

**PROCEEDINGS OF THE COCHISE COUNTY JAIL DISTRICT BOARD OF DIRECTORS
MEETING HELD ON
TUESDAY, DECEMBER 10, 2024**

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

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

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

Attendees: Kenneth Bradshaw, Commander
Mark Dannels, County Sheriff

Vice-Chairman Crosby called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m.

ANY ITEM ON THIS AGENDA IS OPEN FOR DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION

THE ORDER OR DELETION OF ANY ITEM ON THIS AGENDA IS SUBJECT TO MODIFICATION AT THE MEETING

CONSENT

Board of Supervisors

1. Approve the Minutes of the August 27, 2024 Cochise County Jail District Board of Directors meeting.

Supervisor Judd made a motion to approve the Minutes of the August 27, 2024 Cochise County Jail District Board of Directors meeting. Chairman English seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

ACTION

County Sheriff

2. Approve the facility exchange between the Sierra Vista Juvenile Detention Center and Cochise County Sheriff's Sierra Vista substation to allow the Sheriff's use of the Detention Center as a combined adult intake and juvenile housing facility, and allow for an additional 21 Full-Time Equivalent personnel to the Jail District budget at a cost of \$1,777,470.

Supervisor Judd made a motion to approve the facility exchange between the Sierra Vista Juvenile Detention Center and Cochise County Sheriff's Sierra Vista substation to allow the Sheriff's use of the Detention Center as a combined adult intake and juvenile housing facility, and allow for an additional 21 Full-Time Equivalent personnel to the Jail District budget at a cost of \$1,777,470. Chairman English seconded the motion.

Kenny Bradshaw, Commander, presented this item. Commander Bradshaw stated the request for staffing has been amended after discussions with the Sheriff and County Administration. He stated the plan is to occupy the same space in the juvenile detention center but start with staffing sufficient to operate about half of the facility while awaiting a report from Chinn Planning on broader staffing needs. He stated the revised request includes eight detention officers and one detention nurse, with a total cost of \$667,470.

Supervisor Judd amended the motion to approve the facility exchange between the Sierra Vista Juvenile Detention Center and Cochise County Sheriff's Sierra Vista substation to allow the Sheriff's use of the Detention Center as a combined adult intake and juvenile housing facility, and allow for an additional 9 Full-Time Equivalent personnel to the Jail District budget at a cost of \$667,470. Chairman English seconded the motion.

Vice-Chairman Crosby called for the vote and the amended motion was approved 3-0.

Commander Bradshaw stated the Sheriff's Office plans to use the 42-bed juvenile facility, which features dedicated indoor and outdoor recreation areas, a medical area, and a classroom to meet the needs of juvenile detainees. He stated housing juveniles in Bisbee requires locking down the entire jail to ensure proper separation from adults, posing logistical challenges. He also noted that in order to operate the facility at full capacity, 21 staff members are needed, but the immediate request is for eight detention officers and one nurse to start operations. Commander Bradshaw stated the setup is expected to improve staff and inmate safety, reduce liability, and cut overtime by approximately 10%. Commander Bradshaw highlighted the costs associated with detention officers and a nurse, with the immediate request for 8 officers and one nurse amounting to \$667,470.

Chairman English commended the Sheriff's Office for balancing future planning with immediate needs for the new facility. She acknowledged the thoughtful approach of requesting only what is necessary now to operate within guidelines while reserving the option to request additional staffing later.

Vice-Chairman Crosby raised concerns about the legality of a jail tax election and its compliance with constitutional and statutory requirements. He referenced a constitutional amendment requiring a 60% voter approval for tax measures, asserting this standard applies to special districts. He cited ARS 16-558, which mandates approval from the Board of Supervisors before publishing a call for elections, claiming this process was not properly followed, thereby violating due process.

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

Vice-Chairman Crosby adjourned the meeting at 10:14 a.m.

APPROVED:

Tom Crosby, Vice-Chairman

ATTEST:

Lara Loewenheim, Clerk of the Board