

**PROCEEDINGS OF THE COCHISE COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
REGULAR MEETING HELD ON
TUESDAY, JULY 9, 2024**

A regular board meeting of the Cochise County Board of Supervisors was held on Tuesday, July 9, 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, telephonic

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

Chairman English called the meeting to order at 10:48 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

Dan Baker criticized the planning and zoning department's actions for allowing environmental harm from solar factories and questioned the integrity of decision-makers, accusing them of prioritizing corporate interests over public welfare and failing to provide transparent disclosures.

Allison Morse expressed concerns about Cochise County's elections, criticizing supervisors for their past actions that disrupted voting processes, incurred significant costs, and calling for adherence to election laws and proper procedures.

Vice-Chairman Crosby stated that all records are public and referred to the minutes of the November 18th, 2022 Board of Supervisors meeting, stating that the motion to table accepting the election results until evidence of lawful certification by an accredited laboratory is confirmed was approved 2 to 1, attributing the agenda change to Chairman English.

CONSENT

Board of Supervisors

1. Renew and/or revise committee appointments for members of the Board of Supervisors and executive staff for the 2024-25 Fiscal Year and approve continuing annual memberships for 2024-25, with payment of associated dues as described herein.
2. Approve the Minutes of the regular meeting of the Board of Supervisors of June 18, 2024.
3. Approve Amendment 2024-21 to Governor's Office of Highway Safety (GOHS) Grant 2024-PTS-077 in the amount of \$6,034.89.
4. Approve annual update to County Policy 1604: Public Safety Personnel Retirement System (PSPRS) and Corrections Officers Retirement Plan (CORP) Pension Funding, effective July 9, 2024, and formally accept the County's share of the assets and liabilities under the system based on the system's actuarial valuation report.

This item was removed from the consent agenda for separate consideration.

Vice-Chairman Crosby made a motion to approve annual update to County Policy 1604: Public Safety Personnel Retirement System (PSPRS) and Corrections Officers Retirement Plan (CORP) Pension Funding, effective July 9, 2024, and formally accept the County's share of the assets and liabilities under the system based on the system's actuarial valuation report. Supervisor Judd seconded the motion.

Vice-Chairman Crosby stated that "unfunded" means taxpayer-funded, suggesting the markup policy on Page 2.4 should be removed. Vice-Chairman Crosby highlighted the challenges in achieving a fully funded retirement system, and emphasized that despite some improvements in the funded ratio, liabilities remain significant and the system's failure to fully fund itself burdens taxpayers. Vice-Chairman Crosby stressed the need for ongoing efforts to support public safety and corrections officers in the retirement system, acknowledging the complexity and significance of the issue, especially for Sierra Vista residents.

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

5. Approve renewal of an Intergovernmental Agreement (IGA) with the City of Sierra Vista regarding funding of a consultant to promote retention and expansion of missions of the U.S. Army at Fort Huachuca, in the amount of \$35,000 annually, effective July 9, 2024, through July 9, 2025, with four automatic one-year extensions.
6. Adopt Resolution 24-13 authorizing the use of Emergency Voting Locations for the Primary Election on Tuesday, July 30, 2024.

Clerk of Superior Courts

7. Approve Fiscal Year 2025 grant funding/reimbursement between the Cochise County Clerk of the Superior Court and the Arizona Department of Economic Security for reimbursable court-related child support administration, in the amount of \$16,129.51, effective July 1, 2024 through June 30, 2025.

County Schools

8. Approve renewal of Intergovernmental Agreement (IGA) between the Arizona State Board of Education through the Arizona Department of Education (ADE), and Cochise County, providing an ADE employee located within the office of the Cochise County School Superintendent (CCSSO), effective upon signing through June 30, 2025.

Court Administration

9. Approve Fiscal Year 2025 grant funding/reimbursement between the Cochise County Superior Court and the Arizona Department of Economic Security for reimbursable paternity and child support activities, in the amount of \$3,536.65, effective July 1, 2024 through June 30, 2025.

Development Services

10. Accept an Arizona State Housing Trust Fund Grant, to be used for the creation of a Cochise County Affordable Housing Plan, in the amount of \$194,450.

Finance

11. Approve demands and budget amendments for operating transfers.
12. Adopt Resolution 24-12 designating Mrs. Monica Miranda as Chief Fiscal Officer for submitting the Fiscal Year 2025 Expenditure Limitation Report.

Vice-Chairman Crosby made a motion to approve items 1-3 and 5-12 on the consent agenda. Supervisor Judd seconded the motion and it was approved unanimously.

