

**PROCEEDINGS OF THE COCHISE COUNTY JAIL DISTRICT PUBLIC OUTREACH COMMITTEE
MEETING HELD ON
FRIDAY, OCTOBER 21, 2022**

A meeting of the Cochise County Jail District Public Outreach Committee was held on Friday, October 21, 2022 at 9:00 a.m. in the Board of Supervisors' Executive Conference Room, 1415 Melody Lane, Building G, Bisbee, Arizona.

Present: James Conlogue, Chair; Frank Antenori, Committee Member; David DiPeso, Committee Member; Tony Isom, Committee Member; Jon Kosmider, Committee Member; Jennifer Lakosil, Committee Member; Katie Miller, Committee Member; Eric Petermann, Committee Member; John Pintek, Committee Member; Paul Sheats, Committee Member

Absent: Danya Acosta, Vice-Chair; Kay Gojkovich, Committee Member

Staff Present: Richard G. Karwaczka, County Administrator
Sharon Gilman, Deputy County Administrator
Kris Carlson, Civil Deputy County Attorney
Tim Mattix, Clerk of the Board

Attendees: Mark Dannels, Sheriff
Kenneth Bradshaw, Commander
Ariel Monge, Lieutenant

Chair Conlogue called the meeting to order at 9:01 a.m.

ANY ITEM ON THIS AGENDA IS OPEN FOR DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION

THE ORDER OR DELETION OF ANY ITEM ON THIS AGENDA IS SUBJECT TO MODIFICATION AT THE MEETING

1. Action to approve the use of a proxy for members who are unable to attend the October 21, 2022 Jail District Public Outreach Committee meeting.

Mr. Karwaczka stated that the Committee is being asked whether or not to accept the use of a proxy for voting today. Committee Member Gojkovich was unable to attend and submitted a request to appoint Committee Pintek to vote on her behalf.

Committee Member Petermann made a motion to accept the use of a proxy for members unable to attend today's meeting. Committee Member Antenori seconded the motion and it was approved on a voice vote 11-0 (Committee Member Pintek voted as a proxy on behalf of Committee Member Gojkovich; Vice-Chair Acosta absent).

2. Action to approve the minutes of the Jail District Public Outreach Committee Meeting of September 23, 2022.

Chair Conlogue stated that at the last meeting, the Committee amended the September 23, 2022 minutes, to add safety and security of staff and inmates. Mr. Karwaczka stated that the Committee amended the minutes; however, staff reviewed the recording and verified that the information was not discussed during the meeting. Judge Conlogue noted that it was discussed during his tour, which was not a part of the meeting and cannot be included in the meeting minutes.

In response to the Committee, Mr. Mattix confirmed that discussions regarding security of the yard were included in the minutes.

Committee Member Miller made a motion to approve the minutes of the Jail District Public Outreach Committee Meeting of September 23, 2022. Committee Member Kosmider seconded the motion and it was approved on a voice vote 11-0 (Committee Member Pintek voted as a proxy on behalf of Committee Member Gojkovich; Vice-Chair Acosta absent).

3. Action to approve the minutes of the Jail District Public Outreach Committee Meeting of October 7, 2022.

Committee Member Pintek made a motion to approve the minutes of the Jail District Public Outreach Committee Meeting of October 7, 2022. Committee Member Antenori seconded the motion and it was approved on a voice vote 11-0 (Committee Member Pintek voted as a proxy on behalf of Committee Member Gojkovich; Vice-Chair Acosta absent).

4. Authorize Mr. Richard G. Karwaczka, County Administrator, to sign the minutes of the October 21, 2022 Jail District Public Outreach Committee meeting.

Chair Conlogue summarized the item. Mr. Karwaczka stated that this would allow him to sign; it is a formality.

Committee Member Petermann made a motion to authorize Mr. Richard G. Karwaczka, County Administrator, to sign the minutes of the October 21, 2022 Jail District Public Outreach Committee meeting. Committee Member Pintek seconded the motion and it was approved on a voice vote 11-0 (Committee Member Pintek voted as a proxy on behalf of Committee Member Gojkovich; Vice-Chair Acosta absent).

5. Presentation by Mr. Richard G. Karwaczka, County Administrator, and discussion: Next steps in the Jail District process.

Mr. Karwaczka presented this item. He stated that the Board of Supervisors (Board) is required by statute to adopt a Resolution to consider a Jail District. This Resolution will authorize public notice to be printed and posted for three weeks in a row, to allow for public comment at the November 15, 2022, Board meeting, which starts at 10:00 a.m. The Board meets today at 11:00 a.m. to adopt the Resolution to consider the Jail District.

Chair Conlogue noted that today's Board meeting is public and all on the Committee may attend. He also encouraged the Committee to attend the Board meeting on November 15, 2022. Committee Members are also welcome to submit written comments to the Board.

6. Discussion and action to approve a recommendation, based on the information provided at all previous meetings, from the Jail District Public Outreach Committee to the Board of Supervisors regarding the following:
- Recommendation on whether or not to form a Jail District; and
 - Possible recommendation on whether to build a new County Jail or rehabilitate the existing facility.

Pursuant to A.R.S. § 38-431.03(A)(9), the Committee may vote to go into Executive Session for discussions with designated representatives of the public body in order to discuss security plans, procedures, assessments, measures or systems relating to, or having an impact on, the security or safety of buildings, facilities, operations, critical infrastructure information and information technology maintained by the public body.

