

**PROCEEDINGS OF THE COCHISE COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS  
REGULAR MEETING HELD ON  
TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 10, 2026**

A regular board meeting of the Cochise County Board of Supervisors was held on Tuesday, February 10, 2026, at 1:00 p.m. in the Board of Supervisors' Hearing Room, 1415 Melody Lane, Building G, Bisbee, Arizona.

Present: Frank Antenori, Chairman; Tom Crosby, Vice-Chairman; Kathleen Gomez, Supervisor  
Staff Present: Sharon Gilman, County Administrator; Joe Casey, Deputy County Administrator; Dylan Hendel, Deputy Civil County Attorney; Lara Loewenheim, Clerk of the Board

Chairman Antenori called the meeting to order at 1:08 p.m.

***ACTION***

**County Schools**

1. Approve year 2 of the Cochise County Education Service Agency's School Based Mental Health grant, effective January 1, 2026, through December 31, 2026, in the amount of \$322,268.

Action Item 1 was moved to the beginning of the meeting to allow Dr. Clay to attend a meeting with Governor Katie Hobbs.

Chairman Antenori modified the agenda due to Governor Hobbs' visit to Cochise County

Vice-Chairman Crosby made a motion to approve year 2 of the Cochise County Education Service Agency's School Based Mental Health grant, effective January 1, 2026, through December 31, 2026, in the amount of \$322,268. Supervisor Gomez seconded the motion.

Cynthia Meyers, Outreach Manager, presented this item. She noted the grant marks year two of a five-year school-based mental health grant awarded by the Federal Department of Education.

Lorena Telesa, Project Coordinator, presented this item using a PowerPoint presentation. Ms. Telesa summarized year two of the school-based mental health grant as focused on expanding staff, improving access to care, and increasing the number of students served, including the hiring of a school counselor. Ms. Telesa emphasized gradual improvement of counselor-to-student ratios and continued use of established tiered services, guided by needs assessment data and long-standing best practices.

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

2. Approve Software Services Agreement with Village Creed Corporation (dba PATHS) and Cochise County School Superintendent for the Cochise County Fentanyl Reduction Pilot, effective upon execution by all parties.

Action Item 2 was moved to the beginning of the meeting to allow Dr. Clay to attend a meeting with Governor Katie Hobbs.

Supervisor Gomez made a motion to approve Software Services Agreement with Village Creed Corporation (dba PATHS) and Cochise County School Superintendent for the Cochise County Fentanyl Reduction Pilot, effective upon execution by all parties. Vice-Chairman Crosby seconded the motion.

Dr. Jacqui Clay, Cochise County School Superintendent, presented this item. Dr. Clay explained the project is scheduled to begin May 1, 2026, with schools given four weeks to complete participation. She stated the Mayo Clinic will then aggregate the data for use in a larger national project.

Supervisor Gomez noted that she spoke with the Health Department and noted that fentanyl is increasingly present among various substances, including cocaine and meth, and highlighted the seriousness of the issue. Supervisor Gomez would like a future presentation from the Health Department to inform the Board about the widespread impact of fentanyl.

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

## **CONSENT**

### **County Schools**

6. Approve the Apple Developer Program License Agreement and Google (Android) Developer Terms of Service to establish developer accounts necessary for deployment of a County-supported mobile application for schools.

Item 6 was removed from the Consent agenda for separate consideration.

Vice-Chairman Crosby made a motion to approve the Apple Developer Program License Agreement and Google (Android) Developer Terms of Service to establish developer accounts necessary for deployment of a County-supported mobile application for schools. Supervisor Gomez seconded the motion.

Alan Gordon, Information Technology Director, presented this item. Mr. Gordon requested permission to publish the Navigate 360 application on the Apple App Store and Google Play Store. He stated the app is intended for school safety and security, including a check-in feature, and approval is needed to proceed with agreements with Apple and Google.

