

**PROCEEDINGS OF THE COCHISE COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
REGULAR MEETING HELD ON
TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 22, 2026**

A regular board meeting of the Cochise County Board of Supervisors was held on Tuesday, September 22, 2026 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, Dylan Hendel, Civil Deputy County Attorney, Lara Loewenheim, Clerk of the Board

Chairman Antenori called the meeting to order at 10:05 a.m.

SUMMARY OF CURRENT EVENTS

Report by District 1 Supervisor, Tom Crosby

Supervisor Crosby deferred his report.

Report by District 2 Supervisor, Kathleen L. Gomez

Supervisor Gomez stated that the Cochise County Fair would be held September 24–27, 2026, Thursday through Sunday. She highlighted improvements to internet service at the fairgrounds, plans to expand service to the commercial building by next year, and future coordination with Fort Huachuca to avoid scheduling its carnival during the same weekend as the County Fair.

Supervisor Gomez stated that during the week of September 14–18, 2026, she attended water-related meetings through the County Supervisors Association and the Agriculture and County Water Council. She met with representatives associated with Arizona State University's Kyl Center for Water and discussed inviting them to a future County water session to provide factual information regarding Cochise County's water resources.

Supervisor Gomez stated that Mexican Independence Day celebrations were held September 16, 2026, in Douglas and Agua Prieta. She expressed interest in a future meeting with officials from Agua Prieta and Sonora to discuss cross-border matters involving water, mining, and economic development.

Supervisor Gomez stated that community event announcements would be ongoing and invited residents to email her information about events occurring throughout Cochise County. She indicated that announcing the events during Board meetings could help increase community awareness and participation.

Report by District 3 Supervisor, Frank Antenori

Chairman Antenori stated that on October 5, 2026, while attending a County Supervisors Association event, he planned to meet with Legislative Council attorneys regarding potential legislation and invited Board members and staff to provide proposed legislative matters for discussion.

CALL TO THE PUBLIC

Donna Quisenberry spoke on various issues.

Allison Morse spoke on various issues.

Ronnie Maestas-Condos spoke on various issues.

Tricia Gerrodette spoke on various issues.

CONSENT

Board of Supervisors

1. Approve the Minutes of the regular meeting of the Board of Supervisors of September 8, 2026.

Court Administration

2. Approve Fiscal Year 2027 grant funding/reimbursement between the Cochise County Superior Court and the Arizona Department of Economic Security for reimbursable paternity and child support activities, in the amount of \$27,831.15, effective July 1, 2026 through June 30, 2027.
3. Approve Fiscal Year 2027 Court Improvement Program (CIP) funding agreement between the Arizona Supreme Court, Administrative Office of the Courts (AOC) and the Cochise County Superior Court, in the amount of \$49,141, effective July 1, 2026 through June 30, 2027.
4. Approve Fiscal Year 2027 Court Security Improvements Funding Agreement, as provided by the Arizona Supreme Court, Administrative Office of the Courts (AOC), in the amount of \$35,733, effective July 1, 2026, through June 30, 2027.

Development Services

5. Reappoint Ray Klumb to serve as Architect on the Building Code Advisory Board for an additional three-year term to expire on September 25, 2029.
6. Reappoint Mose Lee to serve as Electrician on the Building Code Advisory Board for an additional three-year term to expire on September 25, 2029.

7. Appoint James Ruby to serve as Member-at-Large on the Building Code Advisory Board for a three-year term to expire on September 25, 2029.

Finance

8. Approve demands and budget amendments for operating transfers.
9. Approve the annual update to County Policy 1604, Public Safety Personnel Retirement System (PSPRS) and Corrections Officers Retirement Plan (CORP) Pension Funding, effective September 22, 2026, and formally accept the County's proportionate share of the systems' assets and liabilities, as determined by the applicable actuarial valuation reports.

Human Resources

10. Approve acceptance of a Walmart Spark Good Grant in the amount of \$700 to purchase small fitness equipment for Cochise County employee workout rooms.

Juvenile Probation

11. Approve Fiscal Year 2027 Juvenile Crime Reduction Fund (JCRF) Funding Agreement as provided by the Arizona Supreme Court, Administrative Office of the Courts (AOC), in the amount of \$5,000, effective July 1, 2026 through June 30, 2027.

Legal Advocate

12. 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, 2026, through June 30, 2027.

