

**PROCEEDINGS OF THE COCHISE COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS  
REGULAR MEETING HELD ON  
TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 27, 2024**

A regular board meeting of the Cochise County Board of Supervisors was held on Tuesday, February 27, 2024 at 10:00 a.m. in the Board of Supervisors' Hearing Room, 1415 Melody Lane, Building G, Bisbee, Arizona.

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

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

Chairman English called the meeting to order at 10:00 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***

Radford Hyde expressed frustration over not receiving information from the new Elections Director. Mr. Hyde criticized Supervisor Judd for neglecting election integrity efforts. He then expressed concern for the board's consideration of declaring March as Red Cross month and discussed reasons.

Sandy Trull expressed her concerns about recent issues with ES&S election machines and discussed the reasons. She urged the Board of Supervisors to fulfill their duty to protect citizens and borders.

Allison Morse thanked the Board for maintaining the 18 vote centers instead of reverting to 55 precinct polling places and discussed her reasons. She thanked the Board and the Elections Department for their efforts in maintaining and staffing the vote centers efficiently and securely.

Yvonne Mayer offered condolences to Peggy Judd for the loss of her husband and expressed concerns about the approval of vote centers after the deadline specified in ARS 16-411(A) and discussed reasons.

Kim Depew expressed frustration at the Board's decision-making process regarding vote centers and discussed reasons.

Paul Varble spoke in opposition to changing election procedures after a specified deadline and he deemed vote centers illegal and against the wishes of the public and discussed reasons.

Tricia Gerrodette reflected on the election system, mail in voting and discussed reasons. Ms. Gerrodette also expressed support for the American Red Cross.

Alice Novoa spoke against illegal alien voting and discussed reasons.

## ***PRESENTATION***

Presentation by Jonathan Rutherford, Program Manager, Chiricahua Community Health Centers, Inc. (CCHCI), on the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funded Comprehensive Psychiatric Program at Chiricahua Community Health Centers, Inc.

Mr. Jonathan Rutherford, presented this item using a PowerPoint presentation. Mr. Rutherford presented an overview of the program's progress and outcomes over the past two years. He discussed the growth in patient numbers, reaching nearly 800 by the end of 2023, and the expansion of services, including medication-assisted treatment for opioid use disorder. Mr. Rutherford highlighted the program's efforts in tracking depression and suicide severity, as well as the challenges in tracking patient outcomes longitudinally. He also discussed the utilization of the trans-theoretical model of change to assess patients' readiness for behavioral changes. Overall, he expressed satisfaction with the program's progress and outlined areas for further improvement.

In response to the Board, Mr. Rutherford discussed the characteristics of buprenorphine and its combination with naloxone (Suboxone), emphasizing its effectiveness in reducing the potential for abuse. He also explained how Sublocade, a buprenorphine injection, prevents abuse by providing sustained release over a month. In response to the Board, he addressed holistic treatment, focusing on the importance of comprehensive care, including therapy, to address both medical and behavioral health needs. Mr. Rutherford highlighted the program's open-door policy, ensuring accessibility for patients seeking help, and expressed gratitude for the prioritization of mental health by the board.

## ***CONSENT***

### **Board of Supervisors**

1. Approve the Minutes of the regular meeting of the Board of Supervisors of February 6, 2024.
2. Approve Intergovernmental Agreement (IGA) with the Arizona State Board of Equalization for property tax reviews and appeals, effective February 28, 2024 through February 27, 2025.

### **County Recorder**

3. Approve receipt of funds from the Arizona Secretary of State for recording and notification services to pay Saul's Creek Engineering for software creation in compliance with S.B.1110/A.R.S. 11-467, in the amount of \$5,000.

## **Court Administration**

4. Approve Federal Fiscal Year 2024 grant funding reimbursement between the Cochise County Superior Court and the Arizona Department of Economic Security for reimbursable access and visitation activities, in the amount of \$37,561.47, effective October 1, 2023, through September 30, 2024.

