

**PROCEEDINGS OF THE COCHISE COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
REGULAR MEETING HELD ON
TUESDAY, APRIL 21, 2026**

A regular board meeting of the Cochise County Board of Supervisors was held on Tuesday, April 21, 2026, at 10:00 a.m. in the Board of Supervisors' Hearing Room, 1415 Melody Lane, Building G, Bisbee, Arizona.

Present: Frank Antenori, Chairman, Telephonic; Tom Crosby, Vice-Chairman; Kathleen L. Gomez, Supervisor

Staff Present: 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 10:06 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 announced the county vehicle auction closing on April 29th, 2026, with vehicle viewings on April 28, 2026, from 8:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m., heavy fleet viewings on April 28, 2026, from 7:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. at the Fleet Road Yard, and additional heavy equipment viewing on April 29, 2026, from 7:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. in Whetstone. She highlighted several community events, including a rural assembly on July 29, 2026, from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m., a community assistance event in Douglas on May 13, 2026, from 1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m., the Mariachi Festival on May 9, 2026, from 2:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m., and Douglas Days on May 15–16, 2026.

Supervisor Gomez recognized fire crews responding to the Shaw Fire, encouraged residents to sign up for emergency alerts.

Supervisor Gomez stated that no involvement with data centers or wrongdoing has occurred. She emphasized a strong opposition to misinformation while urging others to publicly correct false claims once facts are confirmed.

Report by District 3 Supervisor, Frank Antenori

Chairman Antenori stated he was attending the American Power Boot Camp in Florida, a conference focused on educating local elected officials on emerging energy technologies such as solar, battery storage, natural gas, and small modular nuclear reactors, emphasizing the importance of informed decision-making based on data and expert input.

He addressed misinformation circulating in the community, particularly regarding data centers, stating there are currently no planned projects in Cochise County and highlighting the Board's proactive efforts in establishing a data center ordinance to protect water, power resources, and ratepayers.

He concluded by stressing the need for public education through credible sources, noting concerns about reliance on inaccurate social media information and reaffirming the County's commitment to making informed, responsible decisions on behalf of constituents.

CALL TO THE PUBLIC

Allison Morse spoke on various issues.

Donna Quisenberry spoke on various issues.

Cheryl Knott spoke on various issues.

Ronnie Maestas-Condos spoke on various issues.

Tricia Gerrodette spoke on various issues.

PRESENTATION

Overview of the 2025 Cochise County Fair and Discussion of 2026 Fair Planning

Supervisor Gomez stated the importance of the Cochise County Fairgrounds and its role as the largest event in the county and its economic benefits. She addressed and dispelled rumors that the fairgrounds might relocate to Sierra Vista, firmly stating the fairgrounds will remain in their current location. She emphasized the value of educating the public on the fairgrounds' contributions to the county.

Nicki Valenzuela, Cochise County Fair General Manager, presented a PowerPoint presentation. Ms. Valenzuela stated that the Cochise County Fair, established in 1924, is a four-day annual event held the last weekend of September, focused on celebrating agriculture, local talent, and community traditions, and operates as a nonprofit supported by a volunteer board and approximately 250 volunteers. She described the fairgrounds in Douglas as a 49-acre facility hosting a wide range of activities including livestock shows, rodeos, competitions, entertainment, and family-oriented events, with participation and attendance growing significantly over time. She emphasized the fair's substantial economic and community impact, noting tens of thousands of attendees, significant local spending, and the event's role in bringing visitors and revenue to Douglas, while highlighting the need for continued support and facility improvements to accommodate growth.

CONSENT

Board of Supervisors

1. Approve the Minutes of the regular meeting of the Board of Supervisors of April 7, 2026.

County Sheriff

2. Approve corrected annual Work Plan for Cooperative Service Agreement 26-73-04-0228-RA between Cochise County and the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service and Wildlife Services adjusting the amount from \$63,983 to \$63,740.30, effective July 1, 2026, through June 30, 2027.
3. Approve MOU 2026-405b-502 from the Governor's Office of Highway Safety (GOHS) to the Cochise County Sheriff's Office for overtime and employee-related expenses for the "Buckle Up Arizona... It's the Law" program, in the amount of \$4,000, effective May 18 - May 31, 2026

Engineering & Natural Resources

4. Approve Intergovernmental Agreement Between Arizona Department of Water Resources (ADWR) and Cochise County for CORS (Continuously Operating Reference Station) to fund the existing CORS Hereford Road site in the amount of \$31,460.00 and to budget for one additional CORS site, location to be determined in the approx. amount of \$31,460.00.
5. Approve Amendment #1 26-0011711-I to Intergovernmental Agreement IGA 23-0009212-I, Moson Road: State Route 90 – Hereford Rd, between the Arizona Department of Transportation (ADOT) and Cochise County, to administer the design of the Moson Road corridor from State Route 90 to Hereford Road and spot improvements on Moson Road, North of Garden Creek Wash in the total amount of \$1,090,445, effective upon signing through project completion, and authorize the County cost share of \$90,445 (paid in 2023).