Cynthia Meyers, Outreach Manager, replied that the application is a reporting tool that allows kids to connect with the Sandy Hook Promise Crisis Center.

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

## ***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**

Ms. Gomez reported the following events.

Voices of Tombstone Conversation – February 12, 6:00 PM at Johnny Ringo’s; community meeting to hear local input.

Vigilante Days – February 14–15 in Tombstone, coinciding with Valentine’s Day.

Wild West Days Parade – March 14-15 includes vintage coaches and county vehicles, linked to veteran celebrations and 250th Anniversary preparations.

Spay and Neuter Clinic – February 21 in San Simon; first-come, first-served, \$20 per pet, organized by Cochise County Sheriff’s Office.

St. David Monastery Art Festival – Saturday, March 7; artists of all mediums invited, application deadline February 15.

Los Apson Concert – February 14 at Cochise County Fairgrounds; \$20 admission, featuring music covers from English to Spanish.

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

Chairman Antenori recognized Zayda Papiese, a 6th grader at Pomerene Elementary, as the 2026 Cochise County Spelling Bee champion for correctly spelling “univocal.” He also acknowledged finalists Faye Mayberry from St. David Unified School District and Westley Mathews from Willcox School District.

## ***CALL TO THE PUBLIC***

Allison Morse was called upon but did not speak.

## ***CONSENT (Continued)***

### **Board of Supervisors**

3. Approve the Minutes of the regular meeting of the Board of Supervisors of January 27, 2026.

### **Finance**

4. Approve demands and budget amendments for operating transfers.

### **Court Administration**

5. Approve Federal Fiscal Year 2026 grant funding reimbursement between the Cochise County Superior Court and the Arizona Department of Economic Security for reimbursable access and visitation activities, in the amount of \$26,800.39, effective October 1, 2025, through September 30, 2026.

Vice-Chairman Crosby made a motion to approve Consent Items 3 through 5. Supervisor Gomez seconded the motion.

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

### ***ACTION (Continued)***

#### **County Attorney**

7. Approve a \$30,571.95 fund transfer from the General Fund Contingency to the Cochise County Attorney's Office – Civil Division wages to increase the Chief Civil Deputy County Attorney's salary in support of competitive market recruitment.

Supervisor Gomez made a motion to approve a \$30,571.95 fund transfer from the General Fund Contingency to the Cochise County Attorney's Office – Civil Division wages to increase the Chief Civil Deputy County Attorney's salary in support of competitive market recruitment. Vice-Chairman Crosby seconded the motion.

Lori Zucco, Cochise County Attorney, presented this item. Ms. Zucco explained the county is preparing to hire a new Chief Civil Deputy and noted the previous salary of \$154,500 was below market. She requested an annual increase of \$30,572, bringing the maximum salary to \$180,000, with a pay range of \$160,000 to \$180,000 to attract a highly qualified candidate. She stated the increase would support the role's responsibilities, including representing the board, advising on human resources, managing risk, and handling civil litigation. She stated an additional \$10,190 is anticipated to cover the salary adjustment for the remainder of the current fiscal year if the position is filled by April.

The Board and staff discussed challenges in recruiting a qualified Chief Civil Deputy, emphasizing competitive pay, targeted advertising, and the need to attract candidates despite Cochise County's rural location.

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

#### **Elections**

8. Approve an Intergovernmental Agreement (IGA) between the City of Benson and Cochise County Elections to provide for election supplies and services for the May 19, 2026, Election.

Vice-Chairman Crosby made a motion to approve an Intergovernmental Agreement (IGA) between the City of Benson and Cochise County Elections to provide for election supplies and services for the May 19, 2026, Election. Supervisor Gomez seconded the motion.

The Board and staff discussed the cost of a six-month service period for a consolidated election in Douglas and Benson, estimating around \$90,000, and noted

only those two jurisdictions called for the election under the 210-day notice, with another election scheduled in November.

Chairman Antenori called for the vote and it was approved 2-1 (Antenori opposed).