Public Defender

13. 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, 2026, through June 30, 2027.

Vice-Chairman made a motion to approve Consent agenda items 1 through 13. Supervisor Gomez seconded the motion.

Supervisor Gomez recognized the Worksite Wellness Coordinator, Laura Silva, for obtaining a grant to support employee fitness and wellness resources and commended her efforts to promote employee health.

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

PUBLIC HEARINGS

Board of Supervisors

14. Approve Series 006 (Bar) new liquor license application submitted by Kevin Arnold Kramber, for Camp Riff at 1794 W Newell St, Naco, AZ 85620.

Supervisor Gomez made a motion to approve Series 006 (Bar) new liquor license application submitted by Kevin Arnold Kramber, for Camp Riff at 1794 W Newell St, Naco, AZ 85620. Vice-Chairman Crosby seconded the motion.

Chairman Antenori opened the Public Hearing.

Ms. Loewenheim presented this item. Ms. Loewenheim presented a new Series 6 Bar Liquor License application for Camp Riff in Naco, Arizona, stating that the appropriate departments recommended approval, property taxes were current, required notices were posted with no formal protests received, the \$100 processing fee was paid, and Board staff recommended approval.

Tricia Gerrodette withdrew her request to speak.

Chairman Antenori closed the Public Hearing.

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

Development Services

15. Adopt Zoning Ordinance 26-13 to rezone tax parcel 408-12-029A from R-36 (Residential District, one dwelling per 36,000 square feet) and GB (General Business District) to GB (General Business District) pursuant to the application of Alfonso Munoz (Supervisor District 2).

Vice-Chairman Crosby made a motion to adopt Zoning Ordinance 26-13 to rezone tax parcel 408-12-029A from R-36 (Residential District, one dwelling per 36,000 square feet) and GB (General Business District) to GB (General Business District) pursuant to the application of Alfonso Munoz (Supervisor District 2). Supervisor Gomez seconded the motion.

Chairman Antenori opened the Public Hearing.

Matthew Taylor, Planning Manager, presented this item. Mr. Taylor presented Docket RZ-26-05, an applicant-initiated request by Alfonso Munoz to rezone approximately 26 acres at Highway 80 and County Hospital Road west of Douglas from split R-36/GB zoning to GB. He stated that the property was undeveloped with no identified use or concept plan, but the request complied with most applicable rezoning factors and would consolidate the existing split zoning; following required notifications with no responses received, the Planning and Zoning Commission recommended approval 7-2 on September 9, 2026, subject to a 20-foot vegetative buffer adjacent to specified residential properties.

Supervisor Gomez expressed concern about the limited 600-foot notification area and stated that she had heard from nearby residents who had not received notice. She also raised concerns about approving a speculative rezoning without a development plan, citing existing code violations in the area and emphasizing the need to consider potential impacts on surrounding residents and the Douglas community.

Alfonso Munoz, applicant, clarified that he was the real estate agent representing the property owner and was not the owner of, or affiliated with, the nearby impound or junkyard operation. He explained that no development plan had been submitted because the rezoning was intended to prepare the property for sale and provide additional commercial opportunities associated with the port of entry. Mr. Munoz respectfully requested approval of the rezoning

and stated that a future purchaser would conduct due diligence and present specific development plans to the County.

The Board confirmed with Mr. Munoz that the purpose of the rezoning was to market the property for sale to a potential commercial buyer and that no buyer or specific proposed use had yet been identified. Supervisor Gomez expressed concerns about the speculative nature of the rezoning, the adequacy of notice to surrounding residents, and the need to ensure future development supports Douglas without creating undesirable uses or negatively affecting nearby residential properties. Mr. Munoz acknowledged the concerns and explained that his responsibility was to market the property for commercial opportunities along Highway 80, while any future buyer and proposed development would remain subject to the County's applicable review and approval processes.

Tricia Gerrodette spoke about the inadequate posting of the notice.

The Board and staff discussed the public notification process for the rezoning, with Mr. Taylor explaining that notices were mailed to property owners within 600 feet, exceeding the 300-foot statutory minimum, and that legal notice was published and signs were posted along County Hospital Road and Highway 80. Supervisor Gomez expressed concern that the existing notification methods and 600-foot radius may not adequately inform affected residents and suggested considering larger, more visible signage and broader notification for future zoning matters.

