Sheriff's Office, to fund the Special Operations Division's overtime and Employee-Related Expenses (EREs) related to its narcotics and smuggling investigations, in the amount of \$140,684.63, effective July 1, 2025, through June 30, 2026.

Supervisor Gomez made a motion to approve Grant Agreement DC-26-003 between Arizona Criminal Justice Commission (ACJC) Drug, Gang and Violent Crime

Control and the Cochise County Sheriff's Office, to fund the Special Operations Division's overtime and Employee-Related Expenses (EREs) related to its narcotics and smuggling investigations, in the amount of \$140,684.63, effective July 1, 2025, through June 30, 2026. Vice-Chairman Crosby seconded the motion.

Mr. Gjerde, presented this item. He clarified that the grant covers the Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) Task Force agent from the Sheriff's Office.

Vice-Chairman Crosby called for the vote and it was approved 2-0. (Antenori absent)

Court Administration

14. Approve the Proclamation declaring June 2025 as Family Reunification Month in Cochise County.

Supervisor Gomez made a motion to approve the Proclamation declaring June 2025 as Family Reunification Month in Cochise County. Vice-Chairman Crosby seconded the motion.

Abigail Dodge, Alternative Dispute Resolution Director, presented this item. Ms. Dodge shared that over 200 children in Cochise County are involved in the dependency system, where families are working through child welfare issues. She mentioned that 50% of the cases that closed in 2024 saw successful reunification, thanks to the efforts of a dedicated team.

Ms. Dodge read the Proclamation to the Board and staff.

Ms. Dodge expressed appreciation for the judicial system, the Department of Child Safety, and various community partners. She highlighted the essential work done by court-appointed special advocate volunteers, behavioral health providers, and both foster and kinship families. She stated these individuals help guide families, teach crucial skills, and ensure children are cared for during the process, often preventing the need for children to be placed with strangers.

Vice-Chairman Crosby called for the vote and it was approved 2-0. (Antenori absent)

SEACOM

15. Approve the Third Amended Intergovernmental Agreement (IGA) between Cochise County and the City of Sierra Vista for regional 911 communications and establishment of Southeast Arizona Communications Center (SEACOM), effective July 1, 2025.

Supervisor Gomez made a motion to approve the Third Amended Intergovernmental Agreement (IGA) between Cochise County and the City of Sierra Vista for regional 911 communications and the establishment of Southeast Arizona Communications Center (SEACOM), effective July 1, 2025. Vice-Chairman Crosby seconded the motion.

Ms. Gilman presented the third amended intergovernmental agreement (IGA) between Cochise County and the City of Sierra Vista for the Southeastern Arizona Communications 911 dispatch center (SEACOM). She stated the IGA addresses several operational changes, including the transfer of personnel and human resources functions to the county. She stated it also allows the sheriff to participate as an ex officio member of SEACOM, with voting rights only in the case of a tie. She stated the

IGA transfers fiscal duties from the city to the county and ensures a smooth transition for both city and county employees involved.

Vice-Chairman Crosby called for the vote and it was approved 2-0. (Antenori absent)

STATE & FEDERAL LEGISLATION

16. 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.

Ms. Gilman reported on discussions from the County Managers Association meeting in Prescott, including updates on the state budget, which is still pending finalization. She stated that while there are some positive county touchpoints, the final budget is still uncertain. She also discussed changes in the Arizona Corp system and its potential impact on recruitment.

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

She provided information on upcoming events, such as early voting for the 7th Congressional District Special Primary Election starting June 18, and a meeting on June 20, 2025, with Stifel for jail bond financing and ballot language discussions. She stated a site selection work session for the jail is scheduled for July 1, 2025.

SUMMARY OF CURRENT EVENTS

Report by District 1 Supervisor, Tom Crosby

Vice-Chairman Crosby mentioned that the ballot language for the jail must include future revenue demands, clarified the county's estimated bond figure as between \$100 and \$128 million, and noted ongoing legal considerations regarding due process and disenfranchisement issues.

Report by District 2 Supervisor, Kathleen L. Gomez

Supervisor Gomez deferred her report.

Report by District 3 Supervisor, Frank Antenori

Absent.

Vice-Chairman Crosby adjourned the meeting at 11:33 a.m.

APPROVED:

Tom Crosby, Vice-Chairman

ATTEST:

Lara Loewenheim, Clerk of the Board