

**PROCEEDINGS OF THE COCHISE COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
REGULAR MEETING HELD ON
TUESDAY, AUGUST 19, 2025**

A regular board meeting of the Cochise County Board of Supervisors was held on Tuesday, August 19, 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 11:02 a.m.

CALL TO THE PUBLIC

Alfred Kern raised concerns about the lack of road maintenance on Camino Principal and Greenwash Road in Douglas.

Chairman Antenori directed staff to confirm whether Camino Principal Road is a county road before any grading can be scheduled. He explained that many dirt roads in the county are privately owned or lack easements, which prevents county maintenance.

Radford Donald Hyde questioned election machine compliance and urged the Board to pursue hand counts over machine use in the interest of election integrity.

Allison Morse requested corrections to the August 5, 2025, minutes to include her remarks and raised concerns about late postings, technical issues, and lack of transparency in recent special meetings.

Tamara Rue Birch urged the Board to uphold voting rights by keeping vote centers, rejecting costly hand counts, supporting mail-in and early voting, and following legal guidance to ensure secure and accessible elections.

Sandy Trull was called upon but did not speak.

CONSENT

Board of Supervisors

1. Approve the Minutes of the regular meeting of the Board of Supervisors of August 5, 2025.

Engineering & Natural Resources

2. Approve the transfer of a tax deeded property to Cochise County, in care of the Engineering and Natural Resources Department, for use in a right-of-way exchange related to the Davis Road: Central Highway to US 191 road widening project.
3. Accept the County Engineer's recommendation to set a public hearing date to establish James Ranch Road as a declared county highway to comply with the Intergovernmental Agreement (IGA) previously approved on December 10, 2024 regarding the proposed commercial International Port of Entry located near Douglas, Arizona.

Finance

4. Approve demands and budget amendments for operating transfers.

Human Resources

5. Approve the resignation of Merit Commission member, Elda Orduño.
6. Approve the Merit Commission member appointment of Mr. Joel Evans, effective August 19, 2025 through August 19, 2029.

Legal Advocate

7. Approve State Grant for Public Defender Training funds, per A.R.S. § 12-117 for the Legal Advocate, in the amount of \$3,000, effective July 1, 2025, through June 30, 2026.

Legal Defender

8. Approve State Grant for Public Defender Training funds, per A.R.S. § 12-117 for the Legal Defender, in the amount of \$25.00, effective July 1, 2025, through June 30, 2026.

Public Defender

9. Approve State Grant for Public Defender Training funds, per A.R.S. § 12-117 for the Public Defender, in the amount of \$3,600, effective July 1, 2025, through June 30, 2026.

Vice-Chairman made a motion to approve Consent Items 1 through 9. Supervisor Gomez seconded the motion.

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

ACTION

Adult Probation

10. Approve Fiscal Year 2025-2026 Adult Probation Funding Agreement, as provided by the Arizona Supreme Court, Administrative Office of the Courts (AOC), in the amount of \$2,032,533, effective July 1, 2025, through June 30, 2026.

Vice-Chairman Crosby made a motion to approve Fiscal Year 2025-2026 Adult Probation Funding Agreement, as provided by the Arizona Supreme Court, Administrative Office of the Courts (AOC), in the amount of \$2,032,533, effective July 1, 2025, through June 30, 2026. Supervisor Gomez seconded the motion.

Teresa McNab, Administrative Finance Manager, presented this item. She stated that the Funding Agreement is the annual funding from the Supreme Court administrative office of the courts to support the probation department.

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

Juvenile Probation

11. Approve Fiscal Year 2025-2026 Juvenile Probation Funding Agreement, as provided by the Arizona Supreme Court, Administrative Office of the Courts (AOC), in the amount of \$1,097,063, effective July 1, 2025, through June 30, 2026.

Supervisor Gomez made a motion to approve Fiscal Year 2025-2026 Juvenile Probation Funding Agreement, as provided by the Arizona Supreme Court, Administrative Office of the Courts (AOC), in the amount of \$1,097,063, effective July 1, 2025, through June 30, 2026. Vice-Chairman Crosby seconded the motion.