## **Elections**

5. Appoint Poll Workers for the 2024 Presidential Preference, Primary, and General Elections, and authorize the Elections Director to make additions or substitutions as necessary prior to each election, to ensure that all Vote Centers are staffed adequately with trained election Poll Workers.

Vice-Chairman Crosby removed agenda item 5 for separate discussion.

Vice-Chairman Crosby made a motion to appoint Poll Workers for the 2024 Presidential Preference, Primary, and General Elections, and authorize the Elections Director to make additions or substitutions as necessary prior to each election, to ensure that all Vote Centers are staffed adequately with trained election Poll Workers. Supervisor Judd seconded the motion.

Vice-Chairman Crosby discussed the Board of Supervisors September 12, 2023 vote that failed on vote centers and alleged illegality of later Board approval for vote centers based on ARS 16-411(A) and constituent concerns.

Vice Chairman Crosby made a motion to move the County Attorney to be tasked with producing a written opinion determining the legality of the board's action regarding the above-noted dates and regulation deadlines. The motion failed for lack of a second.

Chairman English called for the vote on the original motion for item 5 and it was approved 3-0.

## **Finance**

6. Approve demands and budget amendments for operating transfers.

Supervisor Judd made a motion to approve consent items 1-4 and 6 on the Consent Agenda. Vice-Chairman Crosby seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

## ***PUBLIC HEARINGS***

### **Board of Supervisors**

7. Approve a new license application for a Class A Bingo license submitted by Ms. Amanda Salas, Mescal Bar and Grill II, LLC, located at 70 N. Cherokee Trail, Benson, AZ 85602.

Supervisor Judd made a motion to approve a new license application for a Class A Bingo license submitted by Ms. Amanda Salas, Mescal Bar and Grill II, LLC, located at 70 N. Cherokee Trail, Benson, AZ 85602. Vice-Chairman Crosby seconded the motion.

Lara Loewenheim, Deputy Clerk of the Board, presented this item. Ms. Loewenheim stated that the application received from Ms. Amanda Salas was reviewed and recommended for approval by the relevant departments and property taxes are current. She stated that the applicant paid the processing fee and staff recommended approval.

Chairman English opened the Public Hearing.

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

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

## ***ACTION***

### **Board of Supervisors**

8. Approve a Proclamation declaring March 2024 to be American Red Cross Month.

Vice-Chairman Crosby made a motion to approve a Proclamation declaring March 2024 to be the American Red Cross Month. Supervisor Judd seconded the motion.

Chairman English and Melissa Wright, Board of Supervisors Administrative Specialist, presented this item. Chairman English discussed the importance of the Red Cross and Melissa Wright read the proclamation.

Supervisor Judd expressed gratitude for the Red Cross and their swift response during a past tornado disaster in another state, recalling a makeshift hospital they set up with a prominent Red Cross emblem. She noted such disasters are rare in our community. Supervisor Judd noted and emphasized the importance of blood drives and thanked Ms. Wright for her involvement in organizing them. Supervisor Judd highlighted the significance of blood donation and encouraged awareness and participation in this vital act of giving.

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

9. Approve Community Enhancement Fund expenditures for District 2: Public Transit support in Douglas, in the amount of \$10,000.

Supervisor Judd made a motion to approve Community Enhancement Fund expenditures for District 2: Public Transit support in Douglas, in the amount of \$10,000. Vice-Chairman Crosby seconded the motion.

Chairman English presented this item. Chairman English stated that this a something she has asked for continually for several years. She stated there are people that really need public transportation, but there is never enough in the rural area to pay for it, so there has to be a subsidy.

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

10. Approve Community Enhancement Fund expenditures for District 2: Water and Sewer line extension at Bisbee-Douglas International Airport (BDI), in the amount of \$15,000.

Vice-Chairman Crosby made a motion to approve Community Enhancement Fund expenditures for District 2: Water and Sewer line extension at Bisbee-Douglas International Airport (BDI), in the amount of \$15,000. Supervisor Judd seconded the motion.