PUBLIC HEARINGS

Board of Supervisors

13. Approve Series 09 (Liquor Store) new liquor license application submitted by Andrea Lewkowitz, for Speedway #2962, located at 5620 S. Highway 92, Hereford, AZ 85615.

Vice-Chairman Crosby made a motion to approve Series 09 (Liquor Store) new liquor license application submitted by Andrea Lewkowitz, for Speedway #2962, located at 5620 S. Highway 92, Hereford, AZ 85615. Supervisor Judd seconded the motion.

Chairman English opened the public hearing and no one chose to speak.

Ms. Loewenheim presented this item. Ms. Loewenheim stated that the new Series 9 liquor license application for the Speedway in Hereford has been reviewed, recommended for approval, posted as required, received no protests, and the applicant has paid the processing fee.

Chairman English closed the public hearing.

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

ACTION

Board of Supervisors

14. Approve appointment of Ms. Lara Loewenheim as Clerk of the Board of Supervisors, effective July 22, 2024.

Vice-Chairman Crosby made a motion to approve appointment of Ms. Lara Loewenheim as Clerk of the Board of Supervisors, effective July 22, 2024. Supervisor Judd seconded the motion.

Chairman English stated Ms. Loewenheim has developed the necessary skills to serve as the clerk of the board and will be welcomed to the position after July 22nd.

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

Development Services

15. Approve Grant Award No. 693JJ32440373 from the Federal Highways Administration (FHWA) in the amount of \$500,000 for the placement of seven electric vehicle charging stations in Cochise County with a local cash match of \$125,000, effective June 13, 2024, through June 30, 2026.

Vice-Chairman Crosby made a motion to approve Grant Award No. 693JJ32440373 from the Federal Highways Administration (FHWA) in the amount of \$500,000 for the placement of seven electric vehicle charging stations in Cochise County with a local cash match of \$125,000, effective June 13, 2024, through June 30, 2026. Supervisor Judd seconded the motion.

Dan Coxworth, Development Services Director, presented this item. Mr. Coxworth stated that Cochise County has received a highly competitive grant to install seven electric vehicle charging stations at four locations, becoming one of three awardees in Arizona and the nation to receive a \$500,000 grant from the Federal Highway Administration. Mr. Coxworth stated that the 20% matching fund's requirement will be assisted by the City of Willcox and potentially the Board's Community Enhancement Funds, with the stations to be placed in each Board of Supervisors District. He stated the chosen vendor, Beam, will supply solar-powered units with battery storage, which are portable and can be relocated if necessary, and will be installed without trenching, streamlining the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) process.

In response to the Board, Mr. Coxworth stated that the EV charging stations will initially be free to use, have low maintenance costs due to their solar power, are not connected to the county's utility meters, and the grant covers software and remote monitoring for the next five years. Mr. Coxworth stated that a solar panel's life span is typically 25-30 years and has a one-year warranty.

Chairman English expressed the need for more electric vehicle charging stations in the county to attract tourists and stated that the 20% funding match would benefit the public.

Vice-Chairman Crosby stated that if it is free, it is redistributive.

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

Human Resources

16. Approve agreement with COBRA Professionals, Inc, (CPI) to continue Flexible Spending Account services as an optional employee benefit, effective August 1, 2024.

Vice-Chairman Crosby made a motion to approve agreement with COBRA Professionals, Inc, (CPI) to continue Flexible Spending Account services as an optional employee benefit, effective August 1, 2024. Supervisor Judd seconded the motion.

Jennifer Graeme, Human Resources Director, presented this item. Ms. Graeme explained that the agreement with COBRA Professionals Inc. is to continue to provide flexible spending account options for employees, with no cost changes, as the previous vendor has partnered with CPI. In response to the Board, Ms. Graeme did not have the information with her regarding how many employees use this benefit.

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

STATE & FEDERAL LEGISLATION

17. 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.

Chairman English stated that there was nothing to report on this item. Chairman English stated that Supervisor Judd and Cathy Traywick, Treasurer, will soon be attending the NACo conference and may have something to report upon their return.

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

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 expressed hope that everyone enjoyed their 4th of July, acknowledging the heat and celebrating the freedoms enjoyed in the country.

Report by District 3 Supervisor, Peggy Judd

Supervisor Judd deferred her report.

Chairman English adjourned the meeting at 11:19 a.m.

APPROVED:

Ann English, Chairman

ATTEST:

Sharon Gilman, Interim Clerk of the Board