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

A regular board meeting of the Cochise County Board of Supervisors was held on Tuesday, October 27, 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; Jonathan Pinkney, Chief Civil Deputy County Attorney; Lara Loewenheim, Clerk of the Board

Chairman Antenori called the meeting to order at 10:17 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 provided updates on upcoming community events, election deadlines, and County initiatives. She announced the Trunk or Treat "Toys Come to Life" event at Eighth Street Park in Douglas, which will include accommodations for autism awareness, and outlined the following dates in chronological order.

- October 23, 2026, at 3:00 p.m. - The Cochise County Elections team had tabulated 14,596 early ballots at the Melody Lane facility in Bisbee.
- October 27, 2026 - The final recommended day for voters to return early ballots by mail.
- November 2, 2026, at 5:00 p.m. - Designated Cochise County early ballot drop boxes close.
- November 3, 2026, at 7:00 p.m. - The deadline for election officials to receive completed early ballots. Supervisor Gomez noted that voters could return ballots to any County Vote Center or the County Recorder's Office in Bisbee and that free Election Day transportation would be available in Douglas and Bisbee by calling (520) 417-7400.
- November 7, 2026 - The Cochise County Sheriff's Office Charity Ride will be held in Sierra Vista, with the starting time to be announced.
- November 9, 2026, from 10:00 a.m. to noon - A Cottage Food Industry informational event will be held at the Government Center in Douglas to provide guidance to individuals interested in selling homemade foods. Supervisor Gomez clarified that the program is regulated by the State rather than the Cochise County Health Department.
- November 11, 2026, at 10:00 a.m. - The Veterans Day Parade will take place in Douglas.
- November 14, 2026, at approximately 7:00 a.m. - The Borderlands Gravel bicycle racing event will

take place at Castro Park, bringing visitors and economic activity to the community.

- November 14, 2026, at 6:00 p.m. - A Little Joe y La Familia musical event will be held at 1703 Ninth Street, with doors opening at 6:00 p.m. and the performance beginning at 8:00 p.m.

Supervisor Gomez also announced that the County had established a data center webpage through Development Services to provide public access to submitted applications and related documents. She emphasized that proposed data center developments must follow the County's established ordinance, application procedures, and public hearing requirements, and encouraged residents to review available information, ask questions, and participate respectfully in the public process rather than rely on speculation or misinformation.

Report by District 3 Supervisor, Frank Antenori

Chairman Antenori reported attending the Opt-Out Community Potluck at Whitewater Draw with Supervisor Gomez, where residents shared innovative homebuilding techniques and discussed the County's owner-builder and alternative construction opt-out programs. He explained that qualifying properties of four acres or more may utilize these programs while still complying with applicable health and safety requirements, including septic systems, and clarified that opt-out permits do not authorize recreational vehicle camping without constructing a residence.

Chairman Antenori also reported attending the Pearce Fire District Open House, where more than $5,000 was raised for firefighting equipment. He acknowledged the financial challenges facing smaller fire districts and commended the district's fundraising efforts toward purchasing a new water tender truck, expressing interest in exploring potential County assistance in the future.

CALL TO THE PUBLIC

Alice R. Hamers spoke on various issues.
Cheryl Knott spoke on various issues.
Nancy Olmstead spoke on various issues.
Bruce Harris spoke on various issues.
Steve Marlatt spoke on various issues.
Patsy Nyberg spoke on various issues.
Allison Morse spoke on various issues.
Christie Brown spoke on various issues.

CONSENT

Board of Supervisors

1. Approve the Minutes of the regular meeting of the Board of Supervisors of October 13, 2026.

2. Approve the Arizona Governor's Office of Highway Safety Grant Agreement No. 2027-EM-007 with Cochise County serving as the pass-through agency for the Elfrida Fire District, for the purchase of emergency medical services equipment and supplies, in the amount of $39,779.

3. Approve an application for a Permanent Extension of Premises liquor license submitted by David Russell for Stargazer Ranch, LLC dba The Thirsty Lizard located at 5838 W. Double Adobe Road, McNeal, Arizona 85617.

