

**PROCEEDINGS OF THE COCHISE COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
REGULAR MEETING HELD ON
TUESDAY, JANUARY 27, 2026**

A regular board meeting of the Cochise County Board of Supervisors was held on Tuesday, January 27, 2026 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 Gomez, Supervisor

Absent: Frank Antenori, Chairman

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

Vice-Chairman Crosby called the meeting to order at 10:09 a.m.

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 provided a summary of events.

February 7, 2026 – Third Annual Opt-Out Alternative Building Expo at Alfreda Community Center, 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m., free to the public.

February 12, 2026 – Voices of Tombstone conversation at Johnny Ringo's, 6:00 p.m., open to the public for questions and discussion.

February 14, 2026 – Concert featuring pioneering Mexican rock band Absson at Cochise County Fairgrounds, 7:00 p.m. to 11:00 p.m.; tickets available on the Douglas website.

February 15, 2026 – Deadline to submit entries for the March 7 Spring Art Festival at St. David Monastery.

February 21, 2026 – Spray and neuter clinic for pets at San Simon, 2518 Business I-10, starting at 8:00 a.m.

March 7, 2026 – Spring Art Festival at St. David Monastery, all mediums welcome.

Supervisor Gomez stated other ongoing initiatives include the county health care directory, the Adopt-a-Highway program, and legislative engagement through meetings with the Arizona-Mexico Commission and Cochise County Supervisors Association.

Report by District 3 Supervisor, Frank Antenori

Chairman Antenori was absent.

CALL TO THE PUBLIC

Allison Morse spoke in remembrance of the Holocaust and connected those lessons to current immigration issues, urging county leadership to act with moral courage, and respect the constitutional rights of County residents.

Vice-Chairman Crosby interrupted to request that Ms. Morse address county-related items, then allowed Ms. Morse to continue for the remainder of the allotted time.

CONSENT

Board of Supervisors

1. Approve the Minutes of the regular meeting of the Board of Supervisors of January 6, 2026.

County Sheriff

2. Approve the use of funds from the Cochise County Sheriff's Donation Fund to purchase and donate K9 vehicle cages to the Sierra Vista Police Department, as authorized by the National Criminal Enforcement Association, in the amount of \$24,000.
3. Approve Amendment 3 to Agreement M22-0051 between the Arizona Department of Emergency and Military Affairs (DEMA), Cochise County and the Cochise County Sheriff's Office (CCSO), effective October 1, 2022, through December 31, 2027.

Court Administration

4. Approve Fiscal Year 2026 Fill The Gap Funding Agreement, as provided by the Arizona Supreme Court, Administrative Office of the Courts (AOC), effective July 1, 2025, through June 30, 2026, in the amount of \$39,275.

Elections

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

Finance

6. Approve demands and budget amendments for operating transfers.

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

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

PUBLIC HEARINGS

Development Services

7. Adopt Zoning Ordinance 26-05 to rezone 5 acres out of tax parcel 202-24-001C from R-36 (Residential District, one dwelling per 36,000 square feet) to GB (General Business District) pursuant to the application of Stan Chaffin (Supervisor District 3).

Supervisor Gomez made a motion to adopt Zoning Ordinance 26-05 to rezone 5 acres out of tax parcel 202-24-001C from R-36 (Residential District, one dwelling per 36,000 square feet) to GB (General Business District) pursuant to the application of Stan Chaffin (Supervisor District 3). Vice-Chairman Crosby seconded the motion.

Vice-Chairman Crosby opened the Public Hearing.

Matthew Taylor, Planning Division Manager, presented this item using a PowerPoint presentation. Mr. Taylor presented docket RZ25-18, describing a request to rezone 5 acres from R36 to GB at the corner of Joe Hines and Packing Plant to allow limited business uses such as a farmers market, consistent with the comprehensive plan. He stated staff and the Planning and Zoning Commission recommended approval without special conditions, noting mixed public input with concerns focused on water use, traffic, and noise.

Stan Chaffin, applicant, explained that the requested rezoning is for future use to support small-scale agricultural and business activities, emphasized careful water conservation practices, and expressed a desire to serve the community.

Vice-Chairman Crosby closed the Public Hearing.

