

**PROCEEDINGS OF THE COCHISE COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS  
REGULAR MEETING HELD ON  
TUESDAY, JULY 22, 2025**

A regular board meeting of the Cochise County Board of Supervisors was held on Tuesday, July 22, 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: 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 10:28 a.m.

***CALL TO THE PUBLIC***

John Doe raised concerns about floodplain violations and lack of enforcement in Cochise County.

Allison Morse questioned the transparency of recent Board actions, and requested a third option on speaker forms to allow public input without attending meetings.

***PRESENTATION***

1. Recognition of Robert "Bob" Hollister for 32 years of volunteer service to Cochise County.

Vice-Chairman Crosby made a motion to approve the recognition of Robert "Bob" Hollister for 32 years of volunteer service to Cochise County. Supervisor Gomez seconded the motion.

Dan Duchon, Emergency Management Director, presented this item. Mr. Duchon recognized Mr. Hollister for 32 years of volunteer service as the County's Radio Amateur Civil Emergency Service (RACES) officer, highlighting his extensive background in military intelligence, emergency communications, and public safety support. Mr. Duchon stated Mr. Hollister's decades of dedication included training volunteers, upgrading communications technology, supporting search and rescue missions, and assisting first responders across Cochise County.

2. Presentation by the Arizona Auditor General's Office of the fiscal year 2023-2024 audit results and findings.

Taryn Stangle, Arizona Auditor General, Certified Public Accountant, Manager, Financial Audit Division, presented this item. Ms. Stangle presented the results of the county's annual audit, explaining that the audit is required by state law and conducted using federal and government auditing standards. She stated the audit resulted in a clean opinion, meaning the county's financial statements are reliable, with three financial statement findings and two federal compliance findings. She outlined the responsibilities of both auditors and county management, and shared highlights of the county's financial performance, including steady revenue growth and increased expenses, particularly in public safety and general government. She stated the county's overall net position increased by \$29.9 million, though federal expenditures decreased due to a drop in COVID-related funding.

Rene Carrasco, Arizona Auditor General, Deputy Manager, Financial Audit Division, presented the county's audit findings, which included three financial statement issues and two federal compliance findings. He stated the financial issues involved late submission of reports due to misstatements and lack of review, improper use of travel cards in a pilot program, and missing documentation from the accommodation school district. He stated the federal compliance findings centered on the Women, Infants and Children (WIC) program's failure to obtain required signed forms from participants and the untimely completion of the audit. He stated County management acknowledged the findings and reported that corrective actions have been taken or are planned.

Vice-Chairman Crosby emphasized the Board's commitment to fiduciary responsibility and noted the PowerPoint presentation would be available to the public on the Board's website. He expressed appreciation for the progress made and thanked the presenter.

## **CONSENT**

### **Board of Supervisors**

1. Approve the Minutes of the regular meeting of the Board of Supervisors of July 1, 2025.
2. Approve annual update to County Policy 1604: Public Safety Personnel Retirement System (PSPRS) and Corrections Officers Retirement Plan (CORP) Pension Funding, effective July 22, 2025, and formally accept the County's share of the assets and liabilities under the system based on the system's actuarial valuation report.

### **County Assessor**

3. Accept the Assessor's recommendation to approve the attached list of 109 property tax exemption applications for 2025 that qualify for the exemption but were filed with the Assessor after the statutory filing deadline of March 1, 2025.

### **Court Administration**

4. Approve Fiscal Year 2026 Court Improvement Program (CIP) funding agreement between the Arizona Supreme Court, Administrative Office of the Courts (AOC) and the Cochise County Superior Court, in the amount of \$49,140, effective July 1, 2025 through June 30, 2026.
5. Approve Fiscal Year 2026 Court Security Improvements Funding Agreement, as provided by the Arizona Supreme Court, Administrative Office of the Courts (AOC), in the amount of \$46,371, effective July 1, 2025, through June 30, 2026.

## **Elections**

6. Approve the appointment of two Precinct Committeemen (one Democrat and one Republican), by recommendation of their respective Cochise County Party Chairman, to serve through the October 1, 2026, term.