4. Approve the 2027 Cochise County calendar reflecting the schedule of the Regular Board of Supervisor meetings for the calendar year 2027, the 2027 holidays and paydays, and authorize the Clerk of the Board to post the Public Notice of the 2027 meeting schedule.

County Sheriff

5. Approve Attorney General FY 2027 Victims Rights Program Award Agreement A.G. #: 2027-043, in the amount of $11,500.

Court Administration

6. Approve the Proclamation declaring November 13, 2026, as National Adoption Day in Cochise County.

Development Services

7. Adopt Resolution 26-35 authorizing the Development Services Director to submit an application to the Arizona Department of Housing in FFY2025–2026 Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) State Special Projects funding for the Blight Elimination and Property Stabilization Project and authorizing execution of related grant documents and project administration.

Finance

8. Approve demands and budget amendments for operating transfers.

Housing Authority

9. Approve the renewal grant application for the Housing Opportunities for Persons With AIDS (HOPWA) grant with the United States Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) for program administration by the Housing Authority of Cochise County, in the amount of $643,013, effective March 1, 2027, through February 28, 2030.

   Vice-Chairman Crosby made a motion to approve Consent agenda items 1 through 9. Supervisor Gomez seconded the motion.

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

ACTION

Health & Social Services

10. Approve Opioid Settlement Fund Proposals for various organizations to provide services to impacted communities as outlined in the attached proposals, in the amount of $1,405,025.24.

    Supervisor Gomez made a motion to approve Opioid Settlement Fund Proposals for various organizations to provide services to impacted communities as outlined in the attached proposals, in the amount of $1,405,025.24. Vice-Chairman Crosby seconded the motion.

    Barbara Lang, Cochise County Health Director, requested approval of six opioid settlement funding proposals totaling $1,405,025.24 for local organizations providing addiction prevention, treatment, recovery, and support services throughout Cochise County. The proposals included $65,919 for Cochise Harm Reduction to provide resources and justice services assistance; $279,030 for Cochise Health and Social Services to provide peer support and outreach to overdose survivors; $100,000 for Arizona Border Alliance to fund community resource navigators; $277,766.24 for the Cochise County Sheriff's Office to provide nursing staff, reentry services, and medication-assisted treatment for incarcerated individuals; $49,244 for the Sierra Vista Police Department to purchase fentanyl detection equipment; and $633,066 for the Cochise County Attorney's Office to support diversion, counseling, and recovery services. She explained that all proposals had been recommended by the Opioid Settlement Advisory Committee, with the Health and Social Services and County Attorney's Office proposals covering three years and the remaining proposals covering one year or a one-time purchase.

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

11. Approve CTR083318, Arizona State Opioid Response, between the Arizona Department of Health Services (ADHS) and Cochise County Health & Social Services (CCHSS), in the amount of $261,237, effective September 30, 2026, through September 29, 2031.

    Vice-Chairman Crosby made a motion to approve CTR083318, Arizona State Opioid Response, between the Arizona Department of Health Services (ADHS) and Cochise County Health & Social Services (CCHSS), in the amount of $261,237, effective September 30, 2026, through September 29, 2031. Supervisor Gomez seconded the motion.

    Kendra Allen, Cochise County Health Department Administrative Manager, explained that the Intergovernmental Agreement (IGA) begins a new five-year grant cycle supporting the County's Overdose Fatality Review Board and Link to Care Program. She stated that the funding supports the review and analysis of local overdose deaths and continued collaboration with the County Jail to connect individuals being released from incarceration with substance use treatment services, including transportation to treatment facilities.

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

PUBLIC HEARINGS

Board of Supervisors

12. Approve Series 9 Liquor Store new liquor license application submitted by Andrea Dahlman Lewkowitz for Mustang Corners Chevron on 2222 N Hwy 90, Huachuca City, AZ 85616.

    Supervisor Gomez made a motion to approve Series 9 Liquor Store new liquor license application submitted by Andrea Dahlman Lewkowitz for Mustang Corners Chevron on 2222 N Hwy 90, Huachuca City, AZ 85616. Vice-Chairman Crosby seconded the motion.

    Ms. Loewenheim presented a new Series 9 liquor license application for Mustang Corner

Chevron, noting that the application had been reviewed and recommended for approval by the appropriate County departments. She confirmed that property taxes were current, the required public notice and application had been posted in accordance with state law, no formal protests were received, and the applicant had paid the $100 processing fee. Board staff recommended approval of the application.

