

**PROCEEDINGS OF THE COCHISE COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
REGULAR MEETING HELD ON
TUESDAY, JULY 1, 2025**

A regular board meeting of the Cochise County Board of Supervisors was held on Tuesday, July 1, 2025 at 10:00 a.m. in the Board of Supervisors' Hearing Room, 1415 Melody Lane, Building G, Bisbee, Arizona.

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

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

Chairman Antenori called the meeting to order at 10:04 a.m.

CALL TO THE PUBLIC

Allison Morse expressed concerns about Supervisor Crosby's request for \$300,000 from county taxpayers, citing past legal expenses related to the 2022 midterm elections and questioning the transparency of funds raised for his legal defense.

Vice-Chairman Crosby responded by stating he has not been accused of a specific crime and defended his actions during the 2022 election, emphasizing his intent to seek verification from accredited experts and citing state statute ARS 16-442(B).

CONSENT

Board of Supervisors

1. Approve the Minutes of the regular meeting of the Board of Supervisors of June 17, 2025.

County Schools

2. Approve a contract with Navigate360, LLC, for the P3 anonymous tip reporting tool, Threat Management tools, Case Management Platform and Operation consultation, in the amount of \$163,750, for the period of July 1, 2025 through June 30, 2026.

Development Services

3. Approve a grant of easement to Sulphur Springs Valley Cooperative Inc (SSVEC) for parcel 203-01-007 for a new primary electric line to a new hangar at the Willcox Airport.

Elections

4. Approve the appointment of one Democratic and two Republican Precinct Committeemen, by recommendation of their respective Cochise County Party Chairman, to serve through the October 1, 2026 term.
5. Appoint Poll Workers for the 2025 Special CD7 Elections, and authorize the Elections Director to make additions or substitutions as necessary prior to each election, to ensure that all Vote Centers are staffed adequately with trained election Poll Workers.

Engineering & Natural Resources

6. Adopt Resolution 25-13 to authorize the abandonment of a portion of Huachuca Drive, located in Palominas.
7. Adopt Resolution 25-14 to authorize the abandonment of that 30-foot public right-of-way of an unnamed road located near McNeal.
8. Adopt Resolution 25-15 authorize the abandonment of a portion of that 80-foot right-of-way known as Foothills Drive.

Finance

9. Approve demands and budget amendments for operating transfers.

Vice-Chairman Crosby made a motion to approve Consent agenda items 1-9. Supervisor Gomez seconded the motion.

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

PUBLIC HEARINGS

Board of Supervisors

10. Approve Series 12 (Restaurant) new liquor license application submitted by Shasta Jeanette Wells for The Windmill Cafe at 1040 E. Eastland Road, Cochise, AZ 85606.

Chairman Antenori opened the Public Hearing.

Vice-Chairman Crosby made a motion to approve Series 12 (Restaurant) new liquor license application submitted by Shasta Jeanette Wells for The Windmill Cafe at 1040 E. Eastland Road, Cochise, AZ 85606. Supervisor Gomez seconded the motion.

Ms. Loewenheim presented this item. She stated the application met all legal posting requirements and received no formal protests. She stated that all property taxes are current, and the applicant paid the required fee. Board staff and relevant departments recommended approval.

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

Chairman Antenori closed the Public Hearing.

Development Services

11. Adopt Zoning Ordinance 25-09 to amend Articles 2.03 (Definitions) and 2.24 (SR Permitted Accessory Uses) of the Cochise County Zoning Regulations.

Chairman Antenori opened the public hearing.

Supervisor Gomez made a motion to adopt Zoning Ordinance 25-09 to amend Articles 2.03 (Definitions) and 2.24 (SR Permitted Accessory Uses) of the Cochise County Zoning Regulations. Vice-Chairman Crosby seconded the motion.

Matthew Taylor, Planner II, presented this item. Mr. Taylor outlined a proposed zoning text amendment to allow greater flexibility for accessory structures in antiquated subdivisions, including permitting them before a primary residence and allowing larger sizes. He stated that the Planning and Zoning Commission recommended approving the changes specifically for older subdivisions, aiming to reduce reliance on RU4 zoning while preserving existing housing standards.

The Board and staff discussed how the proposed zoning amendment for antiquated subdivisions like Sunsites maintains a ban on mobile homes while allowing accessory structures to be built before a primary residence and to be larger, as long as they meet site standards. The Board stated the need for future planning around agricultural zoning and informing buyers about living near cattle operations due to Arizona's open grazing laws.

Chairman Antenori closed the Public Hearing.

Chairman Antenori made a motion to amend the antiquated subdivisions only and define antiquated and establish overlay and amend SR accessory uses applicable to parcels in antiquated subdivisions over 4 acres. Vice-Chairman Crosby seconded the motion.