Angela Rowley expressed support for the concerns raised regarding the size and visibility of zoning notices and the public notification process.

Chairman Antenori closed the public hearing.

The Board and staff discussed whether future development of the rezoned property would return to the Planning and Zoning Commission or Board of Supervisors, with Mr. Taylor explaining that only uses requiring a special use authorization could return for further consideration, while permitted development would generally be handled administratively.

Supervisor Gomez requested that the rezoning be tabled to provide nearby residents additional opportunity to learn about the proposal and provide input, citing concerns about notification, the speculative nature of the rezoning, future development along Highway 80, and the need for transparency as the commercial port and opportunity zone develop.

The Board also discussed private property rights under Proposition 207 and the need to avoid land-use restrictions that could interfere with an owner's ability to use, divide, or sell property. Chairman Antenori stated that commercial zoning along a highway could provide an appropriate buffer between the roadway and residential properties, while Supervisor Gomez maintained that improved signage and broader public awareness were necessary to ensure residents understood proposed changes affecting their area.

Supervisor Gomez made a motion to table the rezoning request until November 24, 2026, to enable the residents in the community to have sufficient time to be able to respond with their concerns or whether they think this is a great idea. Vice-Chairman Crosby seconded the motion.

The Board discussed the adequacy of the public notification process, noting that statutory notice requirements had been met or exceeded and that residents had been provided notice since June 24, 2026. Supervisor Gomez maintained that meeting the statutory requirements did not necessarily mean the County's notification methods were effective and advocated for improved mechanisms, particularly larger and more visible signage, to better inform affected

residents before placing responsibility on them to participate in the process.

Chairman Antenori called for the vote and it failed 1-2 (Antenori and Crosby opposed).

Chairman Antenori closed the public hearing.

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

16. Adopt Resolution 26-33 to amend the Cochise County Comprehensive Plan land use and growth area designations of 6.5 acres from Developing to Rural and Growth Area C to Growth Area D and adopt Ordinance 26-14 to rezone tax parcel 102-43-001D 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 David Druckman.

Vice-Chairman Crosby made a motion to adopt Resolution 26-33 to amend the Cochise County Comprehensive Plan land use and growth area designations of 6.5 acres from Developing to Rural and Growth Area C to Growth Area D and adopt Ordinance 26-14 to rezone tax parcel 102-43-001D 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 David Druckman. Supervisor Gomez seconded the motion.

Chairman Antenori opened the public hearing.

Mr. Taylor presented Dockets CPA-26-02 and RZ-26-04 for approximately 6.5 acres along Arizona Street near Bisbee Junction, requesting a Comprehensive Plan amendment from Developing to Rural, a Growth Area change from Category C to D, and rezoning from R-36 to RU-4 to allow a proposed single-family residence through the County's opt-out program. He stated that the request complied with most applicable criteria, although staff had not received favorable community input and one nearby property owner opposed the applications; notices were mailed within 1,000 feet, with 15 notices sent and one response received. The Planning and Zoning Commission unanimously recommended approval by a 9-0 vote on September 9, 2026, without special conditions, and staff also recommended approval.

David Druckman, applicant, stated that he purchased approximately six acres in Bisbee Junction and requested rezoning from R-36 to RU-4, along with the required Comprehensive Plan amendment, to construct a small two-bedroom home using the County's opt-out program and alternative building methods such as rammed earth or straw bale construction. He stated that RU-4 zoning would reduce the allowable number of dwellings from six to one, provide greater flexibility in construction, and reduce potential impacts on the aquifer, while allowing him to incorporate rainwater harvesting and stormwater infiltration. Mr. Druckman acknowledged opposition from one neighboring property owner involving a minor dispute over an access easement and confirmed that the easement is recorded on both property deeds.

Mary Bradley confirmed that Mr. Druckman already owned the property and was requesting rezoning to participate in the owner-builder opt-out program and construct a home using alternative building methods. She stated that she did not have an objection to the request.

Dina Herrington, owner of property directly adjacent to the subject parcel, requested that the Board continue or deny the rezoning until concerns regarding access, surveying, floodplain requirements, and engineering were addressed. She disputed the adequacy of the recorded 30-foot easement across her property and stated that the proposed access would cross a mapped floodplain and active washes, requiring additional studies, permits, and engineering documentation before development. Ms. Herrington also raised concerns about potential

runoff, traffic, safety, property rights, and impacts from a roadway crossing her property.