## **Finance**

7. Approve demands and budget amendments for operating transfers.

Vice-Chairman Crosby made a motion to approve Consent Agenda Items 1 through 7. Supervisor Gomez seconded the motion.

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

## ***PUBLIC HEARINGS***

### **Board of Supervisors**

8. Approve the Series 18 (Craft Distiller) new liquor license application submitted by Joseph P Monks for Saint Isidore Vineyards at 3465 E Fawn Ranch Rd, Pearce, AZ 85625.

Chairman Antenori opened the Public Hearing.

Vice-Chairman Crosby made a motion to approve the Series 18 (Craft Distiller) new liquor license application submitted by Joseph P Monks for Saint Isidore Vineyards at 3465 E Fawn Ranch Rd, Pearce, AZ 85625. Supervisor Gomez seconded the motion.

Ms. Loewenheim presented a new Series 18 craft distiller liquor license application for Saint Isidore Vineyards in Pearce, Arizona. She stated all required reviews were completed and recommended for approval by the appropriate departments. She stated the property taxes are current, the application and notice were properly posted, and no formal protests were received.

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

Chairman Antenori closed the Public Hearing.

9. Adopt Resolution 25-19 granting a Telecommunications Franchise to Midvale Telephone Company, dba MTE Communications.

Supervisor Gomez made a motion to adopt Resolution 25-19 granting a Telecommunications Franchise to Midvale Telephone Company, dba MTE Communications. Vice-Chairman Crosby seconded the motion.

Mr. Correa presented this item. Mr. Correa presented a telecommunications franchise request from Midvale Telephone Company. He stated the application included a boundary map designating the service area and the State statute mandates a franchise agreement for such services.

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

Chairman Antenori closed the Public Hearing.

## **Development Services**

10. [Item tabled from March 25, 2025, Regular Board of Supervisors Meeting] Adopt Zoning Ordinance 25-06 to rezone tax parcels 117-06-063, 064, 066, 067, 074, 075, 076, 077, and 078 (District 3) from SR-43 (Single-Household Residential, one dwelling per 43,000 square feet) to RU-4 (Rural District, one dwelling per 4 acres) pursuant to the application of Paul Prince.

Chairman Antenori opened the Public Hearing and no one chose to speak.

Vice-Chairman Crosby made a motion to remove from the table Agenda Item 10. Supervisor Gomez seconded the motion.

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

Matthew Taylor, Planner II, stated the applicant requested to withdraw his application.

Vice-Chairman Crosby made a motion to withdraw Agenda Item 10 from the agenda. Supervisor Gomez seconded the motion.

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

Chairman Antenori closed the Public Hearing.

11. Adopt Zoning Ordinance 25-10 to rezone tax parcel 117-05-054B from SR-43 (Single-Household Residential District, one dwelling per 43,000 square feet) and NB (Neighborhood Business District) to SR-174 (Single-Household Residential District, one dwelling per 4 acres) pursuant to the application of Jeff Thiede (Supervisor District 3).

Chairman Antenori opened the Public Hearing and no one chose to speak.

Supervisor Gomez made a motion to adopt Zoning Ordinance 25-10 to rezone tax parcel 117-05-054B from SR-43 (Single-Household Residential District, one dwelling per 43,000 square feet) and NB (Neighborhood Business District) to SR-174 (Single-Household Residential District, one dwelling per 4 acres) pursuant to the application of Jeff Thiede (Supervisor District 3). Vice-Chairman Crosby seconded the

motion.

Mr. Taylor presented this item. Mr. Taylor presented a zoning request for properties in Supervisor District 3, located in Sunsites. He stated the area is zoned rural residential and business, and the application aligns with recent text amendments encouraging flexible use. Staff found the request compatible with the surrounding rural growth pattern and received no public comments. Staff and the Planning and Zoning Commission recommended approval with a 7–0 vote and no special conditions.

Chairman Antenori closed the Public Hearing.

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

12. Adopt Zoning Ordinance 25-11 to rezone tax parcel 115-10-323 from NB (Neighborhood Business District) to SR-174 (Single-Household Residential District, one dwelling per 4 acres) pursuant to the application of James and Pamela Mercer (Supervisor District 3).