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

Health & Social Services

12. Approve Intergovernmental Agreement (IGA) between Cochise County Health & Social Services and Arizona Department of Health Services for Title V Maternal and Child Health (MCH) Healthy Arizona Families, in the amount of \$112,520, effective July 1, 2025, through June 30, 2030.

Vice-Chairman Crosby made a motion to approve Intergovernmental Agreement (IGA) between Cochise County Health & Social Services and Arizona Department of Health Services for Title V Maternal and Child Health (MCH) Healthy Arizona Families, in the amount of \$112,520, effective July 1, 2025, through June 30, 2030. Supervisor Gomez seconded the motion.

Emily Harris, Clinical Services Director, presented this item. Ms. Harris requested approval of an IGA with ADHS for \$112,520 in federal Title 5 funding to continue supporting maternal and child health services in Cochise County through 2030.

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

Human Resources

13. Approve amendments to Human Resources Policy 2203 Political Activity.

Vice-Chairman Crosby made a motion to approve amendments to Human Resources Policy 2203 Political Activity. Supervisor Gomez seconded the motion.

Jennifer Graeme, Human Resources Director, presented this item. Ms. Graeme clarified that county officials and employees may not engage with any legislative body without the knowledge of the Board of Supervisors.

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

14. Approve amendments to Human Resources Policy 2204 Smoking.

Supervisor Gomez made a motion to approve amendments to Human Resources Policy 2204 Smoking. Vice-Chairman Crosby seconded the motion.

Ms. Graeme presented this item. She stated the smoking policy will include vaping, giving supervisors authority to restrict its use in buildings, outdoor work sites, and vehicles.

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

STATE & FEDERAL LEGISLATION

15. 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 noted that removing mail-in ballots raises a 10th Amendment issue since Arizona law authorizes them. He stated the Board is coordinating with county associations on legislative priorities and will share updates publicly after attending meetings in October.

The Board and staff discussed concerns about federal and state election overlaps, Help America Vote Act (HAVA) compliance, and precinct organization, noting the need for a dedicated work session with legal and election officials.

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

Ms. Gilman reminded everyone that the special CD7 general election is on September 23rd, 2025, with a logic and accuracy test for election equipment on August 22nd, 2025 and voter registration closing at midnight on August 25th, 2025.

SUMMARY OF CURRENT EVENTS

Report by District 1 Supervisor, Tom Crosby

Vice-Chairman Crosby explained that the August 5th, 2025, meeting aimed to gain support for sending a letter to the Department of Justice regarding voting system test lab accreditation and engineering change orders, and he urged everyone to review the June 19th, 2025 materials.

Report by District 2 Supervisor, Kathleen L. Gomez

Supervisor. Gomez stated that a work session and public hearings will be scheduled in October or November to address Bisbee's sewage plant concerns and ensure residents have a transparent venue to provide feedback. She noted the upcoming 156th Copper Pick football game on September 5th, 2025 and asked residents to email her any local events for an announcement. Supervisor Gomez stated that on August 28th, 2025, she and the Douglas mayor will attend a mayors' luncheon in Nacozari, Sonora, to advocate for creating a port authority. She emphasized the need for a port authority board to oversee trade, as one person currently controls most of the port, and highlighted challenges with infrastructure funding and planning for the new port building.

Report by District 3 Supervisor, Frank Antenori

Chairman Antenori stated that multiple town halls and public meetings will be held over the next few weeks to discuss the November jail ballot question. He stated meetings are scheduled in Sierra Vista, Douglas, Huachuca City, Elfrida, Sunsites, Benson, Bisbee, Willcox and Tombstone, with county officials, the Sheriff, and Judge Thorn available to answer questions.

Chairman Antenori adjourned the meeting at 11:43 a.m.

APPROVED:

Frank Antenori, Chairman

ATTEST:

Lara Loewenheim, Clerk of the Board