Chair Conlogue stated that this item is for the Committee to make its recommendation on whether to form a Jail District and on whether to build a new Jail or rehabilitate the existing facility. He stated his concerns about the limited lifetime of the existing Jail and that it does not have capacity to meet the anticipated need.

Committee Member Antenori stated that he appreciates the data received; it shows that there are significant costs to maintain the existing Jail. He stated his concerns regarding locating it near the existing Jail, and that there is most likely a better location for it; a cost-benefit analysis of the location should be done before a new Jail is built. He recommended that more work be done before going out to the voters, to provide detailed information about the full impact of a Jail District, to assist voters in making a decision. He stated his agreement that a new Jail is needed.

Committee Member Pintek stated his agreement that a new Jail is needed. He discussed his thoughts regarding the location, and recommended that a new Jail be located in Miracle Valley, or in Sierra Vista, due to the population.

Committee Member Antenori clarified his opinion that he does not see a problem with the Board voting to approve the Jail District; he believes that, prior to referring a tax to the voters, additional research should be done. Information regarding cost and location should be placed in the publicity pamphlet so that voters have detailed information available to help people understand the purposes for which the tax will be used. The geographic location that would result in the same length drive from all places in the County, except Douglas, would put the Jail somewhere between Benson and Willcox.

In response to the Committee, Mr. Karwaczka stated that future steps, after the election, include hiring experts to look at topics such as the building itself and the location. It is very costly to obtain this specific data. Committee Member Antenori recommended a limited, short-term sales tax increase for the costs to gather the data, and then going back out to the voters when the information is ready. He expressed his preference that funding be used efficiently and for the best possible Jail.

Committee Member Sheats stated his agreement that a new Jail is needed and that the location needs to be looked at. He expressed concern regarding a tax increase being proposed without providing more information regarding the cost, location, and timing. He stated his agreement that more work needs to be done prior to going to the voters.

Committee Member DiPeso stated his agreement that a cost analysis needs to be done; it could include an analysis of rehabilitating the existing Jail to compare with a new Jail. This could demonstrate that a remodel is more difficult than individuals think. He stated his concern with the location.

Committee Member Petermann noted that the Committee is looking at the current population; however, the new Port of Entry in Douglas may have an impact that shifts the demographics of the County.

Committee Member Lakosil stated that, due to safety and security of inmates and staff, she thinks a new Jail is needed and supports a recommendation to form a Jail District. She discussed a recent \$4 million settlement in the San Diego Jail due to overcrowding.

In response to the Committee, Mr. Karwaczka stated that there is concern of spending time and money now, and the possibility of voters not approving it. If a Jail District is passed, the funding that comes in would be used for the planning process.

Committee Member Miller discussed messaging to the voters. A recent group meeting she participated in resulted in positive feedback for the Jail District. She supports getting basic information to the people prior to the vote. Safety is important to the Community. She discussed costs if a new Jail is not built and everyone sharing in the cost of a sales tax.

Sheriff Dannels discussed the community's trust in Law Enforcement and efforts to raise funding, including \$20 million from the State of Arizona. The Committee and Sheriff Dannels discussed trust in government in general and concerns about cash flow without a clear guide on how it will be spent and who it will pass through before it reaches the Sheriff. Committee Member Antenori discussed the difficulty of increasing sales taxes and reiterated his thoughts regarding gathering data prior to the election.

Chair Conlogue stated his support of building a new Jail and concerns with attempting to rehabilitate the existing Jail.

The Committee and Mr. Karwaczka discussed the County's existing half-cent sales tax, and challenges with utilizing a property tax rather for the Jail District, as discussed at the October 7, 2022 Committee meeting.

Committee Member Isom stated that everything he would consider has been addressed, such as the location and where the tax dollars would be drawn from.

Committee Member Miller made a motion to recommend that a Jail District be formed. Committee Member Pintek seconded the motion and it was approved on a voice vote 11-0 (Committee Member Pintek voted as a proxy on behalf of Committee Member Gojkovich; Vice-Chair Acosta absent).

Committee Member Petermann made a motion to recommend that a new Jail be built. Committee Member Antenori seconded the motion and it was approved on a voice vote 11-0 (Committee Member Pintek voted as a proxy on behalf of Committee Member Gojkovich; Vice-Chair Acosta absent).

Chair Conlogue stated that this is the Committee's last meeting. He encouraged Committee Members to attend the November 15, 2022 Board Meeting, and to provide their input to the Board. He thanked staff and Sheriff's Office presenters, and those who work at the Jail. He stressed the importance and benefits of discussion from today's meeting, regarding the importance of providing detailed information to voters.

Mr. Karwaczka thanked the Committee Members for their participation and involvement in the process. He will include the Committee Members in future steps. Sheriff Dannels thanked the Committee Members for their participation.

Chair Conlogue made a motion to adjourn the meeting sine die. Committee Member Petermann seconded the motion and it was approved 11-0 (Committee Member Pintek voted as a proxy on behalf of Committee Member Gojkovich; Vice-Chair Acosta absent).

Chair Conlogue adjourned the meeting at 9:57 a.m.

APPROVED:

Richard G. Karwaczka, County Administrator

ATTEST:

Tim Mattix, Clerk of the Board