Supervisor Gomez made a motion to adopt Zoning Ordinance 25-11 to rezone tax parcel 115-10-323 from NB (Neighborhood Business District) to SR-174 (Single-Household Residential District, one dwelling per 4 acres) pursuant to the application of James and Pamela Mercer (Supervisor District 3). Vice-Chairman Crosby seconded the motion.

Mr. Taylor presented docket RZ25-05, a request from James and Pamela Mercer to rezone property in Sunsites Unit 2 from neighborhood business to SR-174 for single-family residential use. He stated the proposed zoning aligns with the comprehensive plan and reflects a down-zoning consistent with the surrounding area. Staff identified no concerns and mailed 31 notices, receiving one response in favor. He stated the Planning and Zoning Commission recommended approval without conditions in a 7–0 vote.

Chairman Antenori opened the Public Hearing and no one chose to speak.

Chairman Antenori closed the Public Hearing.

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

13. Adopt Zoning Ordinance 25-12 to rezone tax parcel 408-10-015 from RU-4 (Rural District, one dwelling per 4 acres) to RU-2 (Rural District, one dwelling per 2 acres) pursuant to the application of Daniel Barnett (Supervisor District 2).

Vice-Chairman Crosby made a motion to adopt Zoning Ordinance 25-12 to rezone tax parcel 408-10-015 from RU-4 (Rural District, one dwelling per 4 acres) to RU-2 (Rural District, one dwelling per 2 acres) pursuant to the application of Daniel Barnett (Supervisor District 2). Chairman Antenori seconded the motion.

Mr. Taylor presented docket RZ25-06, a request from Daniel Barnett to rezone property from RU4 to RU2 near Puzzy Ranch and James Ranch Road. He stated the proposed zoning aligns with the comprehensive plan and supports the owner's intent to subdivide for family. He stated that while the application meets all zoning factors and fits current rural residential patterns, concerns were noted about potential incompatibility with future industrial development near the port and the need for easement access.

Chairman Antenori opened the Public Hearing.

Daniel Barnett, applicant, explained that his mother recently passed away, and it was her intention to divide the land among her children. He stated that due to the current zoning, he is unable to do so as trustee of the Barnett Family Trust. He requested the upzone to allow the land to be split into parcels in accordance with his mother's wishes.

Janet Harris shared the family's plan to divide their land according to her sister's will, keep it within the family, and support the applicant's request, while acknowledging the impact of the upcoming port of entry and potential industrial development.

Chairman Antenori closed the Public Hearing.

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

14. Adopt Zoning Ordinance 25-14 to rezone tax parcels 407-68-007A, 407-68-008B, 407-68-010, and 407-68-013E from RU-4 (Rural District, one dwelling per 4 acres) to LI (Light Industry District) pursuant to the application of Tactical Holdings LLC (Supervisor District 2).

Supervisor Gomez made a motion to adopt Zoning Ordinance 25-14 to rezone tax parcels 407-68-007A, 407-68-008B, 407-68-010, and 407-68-013E from RU-4 (Rural District, one dwelling per 4 acres) to LI (Light Industry District) pursuant to the application of Tactical Holdings LLC (Supervisor District 2). Vice-Chairman Crosby seconded the motion.

Mr. Taylor presented an application from Tactical Holdings LLC to rezone property for warehousing, storage, and a truck stop near Highway 80 and James Ranch Road, which aligns with the comprehensive plan, supports the new port of entry, and had no opposition from the community, with the planning and zoning commission recommending approval with special conditions.

Chairman Antenori opened the Public Hearing and no one chose to speak.

Chairman Antenori closed the Public Hearing.

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

15. Adopt Zoning Ordinance 25-13 to rezone tax parcel 408-34-005C from RU-4 (Rural District, one dwelling per 4 acres) to LI (Light Industry District) pursuant to the application of Tactical Holdings LLC (Supervisor District 2).

Vice-Chairman Crosby made a motion to adopt Zoning Ordinance 25-13 to rezone tax parcel 408-34-005C from RU-4 (Rural District, one dwelling per 4 acres) to LI (Light Industry District) pursuant to the application of Tactical Holdings LLC (Supervisor District 2). Supervisor Gomez seconded the motion.