Chairman Antenori opened the Public Hearing. No one chose to speak.

Chairman Antenori closed the Public Hearing.

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

The Board took a 5 minute recess.

Development Services

13. Approve, modify, deny, or remand Docket SUA26-02, an appeal by Campbell A&Z, LLC (appellant) of the Planning and Zoning Commission's denial of a Special Use Authorization to allow a wireless communications facility with a 95' communications tower on tax parcel 104-56-003 near Highway 92 and Lower Stump Road in Hereford (Supervisor District 1).

    Vice-Chairman Crosby made a motion to approve, modify, deny, or remand Docket SUA26-02, an appeal by Campbell A&Z, LLC (appellant) of the Planning and Zoning Commission's denial of a Special Use Authorization to allow a wireless communications facility with a 95' communications tower on tax parcel 104-56-003 near Highway 92 and Lower Stump Road in Hereford (Supervisor District 1). Supervisor Gomez seconded the motion.

    Chairman Antenori opened the Public Hearing.

    Matthew Taylor, Planning Manager, presented this item using a PowerPoint presentation. Mr. Taylor presented an appeal of Special Use Docket SU26-13, submitted by Campbell A and Z, LLC, requesting authorization to construct a 95-foot wireless communications monopole tower on approximately five acres in the Stump Canyon area of Hereford. He explained that wireless communication facilities are permitted in rural zoning districts at a maximum height of 30 feet and that the special use request would allow the proposed height increase to 95 feet, along with reduced lease area setbacks. Mr. Taylor stated that the proposed tower would improve wireless coverage in southern Cochise County. He reported that 33 notices were mailed for the original application, resulting in 20 responses in opposition, and an additional 33 notices were mailed for the appeal, resulting in 16 responses in opposition. He explained that the applicant appealed the Commission’s decision, citing insufficient opportunity to address public concerns and asserting compliance with special use criteria and applicable federal telecommunications regulations. Mr. Taylor outlined the Board’s options to approve, modify, or deny the appeal or return the matter to the Commission for reconsideration. He concluded that staff recommended upholding the Commission’s denial based on public opposition and incompatibility with the surrounding area, but provided recommended conditions should the Board elect to approve the request.

    The Board and staff discussed the proposed 95-foot wireless communications tower in Hereford, including its location within an established rural residential neighborhood, existing cellular coverage, and potential improvements in service. Chairman Antenori questioned the tower’s placement, setback requirements, and safety concerns, while Vice-Chairman Crosby requested clarification of the coverage maps and surrounding properties. Supervisor Gomez expressed concerns regarding the necessity of additional cellular coverage, impacts on neighboring residences, and potential interference with aerial firefighting operations, with Mr.

Taylor explaining that staff's evaluation focused primarily on land use compatibility.

Michael Campbell a wireless communications consultant representing the tower developer, explained that the proposed 95-foot tower would accommodate cellular carriers, with Verizon serving as the primary tenant, and confirmed that the structure would meet the required setbacks from surrounding property boundaries. He reviewed Verizon's coverage maps, explaining that the proposed tower would address an existing service gap along Highway 92, improve wireless communications and public safety connectivity, and provide more reliable coverage in areas affected by mountainous terrain. In response to the Board's questions, Mr. Campbell stated that he had contacted approximately six to eight property owners regarding potential tower locations and determined that the proposed site was the most viable option based on property owner interest and availability.

Tyler Gentry, representing Verde Wireless, presented the appeal of the Planning and Zoning Commission's denial of the proposed 95-foot wireless communications tower, stating that the applicant believed insufficient time had been provided to address public opposition and that the decision should have been based on substantial, site-specific evidence. He explained that the proposed facility met or partially met most applicable zoning criteria and that environmental reviews found no significant impacts, while radiofrequency emissions were determined to be below federal public exposure limits. He also addressed concerns regarding property values and aerial firefighting operations, noting that the applicant proposed coordinating with the Federal Aviation Administration, Arizona Department of Forestry and Fire Management, and applicable dispatch agencies to ensure the tower was documented as a potential aerial obstruction.