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

8. Adopt Zoning Ordinance 26-06 to rezone 5 acres out of tax parcel 202-05-001 from R-36 (Residential District, one dwelling per 36,000 square feet) to RU-4 (Rural District, one dwelling per 4 acres) pursuant to the application of Mario Hernandez (Supervisor District 3).

Supervisor Gomez made a motion to adopt Zoning Ordinance 26-06 to rezone 5 acres out of tax parcel 202-05-001 from R-36 (Residential District, one dwelling per 36,000 square feet) to RU-4 (Rural District, one dwelling per 4 acres) pursuant to the application of Mario Hernandez (Supervisor District 3). Vice-Chairman Crosby seconded the motion.

Vice-Chairman Crosby opened the Public Hearing.

Matthew Taylor, Planning Division Manager, presented this item by PowerPoint presentation. Mr. Taylor presented docket RZ25-19, a request to rezone 5 acres from R36 to RU4 at 6305 North Fort Grant Road to allow limited agriculture-related sales consistent with the rural comprehensive plan designation. He stated staff and the Planning and Zoning Commission recommended approval without special conditions, noting minimal public response and compatibility with surrounding agricultural uses.

In response to the Board, Mr. Taylor clarified that RU4 zoning allows agriculture-related sales, which may include farm products, equipment, clothing, and other items connected to the agricultural industry.

Mario Hernandez, the applicant, explained that, due to poor cattle market conditions, he shifted from cattle operations to selling used agricultural equipment, and requested proper zoning and permits to conduct these sales legally on his property.

Vice-Chairman Crosby closed the Public Hearing.

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

ACTION

County Sheriff

9. Approve Intergovernmental Agreement(IGA)2025-320, between the State of Arizona Department of Public Safety (AZDPS) and Cochise County Sheriff's Office (CCSO),to enhance law enforcement services to deter, apprehend, prosecute and detain individuals charged with drug trafficking, human smuggling, illegal immigration and other border-related crimes within Cochise County, through the cooperative efforts of AZDPS and the CCSO - Local Border Support (LBS), in the amount of \$1,567,303.26, effective July 1, 2025, to June 30, 2027.

Supervisor Gomez made a motion to approve Intergovernmental Agreement(IGA)2025-320, between the State of Arizona Department of Public Safety (AZDPS) and Cochise County Sheriff's Office (CCSO),to enhance law enforcement services to deter, apprehend, prosecute and detain individuals charged with drug trafficking, human smuggling, illegal immigration and other border-related crimes within Cochise County, through the cooperative efforts of AZDPS and the CCSO - Local Border Support (LBS), in the amount of \$1,567,303.26, effective July 1, 2025, to June 30, 2027. Vice-Chairman Crosby seconded the motion.

Vice-Chairman Crosby read into the record the names who oppose item 9. Tracy L. Caras, Susan Lynne Dalby, MD, Fred Miller, Margaret Wilch, Michael Gregory, Cheryl Knott, Deborah Herczog.

Allison Morse, spoke in opposition to the IGA, raising concerns about expanded jurisdiction and possible cooperation with federal immigration agencies, and urging the Board to reject the proposal.

John Gjerde, Cochise County Sheriff's Department Captain, presented this item. Captain Gjerde explained that the DPS grant is an ongoing program funding salaries, overtime, and personnel, with a portion designated to offset jail booking costs related to border-related crimes.

Captain Gjerde confirmed that Cochise County deputies are certified to operate statewide and discussed a recent case in which deputies helped stop the human trafficking of an eight-year-old boy. He emphasized that border-related crime, including human and drug smuggling, continues to impact the county despite claims of reduced crossings.

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

10. Approve an Agreement 2025-289 between the State of Arizona through its Department of Public Safety (DPS), and Cochise County, specifically Cochise County Sheriff's Office (CCSO), for victim services, software, forensic equipment, training, personnel and overtime, in the amount of \$141,250, effective July 1, 2025, through June 30, 2026.

Supervisor Gomez made a motion to approve an Agreement 2025-289 between the State of Arizona through its Department of Public Safety (DPS), and Cochise County, specifically Cochise County Sheriff's Office (CCSO), for victim services, software, forensic equipment, training, personnel and overtime, in the amount of \$141,250, effective July 1, 2025, through June 30, 2026. Vice-Chairman Crosby seconded the motion.