Mr. Taylor requested the board table docket RZ25-07 until September 2, 2025.

Supervisor Gomez made a motion to table Agenda Item 15. Vice-Chairman Crosby seconded the motion.

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

## **ACTION**

### **Adult Probation**

16. Approve Proclamation declaring the week of July 20-26, 2025 as Pretrial, Probation and Parole Week in Cochise County.

Supervisor Gomez made a motion to approve the Proclamation declaring the week of July 20-26, 2025 as Pretrial, Probation and Parole Week in Cochise County. Vice-Chairman Crosby seconded the motion.

Xavier Rios, Deputy Chief of Juvenile Probation, presented and read the Proclamation.

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

### **Board of Supervisors**

17. Adopt Resolution 25-21 Expressing Opposition to the Current Implementation of the Mexican Gray Wolf Reintroduction Program and Calling for Reforms.

The Chairman moved this item after the Consent Agenda due to public interest.

Vice-Chairman Crosby made a motion to adopt Resolution 25-21 Expressing Opposition to the Current Implementation of the Mexican Gray Wolf Reintroduction Program and Calling for Reforms. Supervisor Gomez seconded the motion.

Ann E. Prezyna spoke in opposition and discussed the reasons.

James A. Schmidt II spoke in favor and discussed the reasons.

Zach Palma spoke in opposition and discussed the reasons.

Allison Morse spoke in opposition and discussed the reasons.

Eira Bugbee Neils was called upon but did not speak.

Dr. Aletris Neils spoke in opposition and discussed the reasons.

Aurelia Neils spoke in opposition and discussed the reasons.

Chairman Antenori stated there were (9) non-speakers who were opposed and who wished to be named and placed on the record which were Nancy Thomas, Jeff Sturges, Michael Gregory, Greta Anderson, Margaret Wilch, Deborah Herczog, Chris Bugbee, Robin Silver, and Yorick Oden-Plants. There were 16 anonymous who were opposed and 2 anonymous in favor of the resolution.

Ethan Bonnin spoke in opposition and discussed his reasons.

William Stoller spoke in opposition and discussed his reasons.

Vice-Chairman Crosby expressed his belief that environmentalism has become a vehicle for anti-capitalist sentiment and globalism. He criticized the use of economic and social class struggles to justify special rights, taxes, and subsidies, extending this argument to environmental issues involving wildlife and plant protection. He concluded by emphasizing that the Constitution does not include a "wolf clause."

Supervisor Gomez expressed disagreement with claims that constituents are not being represented. She opposed the reintroduction of Mexican wolves in Cochise County due to a lack of prey analysis and suitable habitat, stating it sets the animals up for failure. She concluded that without proper support and sustainability, the program is flawed, and therefore she supports the resolution against the reintroduction.

Chairman Antenori expressed concern about how the wolf recovery program was originally implemented. He described it as flawed due to a lack of agreement among stakeholders and insufficient compensation for affected ranchers. He stated the resolution sends a message that future programs should consider local economic effects and include a more responsible rollout plan.

The Board noted that the resolution not only opposes the wolf program's rollout but also supports ranch patrol efforts and data collection. The Board stated the resolution aims to provide resources like a local agent in Willcox and promote fair investigation and support for ranchers.

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

## **County Sheriff**

18. Approve the renewal of an Intergovernmental Agreement (IGA) with Cochise College, Sierra Vista Police Department, and the Cochise County Sheriff's Office to continue operating the Southeast Arizona Law Enforcement Training Academy (SEALETA), effective July 22, 2025, through May 28, 2026.

Vice-Chairman Crosby made a motion to approve the renewal of an Intergovernmental Agreement (IGA) with Cochise College, Sierra Vista Police Department, and the Cochise County Sheriff's Office to continue operating the Southeast Arizona Law Enforcement Training Academy (SEALETA), effective July 22, 2025, through May 28, 2026. Supervisor Gomez seconded the motion.

Sean Gijanto, Lieutenant, presented this item. Lt. Gijanto requested approval to renew the IGA with Cochise College and Sierra Vista Police Department, noting the only change involves reallocating funds to support the academy sergeant position. He stated the adjustment reduces the financial burden on the county.