Finance

6. Approve demands and budget amendments for operating transfers.

Human Resources

7. Approve agreement with COBRA Professionals, Inc, (CPI) to continue Flexible Spending Account services as an optional employee benefit, effective August 1, 2026.

Supervisor Gomez made a motion to approve Consent items 1 through 7. Chairman Antenori seconded the motion.

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

PUBLIC HEARINGS

Public Works

8. Approve Resolution 26-10, Solid Waste Fee Schedule as described in attached Appendix A, effective July 1, 2026.

Supervisor Gomez made a motion to approve Resolution 26-10, Solid Waste Fee Schedule as described in attached Appendix A, effective July 1, 2026. Chairman Antenori seconded the motion.

Vice-Chairman Crosby opened the Public Hearing.

Jason Faccio, Public Works Director, presented this item. Mr. Faccio requested approval of a new solid waste fee schedule, proposing an increase from \$64 to \$68 per ton to address rising operational costs and maintain financial stability within the enterprise fund. He stated minor adjustments include small increases at rural sites, a \$2 increase for mattresses, unchanged tire fees to discourage illegal dumping, and maintaining a \$5 minimum charge at urban transfer stations.

Vice-Chairman Crosby closed the Public Hearing.

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

ACTION

County Sheriff

9. Approve an Intergovernmental Agreement (IGA) between Cochise County and the City of Sierra Vista to provide regional Special Weapons and Tactics (SWAT) team services for an initial five-year term, with options for four one-year extensions, automatic annual renewal unless terminated with 90 days' notice, and subject to A.R.S. §38-511.

Supervisor Gomez made a motion to approve an Intergovernmental Agreement (IGA) between Cochise County and the City of Sierra Vista to provide regional Special Weapons and Tactics (SWAT) team services for an initial five-year term, with options for four one-year extensions, automatic annual renewal unless terminated with 90 days' notice, and subject to A.R.S. §38-511. Chairman Antenori seconded the motion.

John Gjerde, Cochise County Sheriff Commander, presented this item. Commander Gjerde stated the agreement between Cochise County and the City of Sierra Vista establishes a regional SWAT team developed over several years of joint training. He explained that combining resources, personnel, and equipment will enhance response capabilities, and improve efficiency and effectiveness in law enforcement operations.

Carl Larimer, Cochise County SWAT Commander, stated fifty percent (50%) of deputies speak Spanish.

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

10. Approve Second Amendment to the Grant Agreement between the Legacy Foundation of Southeast Arizona and Cochise County Sheriff's Office for the Cochise County Mental Health Support Team (CARE Team) project, extending the agreement through June 1, 2027, and accepting additional funding in the amount of \$50,000.

Supervisor Gomez made a motion to approve Second Amendment to the Grant Agreement between the Legacy Foundation of Southeast Arizona and Cochise County Sheriff's Office

for the Cochise County Mental Health Support Team (CARE Team) project, extending the agreement through June 1, 2027, and accepting additional funding in the amount of \$50,000. Chairman Antenori seconded the motion.

John Gjerde, Cochise County Sheriff Commander, presented this item. Commander Gjerde stated that the agreement with the Legacy Foundation supports the county's CARE team, which provides mental health services to law enforcement, municipalities, and schools throughout the community. He stated the program assists officers and supports children through coordination with school leadership, offering broad community benefits.

Supervisor Gomez commended the CARE team for their professionalism and effectiveness in de-escalating a difficult situation, highlighting their valuable mental health support services across the community.

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

Development Services

11. Approve the appointment of Christy Zoumis to the Planning & Zoning Commission representing District 1, effective April 21, 2026, through December 31, 2026.

Supervisor Gomez made a motion to approve the appointment of Christy Zoumis to the Planning & Zoning Commission representing District 1, effective April 21, 2026, through December 31, 2026. Chairman Antenori seconded the motion.