Chairman English presented this item. Chairman English proposed allocating \$15,000 to the Bisbee/Douglas International Airport for water and sewer access, essential for enabling commercialization of certain areas on the airport property. Chairman English clarified that the airport is owned by the Cochise County Board and explained that without water and sewer access, commercialization is hindered. She explained the funds would go to the City of Douglas, responsible for the airport's water and sewer systems, and there is no matching contribution from the county.

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

11. Approve the Over-the-Counter sale of tax deed properties as set forth in the attached Exhibit A, plus related administrative fees.

Supervisor Judd made a motion to approve the Over-the-Counter sale of tax deed properties as set forth in the attached Exhibit A, plus related administrative fees. Vice-Chairman Crosby seconded the motion.

Ms. Loewenheim presented this item. Ms. Loewenheim stated that a bid was received for a parcel that were offered for sale during the Over-The-Counter Tax Deed Land Sale. A total of \$2,000 was bid and received, which included the \$25 administrative fee.

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

## Development Services

12. Approve Contract 24-14-DEV-01 with Mascot Homes and Construction for the remodel of the Cochise County Willcox Airport Terminal, in the amount of \$177,518.

Vice-Chairman Crosby made a motion to approve Contract 24-14-DEV-01 with Mascot Homes and Construction for the remodel of the Cochise County Willcox Airport Terminal, in the amount of \$177,518. Supervisor Judd seconded the motion.

Dan Coxworth, Director of Development Services, presented this item. Mr. Coxworth stated that Development Services and the Procurement Department initiated a formal bidding process for remodeling the terminal building at the Cochise County Airport in Wilcox. He stated the approved budget was \$150,000 and the lowest bid exceeded that amount slightly. However, he explained additional funds were sourced from the airport budget to cover the difference. He stated the terminal building, constructed in the 1950s, has not undergone remodeling since then. He stated the proposed remodel aims to create a more functional space with a professional appearance, including new roof, entry enhancements, window replacements, and interior improvements to doors, ceilings, countertops, and finishes.

Supervisor Judd expressed support for the Willcox airport and Vice-Chairman Crosby thanked Mr. Coxworth for his leadership.

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

## Emergency Services

13. Approve Cochise County participation in the 2023 Southern Arizona Multi-Jurisdictional Training and Exercise Initiative, per the Memorandum of Understanding between the Arizona Department of Homeland Security, the Arizona Department of Emergency and Military Affairs, and Pima County.

Supervisor Judd made a motion to approve Cochise County participation in the 2023 Southern Arizona Multi-Jurisdictional Training and Exercise Initiative, per the Memorandum of Understanding between the Arizona Department of Homeland Security, the Arizona Department of Emergency and Military Affairs, and Pima County. Vice-Chairman Crosby seconded the motion.

Dan Duchon, Director of Emergency Services, presented this item. Mr. Duchon stated he is seeking approval to participate in the 2023 Southern Arizona multi-jurisdictional training and exercise initiative. Mr. Duchon stated it's funded through the state Homeland Security grant program, with \$24,000 allocated for Cochise County out of a total of \$150,000 for the southern region. In response to the Board, Mr. Duchon stated that the tactical EMT does not include firearms training and the class is for firefighters and paramedics.

Dan G. Legg spoke in favor and discussed reasons.

Randall Limbach stated his questions had been answered.

Paul Varble spoke against the item and discussed reasons.

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

## **Health & Social Services**

14. Approve Intergovernmental Agreement (IGA) CTR067579 Cochise County Medical Reserve Corps State, Territory and Tribal Nations, Representative Organizations for Next Generation (MRC STTRONG) between Arizona Department of Health Services and Cochise County Health and Social Services, in the amount of \$126,500, to include one additional full-time equivalent staff member, effective June 1, 2023 through May 31, 2025.