The Board and staff discussed the applicant's legal access to the property and whether the easement dispute was relevant to the rezoning request. Mr. Taylor explained that a 30-foot easement was established by warranty deed in 2006 by a previous property owner and serves as the applicant's sole legal access to the parcel. The Board noted that disputes concerning the validity or use of the easement would be a civil matter between the property owners rather than an issue for the Board to resolve as part of the rezoning.

Angela Rowley, stated that she and her husband live at 150 Pretty Lane and supported Ms. Herrington's concerns regarding the easement, notification process, flood conditions, wildlife habitat, fire safety, and potential impacts to neighboring wells. She questioned the proposed access and stated that several nearby residents opposed the request and believed the proposal had not been sufficiently developed or evaluated.

The Board discussed private property rights and asked how the proposed rezoning would interfere with neighboring property owners' use and enjoyment of their properties. Ms. Rowley expressed concern about potential groundwater impacts and fire hazards, while the Board noted that the applicant had property rights associated with residential development and that disputes involving damages, liability, or other impacts between property owners would generally be addressed as civil matters rather than as part of the rezoning decision.

The Board and staff discussed the requirements of the County's opt-out program, including the permit process and \$350 fee, and clarified that surveys and engineering studies are not required upfront as part of the rezoning or opt-out permit application. Staff reiterated that the recorded 30-foot private easement and any dispute regarding its location or use are civil matters, although the applicant could have the easement surveyed to confirm its boundaries and avoid encroachment on neighboring property.

Supervisor Gomez relayed concerns regarding the lack of drainage or hydrological studies, the proposed access crossing active washes, potential flash flooding, and wildlife habitat. Chairman Antenori clarified that the property and easement are privately owned and that these matters were not within the County's consideration of the rezoning request.

Mr. Druckman acknowledged the concerns raised and stated that he did not intend to drill a well, but instead planned to use rainwater harvesting and haul additional water as needed. He stated that he did not believe the property was within a floodplain, had observed stormwater flow on the property after heavy storms, and questioned how the proposed change from R-36 to RU-4 would affect downstream flooding.

Mr. Druckman also addressed concerns regarding fire insurance and the recorded access easement, stating that his proposed home would be approximately one-quarter mile from the nearest residence. He stated that he had attempted to communicate with Ms. Herrington regarding the easement and preserving her privacy and emphasized that he intended to build a single residence while minimizing environmental impacts and preserving the surrounding desert.

Supervisor Gomez stated that she supported the County's opt-out program and viewed the proposed rezoning favorably because it would reduce the development potential of the approximately six-acre property from multiple principal dwellings under R-36 to one principal dwelling under RU-4. She encouraged Mr. Druckman and the neighboring property owners to continue communicating to address concerns and noted that opt-out construction can provide opportunities for development that is compatible with the natural environment.

Chairman Antenori stated that the Board did not have authority over private easement or

neighbor disputes and that those matters were separate from the rezoning request. He encouraged Mr. Druckman to have the easement survey verified before constructing a road or access to the property and suggested consulting an attorney if necessary.

Chairman Antenori closed the public hearing.

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

Engineering & Natural Resources

17. Approve Resolution 26-34, amending Resolution 25-28 declaring James Ranch Road a County Highway, including a revised Exhibit A identifying the property interests necessary for the project and authorizing the use of eminent domain to acquire easements, rights-of-way, fee interests, and other land rights necessary to construct, maintain, and operate the James Ranch Road project, as may be amended based on project or field conditions or as reasonably necessary or customary for the project.

Vice-Chairman Crosby made a motion to approve Resolution 26-34, amending Resolution 25-28 declaring James Ranch Road a County Highway, including a revised Exhibit A identifying the property interests necessary for the project and authorizing the use of eminent domain to acquire easements, rights-of-way, fee interests, and other land rights necessary to construct, maintain, and operate the James Ranch Road project, as may be amended based on project or field conditions or as reasonably necessary or customary for the project. Supervisor Gomez seconded the motion.

Chairman Antenori opened the public hearing.

Lisa Enriquez, Right Of Way Agent, stated that Cochise County entered into an agreement with the Arizona Department of Transportation (ADOT) in December 2024, for construction of the new commercial international port of entry approximately 4.5 miles west of Douglas, with the County responsible for acquiring necessary rights-of-way associated with the road project. She explained that the Board subsequently approved Resolution 25-28 in September 2025, declaring James Ranch Road a County highway and that additional drainage easements are now necessary to address stormwater impacts resulting from the road and port of entry construction. Ms. Enriquez requested approval to amend Resolution 25-28 to authorize the County Engineer to acquire the additional rights-of-way needed for the James Ranch Road project.

