

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

A regular board meeting of the Cochise County Board of Supervisors was held on Tuesday, AUGUST 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, Clerk of the Board

Chairman English called the meeting to order at 10:13 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

Daniel Jones spoke regarding the importance of preserving Miracle Valley Bible College, emphasized its historical and cultural significance, its pioneering role in racial integration, and the legal implications of its potential demolition, while he advocated for alternative solutions to protect and revitalize the site.

Rebekah Allen Jones expressed her disappointment that the discussion about demolishing the Miracle Valley Bible College buildings was continuing despite previous assurances, highlighted the financial and historical significance of preserving the property and urged the county to cease further deterioration and prioritize its sale.

Frances Alvarez expressed gratitude for her upbringing in Miracle Valley and urged the Board to stop any further demolition of Miracle Valley Bible College, she advocated for the property's preservation and emphasized the hope and community support for its revival.

Dr. Melvin Harter criticized staff for spending unnecessary tax dollars on Miracle Valley Bible College, urged the Board to stop further expenditures, avoid demolition costs, and sell the property to the highest bidder at auction.

Tiffany Miller expressed disappointment that the county was considering further investment of public funds into the former Miracle Valley Bible College property, argued that enough money had already been spent and urged the county to sell the property without incurring additional costs.

Radford Hyde criticized the allocation of public funds, accused the county of misleading the public about the purpose of a sales tax increase for a jail, which he stated he believes was intended all along to fund a new Justice Center, and expressed frustration with the lack of transparency and potential conflicts of interest.

Sandy Trull agreed with the previous speaker, argued that elections are unconstitutional, criticized the involvement of third-party corporations, mass mail-in ballots, and the lack of voter ID, and expressed frustration that, despite repeatedly raising these concerns, no action had been taken.

CONSENT

Board of Supervisors

1. Approve the Minutes of the regular meeting of the Board of Supervisors of August 13, 2024.

County Attorney

2. Approve the Victims' Rights Program (VRP) Award Agreement (AG) 2025-002, between the Arizona Attorney General's Office and the Cochise County Attorney's Office, in the amount of \$20,600, effective July 1, 2024, through June 30, 2025.

County Schools

3. Approve Contract Agreement Amendment 1878 between the Cochise County School Superintendent's Office (CCSSO) and Graduation Solutions LLC, for the Dropout Recovery Program, effective July 10, 2024, through June 30, 2027, covering the 2024 through 2027 school years.

County Sheriff

4. Approve Amendment 1 to Interagency Service Agreement M22-0061 between the Arizona Department of Emergency and Military Affairs (DEMA) and the Cochise County Sheriff's Office extending the terms to December 31, 2024.
5. Approve Amendment 1 to Department of Public Safety (DPS) Anti-Human Trafficking Agreement 2024-078, extending the effective date through June 30, 2025, and clarifying total grant of no more than \$500,000.
6. Approve Grant Agreement 2025-043 between the Arizona Attorney General's Office and the Cochise County Sheriff's Office for the continuation of funding assistance for personnel who perform Victims' Rights Services, in the amount of \$9,600, effective July 1, 2024, through June 30, 2025.

Court Administration

7. Approve Fiscal Year 2024-2025 Court Improvement Program (CIP) funding agreement between the Arizona Supreme Court, Administrative Office of the Courts (AOC) and the Cochise County Superior Court, in the amount of \$49,140, effective July 1, 2024 through June 30, 2025.

Finance

8. Approve demands and budget amendments for operating transfers.

Elections

9. Adopt Amended Resolution 24-11 canceling the election of certain Precinct Committeemen, for the 2024 Primary Election on July 30, 2024, and appointing all candidates that filed to run for Precinct Committeemen for those precincts in which no election is required.

Vice-Chairman Crosby made a motion to approve Consent agenda items 1-9. Supervisor Judd seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

PUBLIC HEARINGS

Board of Supervisors

10. Adopt Resolution 24-19 granting a Water Services Franchise to Coronado Lakes Estates HOA, Inc.

This item was removed from the agenda to be considered at a later date.

ACTION

Board of Supervisors

11. Accept the resignation of Richard G. Karwaczka, County Administrator, effective December 31, 2024.

Supervisor Judd made a motion to accept the resignation of Richard G. Karwaczka, County Administrator, effective December 31, 2024. Vice-Chairman Crosby seconded the motion.