9. Approve an Intergovernmental Agreement (IGA) between the City of Douglas and Cochise County Elections to provide for election supplies and services for the May 19, 2026, Election.

Supervisor Gomez made a motion to approve an Intergovernmental Agreement (IGA) between the City of Douglas and Cochise County Elections to provide for election supplies and services for the May 19, 2026, Election. Vice-Chairman Crosby seconded the motion.

Supervisor Gomez expressed support for the election in Douglas and emphasized the importance of voter turnout, urging Douglas residents to participate.

In response to the Board, Mr. Hendel stated cities are allowed to call for elections at any one of the dates enumerated in statutes.

Vice-Chairman Crosby stated that city governments should have wards, the mayor should not serve on the City Council, and a city manager should serve at the mayor's discretion rather than holding long-term office. He noted this approach aligns with Article 4, Section 4 of the U.S. Constitution.

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

## **Facilities**

10. Approve Contract 26-12-FAC-01 with KWR Construction, Inc. for the reconstruction of the Foothills Parking lot located at 4115 East Foothills Drive, Sierra Vista, Arizona, in the amount of \$378,467.75, with the use of County Capital Project Contingency Funds.

Vice-Chairman Crosby made a motion to approve Contract 26-12-FAC-01 with KWR Construction, Inc. for the reconstruction of the Foothills Parking lot located at 4115 East Foothills Drive, Sierra Vista, Arizona, in the amount of \$378,467.75, with the use of County Capital Project Contingency Funds. Supervisor Gomez seconded the motion.

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

## **STATE & FEDERAL LEGISLATION**

11. 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 he attended the governor's reelection pitch, describing it as more emotional than substantive. He reported that the governor vetoed the conformity bill affecting federal deductions on Arizona tax returns, cautioning early filers that they

may need to amend their returns depending on future legislative action.

Supervisor Gomez noted that the governor's presentation consisted of prepared questions and expressed disappointment that the new commercial port in Douglas, a key economic development issue, was not addressed.

Chairman Antenori reported on state legislation affecting the county, including a bill allowing contributions toward corrections officers' retirement that lacks exemptions from expenditure limits and pension lock-in provisions. He also discussed a proposed gas tax holiday that would significantly reduce Highway User Revenue Fund (HURF) revenue, disproportionately impacting rural counties without an offset. He stated the proposal has drawn opposition from county associations due to potential harm to road funding and local finances.

Ms. Gilman noted Senator Gowan also proposed legislation regarding Public Safety Personnel Retirement System (PSPRS), including changes to contribution tiers and adjustments to retirement age limits.

Chairman Antenori stated the primary date has been moved up 2 weeks.

Vice-Chairman Crosby stated that primary ballots are due 30 days before the new primary date.

Supervisor Gomez stated she will be traveling to Washington, D.C. with the National Association of Counties (NACo) to advocate for federal funding for the Douglas port project, including \$30 million needed for water and sewer infrastructure. She also intends to promote establishing a screw worm distribution center at Bisbee/Douglas International Airport (BDI), citing its importance to the cattle industry.

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

Ms. Gilman thanked the Treasurer's and Elections offices for patience during the remodel of Building E, noting the project will improve public viewing of ballot tabulation and expand storage space ahead of the May election. She invited board members to tour the nearly completed improvements and acknowledged temporary disruptions during construction. She also reported that ten proposals were received for the economic development study roadmap and are currently under review and scoring and the results will be presented to the Board for further discussion.

Supervisor Gomez thanked Joe Casey, Deputy County Administrator, and Jane Montgomery, Public Information Officer, for attending the opt-out committee meeting and assisting with numerous public questions. She noted the value of having county representatives present to clarify code requirements, timelines, and expectations, including compliance with septic and other county standards.

Chairman Antenori adjourned the meeting at 1:56 p.m.

APPROVED:

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Frank Antenori, Chairman

ATTEST:

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Lara Loewenheim, Clerk of the Board