- Inga McCord spoke in opposition and discussed the reasons.
- Samantha Sockness spoke in opposition and discussed the reasons.
- Virginia Plau Thompson spoke in opposition and discussed the reasons.
- Vicki Simmons spoke in opposition and discussed the reasons.
- Brett Thompson spoke in opposition and discussed the reasons.
- Pamela A. Renn spoke in opposition and discussed the reasons.
- Frank Hayes spoke in opposition and discussed the reasons.
- Jeffrey Durham spoke in opposition and discussed the reasons.
- Holly E. Richter spoke in opposition and discussed the reasons.
- Thomas D. Hildebrandt spoke in opposition and discussed the reasons.
- Rebecca Rogers spoke in opposition and discussed the reasons.
- John Boswell spoke in opposition and discussed the reasons.
- Gail Max spoke in opposition and discussed the reasons.
- Erica Jones spoke in opposition and discussed the reasons.
- Jonathan Wick spoke in opposition and discussed the reasons.
- Steven Max spoke in opposition and discussed the reasons.
- Robert A. Day spoke in opposition and discussed the reasons.

Supervisor Gomez expressed concerns regarding potential electromagnetic field exposure associated with the proposed wireless communications tower. She also raised concerns regarding the tower's proximity to approximately 35 homes and potential hazards to aerial firefighting operations, particularly during smoky conditions. She suggested that an alternative location may be more appropriate given the residential character of the area and the potential safety concerns.

Mr. Gentry stated that Verde Wireless had submitted a report to the County demonstrating that the proposed tower's radiofrequency emissions were well below federal public exposure limits. In response to Supervisor Gomez's questions, a representative of the opposition explained that residents had limited their comments regarding potential health concerns because they

understood those issues could not be considered as grounds for denial. Mr. Taylor clarified that, under the Telecommunications Act, the Board's evaluation must focus on land use considerations rather than perceived health impacts associated with radiofrequency emissions or electromagnetic fields.

Chairman Antenori questioned whether the tower would meet the required 95-foot setbacks from neighboring property lines and requested clarification of its placement, while Mr. Taylor explained that the location shown on the County's map was approximate and that the applicant had indicated compliance with property boundary setbacks. Mr. Taylor further clarified that the appeal concerned the Planning and Zoning Commission's unanimous denial of the special use authorization for a 95-foot wireless communications tower, which exceeded the 30-foot height permitted under existing zoning regulations and included a requested waiver of lease area setbacks.

Vice-Chairman Crosby made a motion to enter Executive Session. Supervisor Gomez seconded the motion.

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

The Board entered Executive Session at 12:39 p.m.

The Board came out of Executive Session at 12:57. Chairman Antenori stated for the record that, in addition to the Board members, the executive session was attended by Ms. Gilman, Mr. Pinkney, Ms. McLachlan, Mr. Taylor, and Mr. Casey.

Vice-Chairman Crosby moved to withdraw his previous motion regarding Agenda Item No. 13, and Supervisor Gomez seconded the motion.

Vice-Chairman Crosby moved to deny Docket SAU26-02, an appeal by Campbell A and Z, LLC, of the Planning and Zoning Commission's denial of a Special Use Authorization to allow a wireless communications facility with a 95-foot communications tower on Tax Parcel 104-56-003, near Highway 92 and Lower Stump Road in Hereford, Supervisor District 1. Supervisor Gomez seconded the motion.

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

Vice-Chairman Crosby left the meeting at 1:00 p.m.

14. Adopt Resolution 26-36 selecting the Spot Blight Elimination and Property Stabilization Project as Cochise County's proposed project for FFY2025–2026 Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) State Special Projects funding.

Supervisor Gomez made a motion to adopt Resolution 26-36 selecting the Spot Blight Elimination and Property Stabilization Project as Cochise County's proposed project for FFY2025–2026 Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) State Special Projects funding. Chairman Antenori seconded the motion.

Chairman Antenori opened the Public Hearing.