Supervisor Judd made a motion to approve Intergovernmental Agreement (IGA) CTR067579 Cochise County Medical Reserve Corps State, Territory and Tribal Nations, Representative Organizations for Next Generation (MRC STTRONG) between Arizona Department of Health Services and Cochise County Health and Social Services, in the amount of \$126,500, to include one additional full-time equivalent staff member, effective June 1, 2023 through May 31, 2025. Vice-Chairman Crosby seconded the motion.

Kimberly Mitchell, Public Health Emergency Preparedness Coordinator, presented this item. Ms. Mitchell stated the Medical Reserve Corp (MRC) STTRONG Grant totaling \$126,500 is allocated to Cochise County's Medical Reserve Corps (MRC), which is currently inactive. She noted the funding will enhance the program by establishing policies and procedures. Ms. Mitchell stated the MRC comprises volunteers from various backgrounds, not limited to medical personnel, but also including heavy equipment operators, veterinarians, and clerks. She emphasized the goal is to utilize local volunteers during emergencies to minimize the need for external assistance from state or federal agencies.

Randall Limbach spoke in opposition and discussed the reasons.

Nancy Olmstead spoke in opposition and discussed the reasons.

Discussion followed among the Board regarding under-served communities and the purpose of the grant.

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

## **Housing Authority**

15. Approve the Housing Opportunities for Persons With AIDS (HOPWA) Grant Agreement AZ-H230014 with the United States Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) for program administration by the Housing Authority of Cochise County, in the amount of \$643,013, effective February 27, 2024, to February 27, 2027.

Vice-Chairman Crosby made a motion to approve the Housing Opportunities for Persons With AIDS (HOPWA) Grant Agreement AZ-H230014 with the United States Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) for program administration by the Housing Authority of Cochise County, in the amount of \$643,013, effective February 27, 2024, to February 27, 2027. Supervisor Judd seconded the motion.

Anita Baca, Executive Director of Cochise County Housing Authority, presented this

item. Ms. Baca requested approval for the renewal application for Housing Opportunity for Persons with AIDS, highlighting an increase of over \$26,000 in funding for the next three years. She explained that the program, which has been administered since 2004, provides assistance for monthly rental payments, short-term rent, utilities, and mortgage. Ms. Baca emphasized the program's impact by stating that between 22 and 25 families receive monthly rental assistance, while 40 to 60 families per year receive short-term assistance. In response to the Board, Ms. Baca stated that eligibility for the program is determined solely by the Southern Arizona AIDS Foundation based on medical criteria, so being a veteran or not isn't a significant factor in this particular program. She clarified a separate program, called HUD VASH, is specifically for veterans.

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

## ***STATE & FEDERAL LEGISLATION***

16. Discussion and possible action regarding state and federal legislative matters listed or described in the attached County Supervisors Association Legislative Policy Committee Agenda, the Arizona Association of Counties (AACo) Legislative Policy Committee Agenda, and the proposed State budget, and other matters related thereto.

Supervisor Judd discussed bills on water management. She highlighted the importance of supporting the farming and ranching industry, which could be adversely affected. Supervisor Judd emphasized the need for public attention and involvement in the discussion, recognizing the significance of the ranching industry's input.

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

Mr. Karwaczka informed the public of the new deadline to turn in the Speaker Request Forms starting March 1 will be no later than 9:00 a.m. the day of the Board of Supervisors Meeting, either in person or online. He also noted the Presidential Preference Election is on March 19, 2024. He stated the last day to request a ballot by mail is on March 8, 2024.

## ***SUMMARY OF CURRENT EVENTS***

### **Report by District 1 Supervisor, Tom Crosby**

Vice-Chairman Crosby deferred his report.

### **Report by District 2 Supervisor, Ann English**

Chairman English deferred her report.

### **Report by District 3 Supervisor, Peggy Judd**

Supervisor Judd thanked everyone for their kindness and prayers during the last couple of weeks.

Chairman English adjourned the meeting at 11:36 a.m.

APPROVED:

---

Ann English, Chairman

ATTEST:

---

Sharon Gilman, Interim Clerk of the Board