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

Vice-Chairman Crosby made a motion to adopt Zoning Ordinance 25-09 to amend Articles 2.03 (Definitions) as noted on page 10, paragraph 3 of the presentation and 2.24 (SR Permitted Accessory Uses) of the Cochise County Zoning Regulations as amended. Supervisor Gomez seconded the motion.

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

ACTION

Board of Supervisors

12. Adopt Resolution 25-16 calling for a public hearing to consider the continued establishment of the Cochise County Jail District, to be held on August 5, 2025, at 10:00 am in the Board of Supervisors Hearing Room, 1415 Melody Lane in Bisbee, Arizona.

Supervisor Gomez made a motion to adopt Resolution 25-16 calling for a public hearing to consider the continued establishment of the Cochise County Jail District, to be held on August 5, 2025, at 10:00 am in the Board of Supervisors Hearing Room, 1415 Melody Lane in Bisbee, Arizona. Vice-Chairman Crosby seconded the motion.

Tricia Gerrodette expressed confusion about the jail district process and raised several questions.

Ms. Gilman presented this item. Ms. Gilman explained that the Board of Supervisors initially followed the statutory process to establish the Cochise County Jail District in 2022, contingent on an excise tax. She stated that due to a legal settlement, the tax will end on July 31, leaving the district without funding until the November 4 election. She stated that to avoid confusion, legal counsel recommended the Board adopt a new resolution reaffirming the district's establishment before the election. She stated a public hearing will be held on August 5, with proper notice, to determine whether the district should continue and proceed with the November tax vote.

Vice-Chairman Crosby expressed concern about the legal and procedural ambiguity surrounding the jail district, questioning whether the district legally existed before the election and highlighting confusion over the roles of the Board of Supervisors and the jail district board. He emphasized the need for clarity in the upcoming voter pamphlet, particularly regarding how previously collected funds will be used, and publicly criticized the retroactive approval of a mail-in ballot process that had not been publicly noticed in advance in the previous election.

Chairman Antenori clarified that the upcoming jail district election will follow a regular format with both mail-in voting and polling places, and that publicity pamphlets will be sent to every household with a registered voter. He emphasized that this process is being corrected to avoid the retroactive issues faced previously, including holding a public hearing as the Board of Supervisors to reestablish the district's legal status ahead of the election.

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

County Treasurer

13. Approve the Proclamation dedicating the Kevin Pyles' Legacy Archives and Hall of History in memory of Kevin Pyles.

Supervisor Gomez made a motion to approve the Proclamation dedicating the Kevin Pyles' Legacy Archives and Hall of History in memory of Kevin Pyles. Vice-Chairman Crosby seconded the motion.

Ms. Traywick expressed her gratitude for the opportunity to honor Kevin Pyles, emphasizing how much she hoped he would be proud of the moment. She introduced the "Kevin Pyles challenge," encouraging everyone in Cochise County to leave a positive legacy through service, kindness, and commitment, urging people to go beyond merely being part of history but to create lasting impacts. Ms. Traywick read the Proclamation into the record.

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

Development Services

14. Adopt Resolution 25-17 authorizing the partial abandonment of the Rolling Hills Subdivision and substitution of assurance agreement pursuant to the application of Tax Lien Group I, LLC.

Vice-Chairman Crosby made a motion to adopt Resolution 25-17 authorizing the partial abandonment of the Rolling Hills Subdivision and substitution of assurance agreement pursuant to the application of Tax Lien Group I, LLC. Supervisor Gomez seconded the motion.

Christine McLachlan, Development Services Director, presented this item using a PowerPoint presentation. Ms. McLachlan explained that the county received a request to partially abandon an undeveloped section of the Rolling Hills subdivision west of Benson. She stated the area involves 35 parcels and 31.9 acres, with staff recommending approval of the abandonment and a new assurance agreement requiring remaining infrastructure improvements be completed by July 2030.

The Board and staff clarified that the abandonment would result in three lots, with the El Paso easement carved out separately and not included in any of the parcels. The Board and staff discussed the area being abandoned which will revert to larger parcels, which may later be subdivided up to five lots, but any future development will require necessary infrastructure improvements and go through the standard permitting process.

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

15. Approve amended Lease Agreement between Cochise County (“Lessor”) and Rancho Relaxo Films, an Arizona Subchapter S corporation (“Lessee”), for \$3,750 per quarter minus cost for improvements performed by Lessee as described in the agreement, for a 15-year term of Hangar III at the Bisbee-Douglas International Airport, effective July 1, 2025, to May 30, 2040.