The Board and staff discussed the additional drainage easements needed for the James Ranch Road connector project. Lisa Enriquez explained that the easements would be acquired from private property owners and were identified as additional drainage impacts became apparent during the roadway design process. Bradley Simmons, County Engineer, explained that negotiations with affected property owners had been ongoing for several months, appraisals had been completed, and the County may need to proceed with eminent domain if voluntary negotiations could not be reached. The Board discussed the approximately 14.83 acres involved and expressed concern that the drainage and property impacts had not been identified earlier in the project.

The Board and staff also discussed coordination among ADOT, Cochise County, and other governmental entities involved in the new commercial port of entry and connector road, with concerns raised regarding the timing of design information and the need to address known drainage conditions. Sharon Gilman reminded the Board that the acquisition was part of the connector road project and that the County was under strict time constraints to move through the legal process in order to meet construction deadlines. The Board acknowledged the

importance of completing the connector road for economic development in the Douglas area while expressing concerns regarding the planning process and potential use of eminent domain.

Chairman Antenori opened the public hearing. No one chose to speak.

Chairman Antenori closed the public hearing.

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

ACTION

Adult Probation

18. Approve Fiscal Year 2026-2027 Adult Probation Funding Agreement, as provided by the Arizona Supreme Court, Administrative Office of the Courts (AOC), in the amount of \$2,384,103, effective July 1, 2026, through June 30, 2027.

Vice-Chairman Crosby made a motion to approve Fiscal Year 2026-2027 Adult Probation Funding Agreement, as provided by the Arizona Supreme Court, Administrative Office of the Courts (AOC), in the amount of \$2,384,103, effective July 1, 2026, through June 30, 2027. Supervisor Gomez seconded the motion.

Teresa McNab, Administrative Division Manager, stated that the item represented the annual Fiscal Year 2027 funding provided by the Arizona Supreme Court Administrative Office of the Courts. She explained that the majority of the funding would support salaries and employee-related expenses, with a smaller portion allocated for operating expenses such as drug testing kits.

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

19. Approve the Funding Agreement for the Arizona Criminal Justice Commission (ACJC) Drug, Gang, and Violent Crime Control Program (DGVCCP) Grant to enhance the ability of the courts to provide services for drug, gang, and/or related violent crime control efforts to deter, investigate, prosecute, adjudicate, and treat drug, gang, and related violent adult offenders, in the amount of \$71,536.81 and the required \$23,845.60 matching funds, effective July 1, 2026, through June 30, 2027.

Supervisor Gomez made a motion to approve the Funding Agreement for the Arizona Criminal Justice Commission (ACJC) Drug, Gang, and Violent Crime Control Program (DGVCCP) Grant to enhance the ability of the courts to provide services for drug, gang, and/or related violent crime control efforts to deter, investigate, prosecute, adjudicate, and treat drug, gang, and related violent adult offenders, in the amount of \$71,536.81 and the required \$23,845.60 matching funds, effective July 1, 2026, through June 30, 2027. Vice-Chairman Crosby seconded the motion.

Ms. McNab stated that the funding is now administered as a reimbursable grant, with the County reporting actual expenses for reimbursement. She explained that the grant funds 28% of salary and employee-related expenses for four employees: two presentence report writers and two pretrial surveillance officers who work with drug and drug-related cases.

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

Juvenile Probation

20. Approve Fiscal Year 2026-2027 Juvenile Probation Funding Agreement, as provided by the Arizona Supreme Court, Administrative Office of the Courts (AOC), in the amount of \$1,230,869, effective July 1, 2026, through June 30, 2027.

Vice-Chairman Crosby made a motion to approve Fiscal Year 2026-2027 Juvenile Probation Funding Agreement, as provided by the Arizona Supreme Court, Administrative Office of the Courts (AOC), in the amount of \$1,230,869, effective July 1, 2026, through June 30, 2027. Supervisor Gomez seconded the motion.