John Gjerde, Cochise County Sheriff's Department Captain, presented this item. Captain Gjerde explained that \$141,250 in residual grant funds from a previous DPS award will be used for victim services, forensic software and equipment, training, and personnel and overtime for conducting digital forensic examinations.

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

County Treasurer

11. Approve the recommendation of the County Treasurer for the abatement of property taxes and interest on personal property and the removal of personal property tax liens on Treasurer's Certificate of Clearance No. 2026-001 to 2026-007

Supervisor Gomez made a motion to approve the recommendation of the County Treasurer for the abatement of property taxes and interest on personal property and the removal of personal property tax liens on Treasurer's Certificate of Clearance No. 2026-001 to 2026-007. Vice-Chairman Crosby seconded the motion.

Catherine Traywick, Cochise County Treasurer, presented this item. Ms. Traywick explained that the Board is being asked to remove personal property, such as mobile homes or business equipment, from the tax rolls because the items are destroyed, missing, or have no value.

In response to the Board, Ms. Traywick explained that missing property, often mobile homes, is verified by the sheriff's office before removal from the tax rolls, and that legally moving property requires paying current taxes and obtaining a release from the Motor Vehicle Division to ensure taxes are properly settled.

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

Elections

12. Adopt Resolution 26-02 to approve three (3) Vote Centers for the May 19, 2026, Consolidated Election as listed on the attached Exhibit; and authorize the Elections Director to make substitutions as necessary prior to each election in the event that a Vote Center replacement needs to be made in accordance with A.R.S. 16-411.

Supervisor Gomez made a motion to adopt Resolution 26-02 to approve three (3) Vote Centers for the May 19, 2026, Consolidated Election as listed on the attached Exhibit; and authorize the Elections Director to make substitutions as necessary prior to each election in the event that a Vote Center replacement needs to be made in accordance

with A.R.S. 16-411. Vice-Chairman Crosby seconded the motion.

Melissa Avant, Cochise County Elections Director, presented this item. Ms. Avant presented a brief resolution to approve three vote centers for the consolidated elections in the cities of Douglas and Benson, and none of these elections will be all-mail in ballot elections.

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

Facilities

13. Approve the transfer of County Capital Projects Contingency to the Facilities Department to install 10 VRV Condensers and 4 Air Handlers at the Bisbee Administration Building at 4 Ledge Avenue, in the amount of \$1,909,068.

Supervisor Gomez made a motion to approve the transfer of County Capital Projects Contingency to the Facilities Department to install 10 VRV Condensers and 4 Air Handlers at the Bisbee Administration Building at 4 Ledge Avenue, in the amount of \$1,909,068. Vice-Chairman Crosby seconded the motion.

Darrel Crowley, Facilities Director, presented this item. He explained that replacing the old 1972 boiler system with a refrigerated system, similar to a previous courthouse project, is the most cost-effective solution and allows heating to be controlled in individual parts of the building without risking total heat loss.

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

14. Approve the transfer of General Fund Contingency funds to the Facilities Department to replace 10 HVAC units at the Bisbee Annex Building at 150 Quality Hill, in the amount of \$182,824.64.

Supervisor Gomez made a motion to approve the transfer of General Fund Contingency funds to the Facilities Department to replace 10 HVAC units at the Bisbee Annex Building at 150 Quality Hill, in the amount of \$182,824.64. Vice-Chairman Crosby seconded the motion.

Darrel Crowley, Facilities Director, presented this item. Mr. Crowley clarified that the project involves a complete replacement of over-20-year-old units, which is standard maintenance due to their age and condition.

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

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.

Ms. Gilman reported on recent attendance at the County Supervisors Association (CSA) legislative policy and board of directors meetings, noting several bills affecting elections and vote centers that could change future procedures. She also highlighted Senator Hildy

Angius's request for supervisors to support SB167, which would allow public postings of meetings online instead of in newspapers, saving the county money but potentially limiting access for those without the internet.

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

Vice-Chairman Crosby adjourned the meeting at 10:55 a.m.

APPROVED:

Tom Crosby, Vice-Chairman

ATTEST:

Lara Loewenheim, Clerk of the Board