

**PROCEEDINGS OF THE COCHISE COUNTY JAIL DISTRICT BOARD OF DIRECTORS
MEETING HELD ON
TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 11, 2025**

A meeting of the Cochise County Jail District Board of Directors was held on Tuesday, February 11, 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, Interim County Administrator
Joe Casey, Interim Deputy County Administrator
Paul Correa, Chief Civil Deputy County Attorney
Lara Loewenheim, Clerk of the Board

Chairman Antenori called the meeting to order at 10:17 a.m.

CALL TO THE PUBLIC

Jo Ann Gaspar discussed her support for the jail district tax.

Tamara Birch discussed her support for the jail district tax.

CONSENT

Board of Supervisors

1. Approve demands and budget amendments for operating transfers.
2. Approve the Minutes of the December 10, 2024, Cochise County Jail District Board of Directors meeting.

Vice-Chairman made a motion to approve consent agenda items 1 and 2. Supervisor Gomez seconded the motion.

In response to the Board, Ms. Gilman clarified the funding process for the jail district, explaining that the department listed in the report is the one requesting the expense. She noted that some expenses, such as those submitted by the Sheriff's Office, are directly tied to their operations. She stated for the jail planning expenses, the Board of Supervisors is responsible for approval, since invoices for the contract are processed through their department. She stated the fund line includes various expense categories such as operations and maintenance, medical services, mental health support, and care of individuals. She explained that the services are funded through the maintenance of effort, ensuring continued financial support for essential jail operations.

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

ACTION

Board of Supervisors

3. Approve the retention of legal counsel Timothy La Sota to represent the Cochise County Jail District in the case of *Daniel LaChance, et al., v. Cochise County, et al.*, CV-24-0150-PR.

Vice-Chairman Crosby made a motion to approve the retention of legal counsel Timothy La Sota to represent the Cochise County Jail District in the case of *Daniel LaChance, et al., v. Cochise County, et al.*, CV-24-0150-PR. Supervisor Gomez seconded the motion.

Sharon Gilman, Interim County Administrator, presented this item. Ms. Gilman recommended that the county attorney's office place an item on the agenda to clarify that Mr. La Sota is also representing the jail district in addition to the existing lawsuit. She noted that this includes all named parties, such as the County, the Cochise County Board of Supervisors, the Recorder, and the Elections director.

The Board discussed the clarification regarding Attorney La Sota's hiring. The initial hiring was only for the Board of Supervisors, not the jail district. Mr. Correa confirmed that the Board should now formally hire him as the attorney for the jail district as well. Vice-Chairman Crosby still had concerns about the existence of the district prior to the election and the election process itself, describing it as a "giant mess."

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

Tamara Birch expressed concern about her tax dollars being used in the court case, specifically regarding the retention of Timothy La Sota as legal counsel.

4. Approve Proposal QJB2024121-CCJ with Metro Fire Equipment Inc. for the installation of a new fire alarm system in the Cochise County Jail, in the amount of \$399,410 effective February 11, 2025.

Chairman Antenori removed item 4 from the Agenda and requested a Work Session.

5. Approve Amendment 7 to Contract Number YH16-0018-13, Revision of Rates for State Fiscal Year 2025 (SFY 25), between the Arizona Health Care Cost Containment System (AHCCCS) and Cochise County.

Vice-Chairman Crosby made a motion to approve Amendment 7 to Contract Number YH16-0018-13, Revision of Rates for State Fiscal Year 2025 (SFY 25), between the Arizona Health Care Cost Containment System (AHCCCS) and Cochise County. Supervisor Gomez seconded the motion.

Megan Kennedy, Detention Medical Service Manager, presented this item.

Ms. Kennedy presented an amendment updating rates for fiscal year 2025,

emphasizing continuity in care for incarcerated individuals to facilitate swift reinstatement upon release under an existing agreement since 2012. She highlighted the cost-effectiveness of lower detention health service rates versus hospitalization, projecting a modest increase of approximately 10 cents per claim this fiscal year, and noted a decline in recidivism rates with ongoing data collection by the county.

Vice-Chairman Crosby expressed his interest in hearing more about recidivism and measures of effectiveness during the next Jail District Board of Directors meeting.

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

Chairman Antenori adjourned the meeting at 10:37 a.m.

APPROVED:

Frank Antenori, Chairman

ATTEST:

Lara Loewenheim, Clerk of the Board