Ms. McNab stated that the juvenile probation funding is the annual funding provided by the Arizona Supreme Court Administrative Office of the Courts, similar to the Adult Probation funding. She explained that the funding primarily supports salaries and employee-related expenses, as well as juvenile programs including intake, diversion, consequences, and various treatment programs.

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

County Sheriff

21. Approve intergovernmental agreements between Cochise County and certain municipalities for the disbursement of funds received from the Howard G. Buffett Foundation for fire-related projects, and to authorize the appropriate County officials to execute the agreements and take such administrative actions as may be necessary to distribute the funds in accordance with the agreements.

Vice-Chairman Crosby made a motion to approve intergovernmental agreements between Cochise County and certain municipalities for the disbursement of funds received from the Howard G. Buffett Foundation for fire-related projects, and to authorize the appropriate County officials to execute the agreements and take such administrative actions as may be necessary to distribute the funds in accordance with the agreements. Chairman Antenori seconded the motion.

Mr. Hendel stated that the County had been working with the Sheriff's Office, municipalities, and special districts to distribute grant funds in accordance with Arizona law. He explained that the Cities of Willcox, Tombstone, and Benson had agreed to receive their respective funds through an intergovernmental agreement and that Board approval of the IGA was the final step necessary for the County to distribute the funds in accordance with its agreement with the Howard G. Buffett Foundation.

Supervisor Gomez expressed disappointment with the distribution of the Howard G. Buffett Foundation funding, stating that District 2 and several rural communities received little or no funding despite significant needs, particularly for wildfire and community fire response. She stated that she would continue advocating for rural districts and seek additional funding through the Legislature to provide a more equitable distribution of resources.

Allison Morse spoke in support and discussed the reasons.

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

County Treasurer

22. 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. 2026-032 to 2026-111.

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. 2026-032 to 2026-111. Vice-Chairman Crosby seconded the motion.

Catherine Traywick, County Treasurer, reported that approximately 71 property abatements totaling about \$38,000 were presented for consideration and thanked Corporal Art Estrada and Deputy Victor Martinez of the Sheriff's Office for their assistance with notifications, postings, and photographs. She noted that Item 61 reflected a zero-dollar abatement because the property owner paid the outstanding taxes after the paperwork was completed, and the property was being removed and destroyed.

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

Court Administration

23. Approve Fiscal Year 2027 Court Appointed Special Advocate (CASA) funding agreement with the Arizona Supreme Court, Administrative Office of the Courts (AOC) and the Cochise County Superior Court, in the amount of \$163,870, effective July 1, 2026, through June 30, 2027.

Supervisor Gomez made a motion to approve Fiscal Year 2027 Court Appointed Special Advocate (CASA) funding agreement with the Arizona Supreme Court, Administrative Office of the Courts (AOC) and the Cochise County Superior Court, in the amount of \$163,870, effective July 1, 2026, through June 30, 2027. Vice-Chairman Crosby seconded the motion.

Rita Shipley, Budget and Finance Director, stated that the CASA grant, provided by the Arizona Supreme Court, funds wages and operating expenses for two full-time equivalent positions, including one and one-half coordinator positions and one-half support position. She explained that the CASA program recruits, trains, and supports court-appointed volunteers who advocate for abused and neglected children in the court and foster care systems and remain involved until the case is closed, and the child is placed in a safe, permanent home.

In response to the Board, Ms. Shipley discussed efforts to recruit CASA volunteers through various advertising methods, including billboards, print advertisements, and grocery store carts. She explained that volunteers undergo an extensive screening process, including criminal background checks, polygraphs, and psychological evaluations, and noted that while the program has many volunteers from Sierra Vista, recruitment efforts this year will focus on increasing participation in the Benson area.

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

24. Certify that the total court revenues collected in Fiscal Year 2026 exceeded total court revenues collected in Fiscal Year 1998, and authorize distribution of the 5% set-aside revenues, pursuant to A.R.S. § 41-2421.

Vice-Chairman Crosby made a motion to certify that the total court revenues collected in Fiscal Year 2026 exceeded total court revenues collected in Fiscal Year 1998, and authorize

distribution of the 5% set-aside revenues, pursuant to A.R.S. § 41-2421. Supervisor Gomez seconded the motion.