Chairman English expressed regret over losing a great County Administrator, acknowledged that while she is glad he has found a new position, she is not excited about accepting his resignation.

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

12. Approve special work assignment appointment of Sharon Gilman as Interim County Administrator with a 10% salary increase (an additional \$6.97 per hour), effective January 1, 2025, to July 31, 2025.

Vice-Chairman Crosby made a motion to approve special work assignment appointment of Sharon Gilman as Interim County Administrator with a 10% salary increase (an additional \$6.97 per hour), effective January 1, 2025, to July 31, 2025. Supervisor Judd seconded the motion.

In response to the Board, Mr. Karwaczka stated that there would not be a contract for this item.

Chairman English explained that the decision to appoint an interim County Administrator was to ensure continuity for the incoming board, allowing them the choice of how to move forward while keeping the county's operations on track.

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

County Attorney

13. Approve the Crime Victim Compensation Grant VC-25-002 between the Arizona Criminal Justice Commission and the Cochise County Attorney's Office in the amount of \$67,466.55, effective July 1, 2024 through June 30, 2025.

Supervisor Judd made a motion to approve the Crime Victim Compensation Grant VC-25-002 between the Arizona Criminal Justice Commission and the Cochise County Attorney's Office in the amount of \$67,466.55, effective July 1, 2024 through June 30, 2025. Vice-Chairman Crosby seconded the motion.

Jillian Nunes, Victim Witness Program Manager, presented this item. Ms. Nunes stated that the victim compensation grant is a renewal grant that provides funding to victims who have incurred expenses due to victimization, thereby alleviating financial burdens on victims within Cochise County.

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

County Sheriff

14. Approve Amendment 2 to Interagency Service Agreement M22-0056 between the Arizona Department of Emergency and Military Affairs (DEMA) and the Cochise County Sheriff's Office, authorizing DEM A to provide an additional \$100,000 for overtime costs related to border incidents.

Vice-Chairman Crosby made a motion to approve Amendment 2 to Interagency Service Agreement M22-0056 between the Arizona Department of Emergency and Military Affairs (DEMA) and the Cochise County Sheriff's Office, authorizing DEM A to provide an additional \$100,000 for overtime costs related to border incidents. Supervisor Judd seconded the motion.

Captain John Gjerde, Sheriff's Office, presented this item. Captain Gjerde stated that DEM A agreed to add \$100,000 to an existing grant as part of a local border support initiative, which will be used to fund overtime for border-related incidents.

In response to the Board, Captain Gjerde explained that the funding, overseen by Department of Public Safety (DPS), was appropriated for the County Sheriff's Office and that DEMA was asked to help finance part of it.

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

County Treasurer

15. Approve the recommendation of the County Treasurer for the abatement of property taxes and interest on personal and real property and the removal of personal property tax liens on Treasurer's Certificate of Clearance No. 2024-166 to 2024-201.

Supervisor Judd made a motion to approve the recommendation of the County Treasurer for the abatement of property taxes and interest on personal and real property and the removal of personal property tax liens on Treasurer's Certificate of Clearance No. 2024-166 to 2024-201. Vice-Chairman Crosby seconded the motion.

Cathy Traywick, County Treasurer, presented this item. Ms. Traywick requested the approval of the abatements, clarifying that the amounts were higher than usual due to a Supreme Court decision that rendered certain railroad parcels non-taxable. Ms. Traywick emphasized that the substantial figures, such as \$8,000 per parcel, were specifically related to these railroad properties, which were included in the abatement process.

Chairman English expressed gratitude for the ongoing efforts to remove non-taxable properties from the tax rolls, emphasizing the futility of allowing local entities to expect tax revenue from them, and acknowledged the Sheriff's Department for their assistance with these properties.

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

Court Administration

16. Approve Fiscal Year 2024-2025 Court Appointed Special Advocate (CASA) funding agreement with the Arizona Supreme Court, Administrative Office of the Courts (AOC) and the Cochise County Superior Court, in the amount of \$139,965, effective July 1, 2024 through June 30, 2025.