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

Elections

12. Approve an Intergovernmental Agreement (IGA) between the City of Benson and Cochise County Elections to provide for election supplies and services for the July 21, 2026, election.

Supervisor Gomez 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 July 21, 2026, election. Chairman Antenori seconded the motion.

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

13. Approve the Intergovernmental Agreement (IGA) between the City of Bisbee and Cochise County Elections to provide for election supplies and services for the July 21, 2026, election.

Supervisor Gomez made a motion to approve the Intergovernmental Agreement (IGA) between the City of Bisbee and Cochise County Elections to provide for election supplies and services for the July 21, 2026, election. Chairman Antenori seconded the motion.

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

14. Approve an Intergovernmental Agreement (IGA) between the City of Douglas and Cochise County Elections to provide for election supplies and services for the July 21, 2026, election.

Supervisor Gomez made a motion to approve the Intergovernmental Agreement (IGA) between the City of Douglas and Cochise County Elections to provide for election supplies and services for the July 21, 2026, election. Chairman Antenori seconded the motion.

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

15. Approve an Intergovernmental Agreement (IGA) between the City of Tombstone and Cochise County Elections to provide for election supplies and services for the July 21, 2026, election.

Supervisor Gomez made a motion to approve the Intergovernmental Agreement (IGA) between the City of Tombstone and Cochise County Elections to provide for election supplies and services for the July 21, 2026, election. Chairman Antenori seconded the motion.

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

16. Approve an Intergovernmental Agreement (IGA) between the City of Willcox and Cochise County Elections to provide for election supplies and services for the July 21, 2026, election.

Supervisor Gomez made a motion to approve the Intergovernmental Agreement (IGA) between the City of Willcox and Cochise County Elections to provide for election supplies and services for the July 21, 2026, election. Chairman Antenori seconded the motion.

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

Health & Social Services

17. Approve Intergovernmental Agreement (IGA) CTR060579 Amendment 1, between the Arizona Department of Health Services (ADHS) and Cochise Health & Social Services for immunization services, in the amount of \$118,619 effective July 1, 2025, through June 30, 2026.

Supervisor Gomez made a motion to approve Intergovernmental Agreement (IGA) CTR060579 Amendment 1, between the Arizona Department of Health Services (ADHS) and Cochise Health & Social Services for immunization services, in the amount of \$118,619 effective July 1, 2025, through June 30, 2026. Chairman Antenori seconded the motion.

Emily Harris, Health Department, Division Director Clinical Services, presented this item. Ms. Harris requested approval of an amendment to the immunization services IGA to reflect a change in federal funding passed through the state. She noted there are no changes to the existing contract or services.

Vice-Chairman Crosby stated he opposed the item, citing past negative impacts associated with county involvement in immunization efforts. He expressed a preference for the county to no longer participate in providing vaccines.

In response to the Board, Ms. Harris clarified that all county immunization services are voluntary, based on individual choice between the patient and provider, with no mandates or

forced participation.

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

STATE & FEDERAL LEGISLATION

18. 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 stated that HB2261 failed and provided an update that most legislation is pending action by the governor, who is expected to hold bills until a state budget is finalized. Chairman Antenori stated that Congressman Ciscomani successfully inserted \$7 million for the Bisbee Douglas International Airport runway into the federal budget process, though it must still pass through reconciliation and approval stages.

Vice-Chairman Crosby requested that an email containing a Lara Logan interview related to the EAC be forwarded and included in the meeting minutes as a website link for public access. <https://laralogan.substack.com/p/stonewalled-with-dr-timothy-shindelar?r=gzaus>

Supervisor Gomez stated that she recently met with Planning and Zoning (PNZ) commissioners and community members to discuss efforts to restore Rucker Lake. She highlighted concerns about water being wasted in the area and encouraged public involvement through a Facebook page or direct contact to attend future discussions. She also noted an upcoming meeting with the Forest Service, expressing uncertainty about their support but suggesting potential alignment with increased resources tied to the Chiricahua National Park designation.

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

Joe Casey, Deputy County Administrator, announced that early voting for the May 19, 2026, election begins the following day at the Recorder's Office on Melody Lane, covering the Douglas charter and Benson recall elections.

Vice-Chairman Crosby adjourned the meeting at 11:17 a.m.

APPROVED:

Tom Crosby, Vice-Chairman

ATTEST:

Lara Loewenheim, Clerk of the Board