Ms. Shipley requested that the Board certify that total court revenues collected during Fiscal Year 2026 exceeded the Fiscal Year 1998 baseline, as required under the Fill the Gap initiative for the courts, County Attorney, and Public Defender to receive their respective shares of revenue set-aside funds. She reported that Superior Court and Justice Court revenues totaled approximately \$8.1 million compared to \$2.1 million in Fiscal Year 1998, resulting in a 5% set-aside of \$331,806 for distribution to the criminal justice departments as provided by statute.

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

Health & Social Services

25. Approve Intergovernmental Agreement CTR081588, Public Health Emergency Preparedness Program, between Arizona Department of Health Services and Cochise County Health and Social Services, in the amount of \$241,241 effective June 30, 2026 to July 1, 2031.

Supervisor Gomez made a motion to approve Intergovernmental Agreement CTR081588, Public Health Emergency Preparedness Program, between Arizona Department of Health Services and Cochise County Health and Social Services, in the amount of \$241,241 effective June 30, 2026, to July 1, 2031. Vice-Chairman Crosby seconded the motion.

Marisa Owen, Emergency Preparedness Specialist, stated that the IGA continues the Public Health Emergency Preparedness Grant for an additional five years. She explained that the grant supports the County's ability to prepare community healthcare and medical systems by funding personnel, training and exercises, disease monitoring, redundant emergency communications, and coordination with healthcare and community partners.

Allison Morse spoke in support and discussed the reasons.

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

SEACOM

26. Approve Arizona Department of Administration 911 Funding Assistance Program for Fiscal Year July 1, 2026, through June 30, 2027, for \$262,000 between Arizona Department of Administration and Southern Eastern Arizona Communications SEACOM.

Vice-Chairman Crosby made a motion to approve Arizona Department of Administration 911 Funding Assistance Program for Fiscal Year July 1, 2026, through June 30, 2027, for \$262,000 between Arizona Department of Administration and Southern Eastern Arizona Communications SEACOM. Supervisor Gomez seconded the motion.

Tammi-Jo Wilkins, SEACOM Director, stated that the annual 911 Funding Assistance Program through the Arizona Department of Administration funds 911 equipment for three Public Safety Answering Points in Cochise County: SEACOM, Douglas, and Benson, with Cochise County serving as the fiscal agent. She explained that the funding is 100% reimbursable with no required County match and noted that the State initially planned to fund only 65% of the agreement but subsequently secured additional funding to provide 100% coverage.

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

STATE & FEDERAL LEGISLATION

27. 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 reported that Congress and the State Legislature were out of recess and stated that County representatives would attend the County Supervisors Association meeting on October 6, 2026, to discuss potential State legislation. He stated that he continued to engage with the legislative delegation and had spoken with Senator Gowan regarding additional ADOT funding for the Geronimo Trail Bridge.

Chairman Antenori stated that the County would seek State assistance to replace the bridge because sufficient HURF revenues were not available for the project. He explained that the County would also pursue an emergency exemption from the expenditure limitation to allow General Fund revenues to be used for any required County match without counting against the expenditure limit, noting the importance of restoring the bridge for residents, hunters, and visitors traveling in the area.

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

Ms. Gilman reported that staff and consultants would hold a jail planning workshop to review architectural design documents and identify additional cost reductions to keep the project within budget. She stated that updated design information would be presented to the Board during the November Jail District work session, and the Board requested that future jail updates also be provided as part of the Jail District report.

Ms. Gilman reported that poll worker training for the November 3 election was scheduled for Thursday and Friday and that an inspector was still needed for the Bowie Vote Center. She requested assistance identifying a qualified individual and noted that the person could reside outside the area, with lodging in Willcox available if necessary.

She reported that the City of Bisbee would consider an agreement on October 6, 2026, to terminate the IGA concerning Bisbee effluent because the border recharge project was no longer viable due to changes associated with the border wall; the termination agreement would subsequently come before the Board for approval.

Ms. Gilman provided an update regarding preparations for potential new world screwworm impacts in Cochise County. She reported that United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) aviation contractors had visited Bisbee-Douglas International Airport and were encouraged by the facility's ability to support operations once an agreement was reached, and that USDA would conduct a tabletop exercise on September 28 with State and County participants, including Public Health Emergency Preparedness, Sheriff's Range Patrol, and Emergency Management personnel. Ms. Gilman confirmed that there were no reported cases in Cochise County at that time.

Chairman Antenori adjourned the meeting at 12:40 p.m.

APPROVED:

Frank Antenori, Chairman

ATTEST:

Lara Loewenheim, Clerk of the Board