Supervisor Judd made a motion to approve Fiscal Year 2024-2025 Court Appointed Special Advocate (CASA) funding agreement with the Arizona Supreme Court, Administrative Office of the Courts (AOC) and the Cochise County Superior Court, in the amount of \$139,965, effective July 1, 2024 through June 30, 2025. Vice-Chairman Crosby seconded the motion.

Rita Shipley, Budget and Finance Director, presented this item. Ms. Shipley explained that the funding agreement covers wages, employee-related expenses, and operating costs for two full-time positions that recruit, train, and support volunteers appointed by judges to advocate for abused and neglected children. Ms. Shipley stated that these volunteers remain involved with the child from the beginning of the case until a permanent safe home is secured, ensuring continued support throughout the process.

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

17. Approve Contract 24-18-BOS-01 with Chinn Planning for planning services related to the Courts portion of the Cochise County Justice Center as outlined in Exhibit A, in the amount of \$88,316.

Vice-Chairman Crosby made a motion to approve Contract 24-18-BOS-01 with Chinn Planning for planning services related to the Courts portion of the Cochise County Justice Center as outlined in Exhibit A, in the amount of \$88,316. Supervisor Judd seconded the motion.

Phil Bourdon, Project Manager, presented this item. Mr. Bourdon stated that the County had released a request for qualifications for jail planning services and was planning to award a contract to conduct a comprehensive assessment of the county's criminal justice system. Mr. Bourdon stated that this contract will include forecasts of inmate populations, capacity requirements for a new jail, operational concepts, and space needs for the courts and sheriff's administration, along with cost estimates for operations and construction. The funding for this contract, amounting to \$88,316.

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

Development Services

18. Approve the reallocation of \$55,000 in FY24 funds, previously approved by the Board for the purchase of a new sign for Cochise County Airport, to instead be used for the purchase of a tractor for ground maintenance at the airport.

Supervisor Judd made a motion to approve the reallocation of \$55,000 in FY24 funds, previously approved by the Board for the purchase of a new sign for Cochise County Airport, to instead be used for the purchase of a tractor for ground maintenance at the airport. Vice-Chairman Crosby seconded the motion.

Dan Coxworth, Development Services Director, presented this item. Mr. Coxworth stated that the Board approved a budget request of \$55,000 for the Cochise County Airport to replace an existing sign. Mr. Coxworth stated that after discussions with the fixed-based operator managing the airport, it was requested to use the funds instead to purchase a new tractor to replace the old, open-cab Ford tractor currently in use. He stated that this new tractor would enhance safety for the personnel and improve efficiency in handling the increased mowing demands due to recent rainfall.

In response to the Board, Mr. Coxworth stated that fix-based operator will operate the tractor.

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

Health & Social Services

19. Approve Amendment 1 to Intergovernmental Agreement (IGA) CTR068849, Sexually Transmitted Infection Investigations (STI) between the Arizona Department of Health Services (AZDHS) and Cochise County Health and Social Services (CCHSS), in the amount of \$61,605, effective January 1, 2024, through January 31, 2025.

Vice-Chairman Crosby made a motion to approve Amendment 1 to Intergovernmental

Agreement (IGA) CTR068849, Sexually Transmitted Infection Investigations (STI) between the Arizona Department of Health Services (AZDHS) and Cochise County Health and Social Services (CCHSS), in the amount of \$61,605, effective January 1, 2024, through January 31, 2025. Supervisor Judd seconded the motion.

Maira Ibarra, Division Director Clinical Services, presented this item. Ms. Ibarra stated that the IGA, initially presented in February 2024, has been amended to reflect an increase awarded by ADHS, which will be used for disease investigation, prevention, treatment, testing, and treatment within their STI program.

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

STATE & FEDERAL LEGISLATION

20. 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 there was nothing to report.

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

Mr. Karwaczka deferred his report.

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 announced that Rex Allen Days and Butterfield Stage Days will take place on the first and second weekends of October, and highlighted the upcoming Lantern Festival in Benson on the first Saturday in September, emphasizing its significance to the community and encouraging attendance.

Chairman English adjourned the meeting at 10:54 a.m.

APPROVED:

Ann English, Chairman

ATTEST:

Lara Loewenheim, Clerk of the Board