

**PROCEEDINGS OF THE COCHISE COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
WORK SESSION HELD ON
TUESDAY, AUGUST 8, 2023**

A work session of the Cochise County Board of Supervisors was held on Tuesday, August 8, 2023, at 1:00 p.m. in the Board of Supervisors' Executive Conference Room, 1415 Melody Lane, Building G, Bisbee, Arizona.

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

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

Attendees: Marty Haverty, Public Works Director
Jackie Watkins, Engineering & Natural Resources Director
Jason Faccio, Operations Superintendent, Highways
Fred Nixon, Operations Superintendent, Fleet
Robert Hill, Operations Superintendent, Solid Waste

Chairman Judd called the meeting to order at 1:00 p.m.

ANY ITEM ON THIS AGENDA IS OPEN FOR DISCUSSION

ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION

Board of Supervisors

1. Discussion and possible direction regarding the Public Works Department Informational Update, including the following topics:
 - Highways Quarterly Workplan;
 - Solid Waste Division Update; and,
 - Light and Heavy Fleet Divisions Update.

Mr. Haverty presented this item and answered questions from the Board throughout. Mr. Haverty stated that he would like to start by giving the Board an overview of what was done last year. He stated that last year the County's Light Fleet consisted of 410 vehicles that drove 5.2 million miles, used 340,000 gallons of fuel, and averaged 15.4 miles per gallon. The average vehicle drove 12,000 miles and is serviced every 6,000 miles for a total of 870 vehicles serviced.

In response to the Board, Mr. Haverty stated that the Sheriff's new vehicles take up to 6 months to be completed by the upfitter. The upfitter installs the radios and other auxiliary equipment. Airwave in Tucson, Pride and MHQ in Phoenix are the vendors that are used to update the vehicles. Mr. Haverty discussed the challenges with upfitting these vehicles, such as wait time behind other agencies such as Maricopa County. There are currently six vehicles waiting to be upfitted. The Board and Staff discussed the pit maneuver vehicles ordered by the Sheriff's Office. The pit maneuver vehicles are on

order and will go to the upfitter once received. Mr. Haverty stated current Fleet Staff are not used for upfits. Mr. Haverty stated that a part-time porter currently washes the vehicles and stated that in the past they have used inmates and other part-time employees. Many employees will wash their own vehicles.

Mr. Haverty stated that he does not have an update on Heavy Fleet but will have one in his next update. He stated that when fuel prices go up \$.10 to \$.20 per gallon it affects the budget, which is primarily from the general fund, but through the past year, fuel prices have remained stable.

[Video and audio connection was lost at 1:09:09 pm]

Mr. Haverty moved on to the Solid Waste division and discussed tipping fees and the difference between Fiscal Year 2022 and 2023 and that those fees cover costs and allow funds to be set aside for the new cell that is being developed.

[Video and audio connection was regained at 1:11:05 pm]

Mr. Haverty stated that tonnage has been stable at 81,000 tons, which equates to 2000 pounds per household, which is the national average. He stated that they charge \$64 per ton and last year's revenue was \$6 million and this year's revenue was \$20,000 more. Wages were increased by \$200,000 to get employee wages up to market. Mr. Haverty stated that they are attempting to keep heavy fleet equipment in service longer, which will decrease the replacement budget and increase the maintenance budget. In response to the Board, Mr. Haverty stated that all equipment is owned by the County and nothing is leased.

Mr. Haverty explained that \$206,846 is set aside each year, by law, for the future closing of the landfill to show the County's financial capability to close the landfill. Mr. Haverty stated that many budget lines were reduced to assure funds were set aside for Cell 5 development for a total of \$900,000. He stated that \$200,000 was set aside for transfer station improvements. Mr. Haverty reviewed the total expenses and explained that the reduction in profit from last year to this year was due to the funds set aside for Cell Development. He stated that the reduction in profit per ton is an indicator that they may have to look into increasing the tipping fee, but these costs will be monitored throughout the year.

In response to the Board, Mr. Haverty stated that increased tonnage greatly decreases the cost per ton and the County makes \$150,000 to \$200,000 per year recycling metal. He stated that vendors have been contacted to get the cardboard balers repaired and cardboard brings in \$35 per ton, which reduces the amount of cardboard going into the landfill.

Mr. Haverty stated that the last Cell was built in 2017 at a cost of approximately \$2.1 million and, through management and workers, have made it last almost 8 years. He stated that historically, 1.6 million tons have been brought into the facility since it was opened in 2001 which is \$245 million received from the four existing Cells. Mr. Haverty estimated that this site could last another 56 to 60 years with proper management. Mr. Haverty explained that a quarterly density study is performed, using drones to ensure that the trash is compacted properly. The Board and Staff discussed the challenges regarding disposal of mattresses.

Mr. Haverty stated that 85 miles of road were chip sealed last Fiscal Year. In response to the Board, Mr. Haverty stated that these roads were single chip sealed. He stated that the goal is to get 10% of the 670 miles of roads in the County chip sealed each year. Mr.

Haverty stated that 132 miles of road were fog sealed and the goal is 200 miles per year, which would cover each road every three years. This excludes roads that have issues such as Bell Ranch Road that may need other types of treatment. In response to the Board, Mr. Faccio stated that the cost of fog had an uptick last year but it is back down now. Mr. Haverty stated that there has been difficulty getting chips due to vendors from Tucson and Phoenix using our local vendors.

Mr. Haverty reviewed the Highway Division Work plan for the 4th quarter of 2023. He stated work will slow going into the Monsoon season and repairing flood damage, mowing and grading operations will increase. Mr. Haverty stated that it is planned to chip, fog and seal Presidential Estates in Bisbee and some work on the apron coming into the Bisbee transfer station. He explained that when Sagebrush Road was built in 2001 it was triple chipped and has held up well and a single layer of chip will be put on it. He stated the crew on Benson would be helping in Bisbee over near the landfill. Mr. Haverty stated that in the Douglas/Elfrida area Kings Highway will be finished and several roads were fogged and striped prior to school starting near Elfrida School. Mr. Haverty discussed the issues with Bell Ranch Road near the dairy. He stated that there are several patches that need to be made and this is already in progress.

Chairman Judd complimented Mr. Haverty on mowing and how it is always on the schedule. Mr. Haverty stated that mowing is a priority and once they can sustain the mowing, he would like to develop an Adopt-A-Highway program but they are not ready for that yet. Mr. Haverty stated that the County has not received any funds from the Dairy [Riverview Dairy] to maintain roads and those roads have to be maintained more often because of the traffic.

In response to Vice-Chairman Crosby, Mr. Haverty stated that 90% of the roads in the County are chip sealed and would not be thick enough to get a benefit from purchasing an asphalt grinder. Ms. Watkins stated when the state puts out a contract to mill and fill a road, the contractor completes the work and they would not have two contracts due to state purchasing rules. She stated that the road in front of Walmart and the hospital is set to be done this winter. Ms. Watkins stated that it is approximately \$400,000 per mile to reconstruct a severe washboard road.

Chairman Judd adjourned the meeting at 1:38 p.m.

APPROVED:

Peggy Judd, Chairman

ATTEST:

Sharon Gilman, Interim Clerk of the Board