

**PROCEEDINGS OF THE COCHISE COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
REGULAR MEETING HELD ON
TUESDAY, OCTOBER 10, 2023**

A regular board meeting of the Cochise County Board of Supervisors was held on Tuesday, October 10, 2023 at 10:00 a.m. in the Board of Supervisors' Hearing Room, 1415 Melody Lane, Building G, Bisbee, Arizona.

Present: Peggy Judd, Chairman; Tom Crosby, Vice-Chairman; Ann English, Supervisor
Staff Richard G. Karwaczka, County Administrator; Sharon Gilman, Deputy County
Present: Administrator/Interim Clerk of the Board; Christine Roberts, Chief Civil Deputy County
Attorney; Lara Loewenheim, Deputy Clerk of the Board

Chairman Judd called the meeting to order at 10:17 a.m.

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

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

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

CALL TO THE PUBLIC

Alfred Kern discussed concerns about the condition of the roads in his area, particularly regarding access for fire trucks and emphasized the need for the issue to be addressed.

Allison Morse discussed her attendance at a logic and accuracy test, requested that video observers have audio access during future tests, encouraged all Supervisors to attend and reminded the public about the voter registration deadline for the November 7th election.

Joan Ann Murphy discussed her concern about reverting to precincts instead of vote centers, highlighted the success, cost-effectiveness, convenience, and security of voting centers since 2015, and emphasized their positive outcomes.

Elizabeth Lopez expressed concerns about a toxic environment in Cochise County, citing instances of defamation, bullying, and threats, including an incident at the County Fair where a man verbally harassed her husband, and urged people to stand up for truth, justice, and the rule of law.

Vice-Chairman Crosby questioned whether incidents at the fair fall under the control of the Board of Supervisors.

Jeff Sturges asserted that statements made about him by citizens at the last Board of Supervisors meeting constituted slander, emphasized that false accusations of harassment at the Cochise County Fair were damaging to his reputation, and mentioned his consideration of

legal action unless public apologies were issued.

Joni Giacomino discussed statements made about incidents at the Cochise County Fair, and recounted her positive experiences at the fair until a disruptive encounter with a booth worker who verbally accosted her, and expressed concern about the unfair removal of two individuals from the fair based on incomplete information.

Renee Beniot expressed her disagreement with the idea of having only one day of in-person voting, citing that early voting and mail-in ballots are protected by law, voiced her support of vote centers and mentioned concerns about the cost and the need to allocate resources elsewhere.

Tamara Birch expressed concerns about the elections department and upcoming election procedures and voiced opposition to reverting back to precinct voting, citing concerns about the lack of resources and efficiency.

Sally Carpenter expressed gratitude and admiration for the voting system in Cochise County.

CONSENT

Board of Supervisors

1. Approve the Minutes of the regular meeting of the Board of Supervisors of September 26, 2023.

County Attorney

2. Approve the Victims' Rights Program (VRP) Award Agreement (AG) 2024-002, between the Arizona Attorney General and the Cochise County Attorney's Office, in the amount of \$20,600, effective July 1, 2023, through June 30, 2024.

County Sheriff

3. Approve an increase of \$20,000 from \$95,745 to \$115,746, to Grant Agreement HT-23-2912, approved on July 11, 2023, with the City of Tucson, Southwest Border Arizona Region High Intensity Drug Trafficking Area (HIDTA) Program, and the Cochise County Sheriff's Office, to participate in the Southern Arizona Major Investigative Team (SAMIT) for salaries, partial fringe benefits (ERE), services, and supplies, effective January 1, 2023 through December 31, 2024.

Finance

4. Approve demands and budget amendments for operating transfers.

Supervisor English made a motion to approve Consent Agenda items 1 through 4. Vice-Chairman Crosby seconded the motion and it was carried unanimously.

PUBLIC HEARINGS

Board of Supervisors

5. Approve Series 10 (Beer and Wine) new liquor license application submitted by Francisco Javier Romero, for Dollar General Store #22613, located at 9527 E. Highway 92, Hereford, AZ 85615.

Vice-Chairman Crosby made a motion to approve Series 10 (Beer and Wine) new liquor license application submitted by Francisco Javier Romero, for Dollar General Store #22613, located at 9527 E. Highway 92, Hereford, AZ 85615. Supervisor English seconded the motion.

Chairman Judd opened the Public Hearing.

Ms. Loewenheim presented a liquor license application for a new beer and wine store at Dollar General store number 22613 in Hereford, and stated that the application has been reviewed, recommended for approval by relevant departments, and met all necessary requirements with no formal protests received.

Rebekah (Allen) Jones spoke in opposition to this item and discussed the reasons.

Discussion ensued between the Board and staff regarding the requirements being met for approval at the County level.

Chairman Judd closed the Public Hearing.

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

6. Approve Series 10 (Beer and Wine) new liquor license application submitted by Francisco Javier Romero, for Dollar General Store #21406, located at 2295 N. Highway 90, Huachuca City, AZ 85616.

Supervisor English made a motion to approve Series 10 (Beer and Wine) new liquor license application submitted by Francisco Javier Romero, for Dollar General Store #21406, located at 2295 N. Highway 90, Huachuca City, AZ 85616. Vice-Chairman Crosby seconded the motion.

Chairman Judd opened the Public Hearing.

Ms. Loewenheim stated this application has been reviewed, recommended for approval by relevant departments, and met all necessary requirements with no formal protests received.

No one chose to speak and Chairman Judd closed the Public Hearing.

Supervisor English emphasized the importance of following established procedures in the approval process for beer and wine licenses, clarifying that the board's role is not to make moral decisions but to ensure adherence to the necessary steps, with the final decision resting with the state.

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

ACTION

Facilities

7. Approve Proposal 7349199 with Trane U.S. Inc. for the replacement of one Heating, Ventilation and Air Conditioning (HVAC) unit at 1415 Melody Lane, Bldg F in the amount of \$119,711, effective October 10, 2023.

Vice-Chairman Crosby made a motion to approve Proposal 7349199 with Trane U.S. Inc. for the replacement of one Heating, Ventilation and Air Conditioning (HVAC) unit at 1415 Melody Lane, Bldg F in the amount of \$119,711, effective October 10, 2023. Supervisor English seconded the motion.

Darrel Crowley, Interim Facilities Director, presented this item. Mr. Crowley stated that current HVAC is over the age of use and needs to be replaced. In response to the Board, Mr. Karwaczka stated that these improvements are budgeted but when the cost exceeds \$50,000, it requires approval from the Board. Discussion ensued between the Board and staff regarding the \$50,000 threshold being set many years ago and that an increase could be revisited and taken to the Board.

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

REPORT BY RICHARD G. KARWACZKA, COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR -- RECENT AND PENDING COUNTY MATTERS

Mr. Karwaczka announced the upcoming launch of a fraud reporting button for county employees, allowing them to report fraud, waste, or abuse anonymously through various channels, including email, QR code, intranet, and ADP workforce now.

SUMMARY OF CURRENT EVENTS

Report by District 1 Supervisor, Tom Crosby

Vice-Chairman Crosby deferred his report.

Report by District 2 Supervisor, Ann English

Supervisor English reported on her attendance at the Veterans Expo in Douglas, and highlighted the presence of 70 vendors offering services to veterans. Additionally, she shared information about the ribbon cutting at the McNeal solar farm, and emphasized its significance.

Report by District 3 Supervisor, Peggy Judd

Chairman Judd deferred her report.

Chairman Judd adjourned the meeting at 11:04 a.m.

APPROVED:

Peggy Judd, Chairman

ATTEST:

Sharon Gilman, Deputy Clerk of the Board