In response to the Board, Lt. Gijanto explained that the county covers the academy sergeant's base salary while the college funds overtime costs.

Supervisor Gomez commented that since Cochise College increased tuition rates for county residents this year, it is appropriate that the college is contributing more financially.

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

## Elections

19. Approve an Intergovernmental Agreement (IGA) between the Willcox Unified School District and Cochise County Elections to provide for election supplies and services for the November 4, 2025, election.

Supervisor Gomez made a motion to approve an Intergovernmental Agreement (IGA) between the Willcox Unified School District and Cochise County Elections to provide for election supplies and services for the November 4, 2025, election. Vice-Chairman Crosby seconded the motion.

Melissa Avant, Elections Director, presented this item and stated the item is a standard IGA for the November 4, 2025, election related to the Willcox Unified School District's bond budget override.

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

20. Adopt Resolution 25-20 to approve Vote Center for the November 4, 2025, Election as listed on the attached Exhibit; and authorize the Elections Director to make substitutions as necessary prior to the election, in the event that a Vote Center replacement needs to be made in accordance with A.R.S.16-411.

Vice-Chairman Crosby made a motion to adopt Resolution 25-20 to approve Vote Center for the November 4, 2025, Election as listed on the attached Exhibit; and authorize the Elections Director to make substitutions as necessary prior to the election, in the event that a Vote Center replacement needs to be made in accordance with A.R.S.16-411. Chairman Antenori seconded the motion.

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

21. Approve an Intergovernmental Agreement (IGA) between the Naco Unified School District and Cochise County Elections to provide for election supplies and services for the November 4, 2025, election.

Supervisor Gomez made a motion to approve an Intergovernmental Agreement (IGA) between the Naco Unified School District and Cochise County Elections to provide for election supplies and services for the November 4, 2025, election. Vice-Chairman Crosby seconded the motion.

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

## Health & Social Services

22. Approve ADHS Contract No. CTR050594 Amendment 6 - Health Start Program, between the Arizona Department of Health Services and Cochise County Health & Social Services for the period of July 6, 2025, through September 30, 2025, in the amount of \$88,250.00.

Vice-Chairman Crosby made a motion to approve ADHS Contract No. CTR050594 Amendment 6 - Health Start Program, between the Arizona Department of Health Services and Cochise County Health & Social Services for the period of July 6, 2025, through September 30, 2025, in the amount of \$88,250.00. Supervisor Gomez

seconded the motion.

Suzanne Hagle, Prevention Services Director, presented this item. She stated the extension discussed would cover the next three months until the anticipated award of the next five-year grant in September.

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

## ***STATE & FEDERAL LEGISLATION***

23. 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 commented on the recent \$9.2 billion rescission bill, noting the funds were recovered from a previous Congress's budget. He suggested revisiting the matter later since the changes won't take effect until January 1, 2026. He stated no legislative activity is expected at the state level while lawmakers are out of session.

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

### ***SUMMARY OF CURRENT EVENTS***

#### **Report by District 1 Supervisor, Tom Crosby**

Vice-Chairman Crosby shared that Arizona State Senator Wendy Rogers recently sent a letter to former President Trump and Commerce Secretary Lutnik. He stated the letter requests a formal review of Arizona's election systems, specifically noting concerns about foreign-made components in tabulation machines.

#### **Report by District 2 Supervisor, Kathleen L. Gomez**

Supervisor Gomez gave a shout-out to the Douglas baseball league for making it to nationals. She mentioned a rodeo happening this Saturday at the Shootout Arena in Tombstone at 7:00 p.m. She highlighted an upcoming tribute to Val Kilmer on August 8th, including a day of activities and a concert featuring music from The Doors. She encouraged the public to attend and enjoy the events.

#### **Report by District 3 Supervisor, Frank Antenori**

Chairman Antenori deferred his report.

Chairman Antenori adjourned the meeting at 12:16 p.m.

APPROVED:

---

Frank Antenori, Chairman

ATTEST:

---

Lara Loewenheim, Clerk of the Board