Christine McLachlan, Development Services Director, presented this item using a PowerPoint presentation. She explained that approximately $2.5 million was available statewide, with eligible counties permitted to apply for up to $750,000 for one project by the November 6, 2026, deadline. She outlined the County's proposed Spot Blight Elimination and Property Stabilization Project, which would fund demolition, debris removal, and site stabilization of

abandoned or severely deteriorated manufactured homes in low to moderate income communities. Eligible properties must be located outside designated floodplains, have current or previous code compliance actions, and meet the program's eligibility requirements. Ms. McLachlan reported that nine potential sites had been identified and summarized public comments received during the October 6, 2026 hearing, including support for blight elimination in the Bay Acres community and a suggestion for a public park. She stated that the project supported the Board's priorities, the County's Comprehensive Plan, and the recently adopted Housing Strategy and Implementation Plan. Ms. McLachlan requested that the Board consider adopting a resolution selecting the proposed project for the County's grant application, after which staff would finalize eligible properties, complete required reviews, and refine the project budget for submission by November 6, 2026.

Ms. McLachlan clarified that abandoned or deteriorated manufactured homes supported by piers or concrete blocks would be eligible, provided they met the grant requirements. Supervisor Gomez expressed support for the project, citing concerns regarding abandoned structures, drug activity, mosquito breeding, and public safety hazards in affected communities. Chairman Antenori questioned the anticipated grant amount, project selection process, and whether the Board would have an opportunity to approve the grant award. Ms. McLachlan explained that although the County could request up to $750,000, staff was considering a smaller request of approximately $250,000 and would be required to identify specific project sites and complete environmental reviews before submitting the application. The Board and staff further discussed prioritizing eligible properties based on available funding, with the understanding that the Board would consider acceptance of any grant award at a later date.

Tricia Gerrodette expressed confusion regarding the proposed grant application, explaining that she initially understood the funding would support one project totaling $750,000 rather than multiple properties comprising a single application. She expressed concern about providing meaningful public comment without knowing the specific project locations.

Chairman Antenori closed the Public Hearing.

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

15. Adopt Zoning Ordinance 26-16 to rezone tax parcel 206-21-307A from SR-43 (Single-Household Residential District, one dwelling per 43,000 square feet) to RU-2 (Rural District, one dwelling per 2 acres) pursuant to the application of Chaquitta Smith (Supervisor District 3).

Supervisor Gomez made a motion to adopt Zoning Ordinance 26-16 to rezone tax parcel 206-21-307A from SR-43 (Single-Household Residential District, one dwelling per 43,000 square feet) to RU-2 (Rural District, one dwelling per 2 acres) pursuant to the application of Chaquitta Smith (Supervisor District 3). Chairman Antenori seconded the motion.

Chairman Antenori opened the Public Hearing.

Mr. Taylor presented this item using a PowerPoint presentation. He explained that the applicant sought the rezoning to allow placement of a manufactured home meeting HUD standards as the primary residence, with the existing smaller single-family residence serving as an accessory dwelling unit (ADU). Mr. Taylor noted that the property was located near existing rural residential zoning and that the proposed use was compatible with the surrounding development pattern. He stated that the request complied with all nine applicable rezoning evaluation factors and that two neighboring property owners submitted comments in support, with no opposition received. Mr. Taylor reported that the Planning and Zoning Commission recommended approval by a vote of 8-1 at its October 14, 2026, meeting, with the dissenting

vote reflecting concerns regarding manufactured housing. Staff also recommended approval of Docket RZ26-06 without special conditions.

Chaquitta Smith, applicant, stated that her intention was to properly develop and maintain her property and place a manufactured home on the property for her family's use.

Chairman Antenori closed the Public Hearing.

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

STATE & FEDERAL LEGISLATION

16. 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 Elections are Tuesday, November 3, 2026.

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

Ms. Gilman reported on two recent interactions with the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA). She stated that the County's Request for Qualifications (RFQ) for the animal shelter design-bid-build project had been submitted to USDA and was under review at its national office in Washington, D.C. She also reported that USDA successfully conducted a test flight for sterile fly distribution at BDI on Saturday, with customs processing, landing, takeoff, and other operational procedures completed without issues.

Chairman Antenori adjourned the meeting at 1:22 p.m.

APPROVED:

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Frank Antenori, Chairman

ATTEST:

_____
Lara Loewenheim, Clerk of the Board