PROCEEDINGS OF THE COCHISE COUNTY JAIL DISTRICT BOARD OF DIRECTORS
MEETING HELD ON
TUESDAY, OCTOBER 27, 2026

A meeting of the Cochise County Jail District Board of Directors 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 10:05 a.m.

CONSENT

Board of Directors

1. Approve the Minutes of the Cochise County Jail District Board of Directors meeting for October 13, 2026.

2. Approve demands and budget amendments for operating transfers.

   Vice-Chairman Crosby made a motion to approve Consent agenda items 1 and 2. Supervisor Gomez seconded the motion.

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

ACTION

Board of Directors

3. Adopt Resolution 26-01 Clarifying the Rates of the Cochise County Jail District Excise Tax Levied by Jail District Resolution 25-04.

   Supervisor Gomez made a motion to adopt Resolution 26-01 clarifying the Rates of the Cochise County Jail District Excise Tax Levied by Jail District Resolution 25-04. Vice-Chairman Crosby seconded the motion.

Ms. Gilman explained that the resolution clarifies the Arizona Department of Revenue's transaction privilege tax tables to ensure the Jail District collects the correct 0.55% tax rate, rather than 0.50%, from online lodging marketplaces, consistent with transient lodging tax collections. She stated that the clarification would allow the Arizona Department of Revenue to begin collecting the appropriate tax rate from online lodging marketplace vendors.

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

4. Amend the previously approved New Jail Project budget for design, engineering, and construction costs from $130 million to a not-to-exceed amount of $160 million.

   Vice-Chairman Crosby made a motion to amend the previously approved New Jail Project budget for design, engineering, and construction costs from $130 million to a not-to-exceed amount of $160 million. Supervisor Gomez seconded the motion.

   Ms. Gilman explained that ongoing design and planning efforts had reduced the estimated cost of the new jail from nearly $300 million to approximately $130 million; however, those reductions would limit bed capacity to 305 and eliminate certain medical facilities, staff safety improvements, and courtroom efficiencies previously requested by the Board. She requested that the Board consider increasing the project budget to $160 million to preserve those essential features and additional capacity, noting that financing options would be presented for consideration if the increased budget were approved.

   Vice-Chairman Crosby expressed concerns regarding the lack of a comprehensive plan and cost estimates for renovating the existing jail, stating that voters may have reconsidered their support had the full costs been disclosed in the ballot language. He also questioned the handling of the original election and concerns regarding inactive voters not receiving ballots or informational pamphlets, and stated that he would vote against the proposed budget increase.

   Supervisor Gomez emphasized the need for a new jail, noting that approximately 65% of detainees experience mental health issues and that the existing facility presents significant safety concerns, including doors requiring manual unlocking during emergencies. She stressed the importance of humane treatment for detainees and stated that the deteriorating conditions create potential liability for the County, encouraging individuals to tour the facility to better understand the need for replacement.

   Chairman Antenori explained that significant increases in concrete, steel, and fuel costs contributed to construction inflation, prompting Jail District stakeholders to reduce various aspects of the original jail design to make the project financially feasible. He stated that the proposed budget increase would not affect the current sales tax rate and that the County could potentially repay the financing within the originally anticipated 13-year period, with additional financing options and repayment details to be discussed as the project progresses .

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

REPORT BY SHARON GILMAN, COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR -- NEW JAIL CONSTRUCTION UPDATE

Ms. Gilman reported that weekly meetings are held with the Sheriff's Jail Commander, County Administration, and jail planning consultants to review progress on the new jail design documents and coordinate project planning. She explained that the County is currently conducting a two-phase procurement process involving a Request for Qualifications (RFQ) followed by a Request for Proposals (RFP), with contractor interviews anticipated and a design-build contract award expected in late March.

Chairman Antenori adjourned the meeting at 10:17 a.m.

APPROVED:

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Frank Antenori, Chairman

ATTEST:

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Lara Loewenheim, Clerk of the Board