

**PROCEEDINGS OF THE COCHISE COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
WORK SESSION HELD ON
THURSDAY, JULY 27, 2023**

A work session of the Cochise County Board of Supervisors was held on Thursday, July 27, 2023, at 10:00 a.m. in the Board of Supervisors' Executive Conference Room, 1415 Melody Lane, Building G, Bisbee, Arizona.

Present: Peggy Judd, Chairman; Tom Crosby, Vice-Chairman; Ann English, Supervisor

Staff Present: Richard G. Karwaczka, County Administrator
Sharon Gilman, Deputy County Administrator/Interim Clerk of the Board
Lara Loewenheim, Deputy Clerk of the Board

Chairman Judd called the meeting to order at 10:01 a.m.

ANY ITEM ON THIS AGENDA IS OPEN FOR DISCUSSION

ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION

Board of Supervisors

1. Discussion and possible direction regarding County animal shelter agreements and projects.

Ms. Gilman presented this item using a PowerPoint presentation and answered questions from the Board throughout. Ms. Gilman provided information about the progress of various animal shelter projects and explored partnerships, including one with the Humane Society of Southern Arizona. Ms. Gilman presented a historical context of the projects, including the closure of the Huachuca City shelter in 2018 and subsequent developments. Discussions also touched upon an agreement with the Humane Society to transport animals from Douglas and the potential renewal of that agreement.

Ms. Gilman discussed the grant the County received from USDA. She stated the letter of conditions stipulates that the county's funds must be spent before the grant funds. Extensions to the project may be possible if significant progress is demonstrated, but sitting on the funds without progress is not advisable. She explained the anticipated budget for the USDA Shelter Project.

Ms. Gilman provided an overview of next steps for shelter design. The selected architecture company, led by Richard Fe Tom, has extensive experience in animal care facility design, including projects in various locations. The project delivery process was outlined, with step one involving discussions on design concepts and cost estimates, followed by potential fundraising efforts.

Ms. Gilman also discussed future partnerships are possible with Benson and Sierra Vista.

Ms. Gilman raised concerns about the compensation level and retention of Animal

Control Officers (ACOs) and suggested a need for further evaluation. Finally, staff emphasized the importance of public outreach to ensure that the community understands the project's progress and vision.

Sheriff Dannels expressed his concerns about taking ownership of a shelter without proper policies, procedures, and budget allocation. Concerns were raised about the suitability of a Whetstone facility and the need for a partner like the Humane Society to manage the shelter. Mr. Dannels stated there is a potential alternative facility, the Marsh Development in Huachuca City.

Ms. Gilman asked for clear direction from the board regarding the Tovreaville Road project and whether to continue with the existing plan or explore other options, specifically the Whetstone property. The Board expressed interest in obtaining more information about the Whetstone property, but not necessarily through an official appraisal. The Sheriff's Office was discussed as a potential entity to take ownership of a shelter facility if there were a change in direction. The Board agreed to reconvene in two weeks to further discuss the matter and potentially tour the Whetstone property.

Chairman Judd adjourned the meeting at 11:09 a.m.

APPROVED:

Peggy Judd, Chairman

ATTEST:

Sharon Gilman, Interim Clerk of the Board