Supervisor Gomez made a motion to approve amended Lease Agreement between Cochise County (“Lessor”) and Rancho Relaxo Films, an Arizona Subchapter S corporation (“Lessee”), for \$3,750 per quarter minus cost for improvements performed by Lessee as described in the agreement, for a 15-year term of Hangar III at the Bisbee-Douglas International Airport, effective July 1, 2025, to May 30, 2040. Vice-Chairman Crosby seconded the motion.

Christine McLachlan, Development Services Director, presented this item by using a PowerPoint presentation. Ms. McLachlan presented an amended lease for Hangar 3 at Bisbee Douglas International Airport with Rancho Relaxo Films, a local independent film company. She stated the lease, originally approved in April, was revised to include Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) required language allowing the county to reclaim the space if aeronautical demand arises. She stated the 15-year lease includes quarterly payments, allows rent offsets for infrastructure improvements, and requires the tenant to maintain the facility and carry appropriate insurance. She stated staff recommended approval, noting the lease complies with federal grant requirements and reduces county maintenance obligations.

The Board and staff clarified that the FAA-required changes allow the county to reclaim

the hangar if aeronautical use increases, and the film company is aware and agreeable to these terms.

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

Health & Social Services

16. Approve Intergovernmental Agreement CTR076470 with Arizona Department of Health Services (ADHS) for the Healthy People Healthy Communities project, which provides for the addition of Health Educator III (1 FTE) and Behavioral Health Tech position (1 FTE) as well as 8 existing positions, in the amount of \$741,976.50, for the period of July 1, 2025, through June 30, 2026.

Vice-Chairman Crosby made a motion to approve Intergovernmental Agreement CTR076470 with Arizona Department of Health Services (ADHS) for the Healthy People Healthy Communities project, which provides for the addition of Health Educator III (1 FTE) and Behavioral Health Tech position (1 FTE) as well as 8 existing positions, in the amount of \$741,976.50, for the period of July 1, 2025, through June 30, 2026. Supervisor Gomez seconded the motion.

Amanda Eckroth, Health Promotion Administrative Manager, presented this item. Ms. Eckroth presented a five-year intergovernmental agreement with the Arizona Department of Health Services to continue the Healthy People, Healthy Community grant. She stated this marks the 11th year of the program and the third renewal. She stated it supports efforts in tobacco and chronic disease prevention, teen pregnancy, youth mental health, and suicide mortality review.

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

SEACOM

17. Approve Arizona 9-1-1 Program Grant Agreement ADOA-AZ911-26-06 from Arizona Department of Administration (ADOA) to fund Public Safety Answering Points services, in the amount of \$299,925, effective July 1, 2025, through June 30, 2026.

Supervisor Gomez made a motion to approve Arizona 9-1-1 Program Grant Agreement ADOA-AZ911-26-06 from Arizona Department of Administration (ADOA) to fund Public Safety Answering Points services, in the amount of \$299,925, effective July 1, 2025, through June 30, 2026. Vice-Chairman Crosby seconded the motion.

Tammi-Jo Wilkins, SEACOM Director, presented this item. Ms. Wilkins explained that the State of Arizona offers an annual 911 grant opportunity for all centers statewide. She stated Southeastern Arizona Communications (SEACOM) can use the grant to cover 911-related expenses across the county and the grant is fully reimbursable.

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

STATE & FEDERAL LEGISLATION

18. 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 that the state legislature has passed the budget and the County Supervisors Association (CSA) will also provide a briefing with updates and impacts.

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

Ms. Gilman reminded the board and the public that the final budget would be presented on July 8th, with adjustments made if needed based on state budget changes. She also noted that due to the special election on July 15th, the next Board of Supervisors meeting will be on July 22nd, and Deputy Joe Casey will lead in her absence.

SUMMARY OF CURRENT EVENTS

Report by District 1 Supervisor, Tom Crosby

Vice-Chairman Crosby deferred his report.

Report by District 2 Supervisor, Kathleen L. Gomez

Supervisor Gomez shared that her 50th high school reunion is taking place over the July 4th weekend in Douglas, which is also hosting its Independence Day parade on Friday. Supervisor Gomez stated she attended the Arizona-Mexican Commission meeting and emphasized the economic potential tied to the Douglas Port of Entry. She highlighted the need for a strategic economic development plan, including infrastructure assessments and a port authority board similar to Nogales and Yuma.

Report by District 3 Supervisor, Frank Antenori

Chairman Antenori shared he would be attending the 4th of July Parade in Benson.

Chairman Antenori adjourned the meeting at 11:26 a.m.

APPROVED:

Frank Antenori, Chairman

ATTEST:

Lara Loewenheim, Clerk of the Board

