

**PROCEEDINGS OF THE COCHISE COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS  
WORK SESSION HELD ON  
TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 6, 2024**

A work session of the Cochise County Board of Supervisors was held on Tuesday, February 6, 2024, at 1:00 p.m. in the Board of Supervisors' Hearing Room, 1415 Melody Lane, Building G, Bisbee, Arizona.

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

Staff Present: Richard G. Karwaczka, County Administrator  
Christine Roberts, Chief Civil Deputy County Attorney  
Joe Casey, Associate County Administrator  
Lara Loewenheim, Deputy Clerk of the Board

Attendees: Jason Faccio, Public Works Director  
Harold Nixon, Operations Superintendent  
Robert Hill, Operations Supervisor

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

**ANY ITEM ON THIS AGENDA IS OPEN FOR DISCUSSION**

***INTRODUCTIONS***

***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.

Jason Faccio, Public Works Director, presented this item using a PowerPoint presentation. Mr. Faccio stated Public Works has been doing maintenance grading, mowing along the right-of-ways, and tackling winter projects. Currently, the focus is on various areas like Davis Road, raised pavement markers (RPMs) and improvements to entrance way at the Bisbee transfer station, and chip seal preparations at various locations.

Mr. Faccio stated the blading schedule is consistent with twice-a-year maintenance for primitive roads and every 9 to 12 weeks for others. He noted that the Engineering and Natural Resources Department and Public Works are collaborating on culvert slurries, watershed initiatives, and guard rails countywide.

In response to the Board, Mr. Faccio stated that staff is establishing clear criteria for road additions or removals to ensure decisions are well-founded and transparent.

Mr. Faccio stated General Motors (GM) halted Tahoe production for Sheriff's departments and this prompted a shift to trucks, with 13 vehicles being replaced with Silverados. He stated that some of the Fleet purchases included a replacement grader, asphalt grinder,

melter for RPMs, and a loader for solid waste in Benson. He stated Solid Waste has completed Cell 5 and distribution of free dump cards have occurred, with future sessions set to assess their impact on revenue and expenses. He noted some discussions on wage increases' impact on budgets, especially in Solid Waste, are planned for the next work session, along with pre-budget forecasting and staffing adjustments in Highways due to a focus on maintenance.

Mr. Faccio explained that there were challenges with getting vehicles up fitted in Light Fleet, so the department filled a mechanic vacancy to handle up fits in-house. He stated this approach ensures vehicles aren't stuck at up fitters for months, as previously experienced with an outside contractor. Mr. Faccio explained that several vehicles were brought back, acquired materials for up fits, and started the process with our new mechanic, who has experience in this area. He stated that with this additional support, Light Fleet can maintain regular fleet maintenance without falling behind on up fits. He stated Fleet has established a liaison with the Sheriff's Department, streamlining communication and requests, which has greatly benefited Fleet operations and reduced overwhelming demands on staff.

In response to the board, Mr. Faccio stated that their contracts are based in Tucson and Phoenix.

Mr. Faccio stated that Heavy Fleet and Highways have been waiting for two broom trucks that were ordered two years ago, with Harold Nixon continuously renewing the purchase order. He stated the main challenge is the lack of availability of vehicles despite having the funds allocated. He noted that department staff have been exploring options for acquiring used equipment if production delays persist.

In response to the Board, Mr. Faccio stated the superintendent and director work closely together, ensuring they are informed about daily operations. He stated that the work plan extends to all levels of staff, allowing them to stay informed and aids in project tracking and reporting.

Chairman English adjourned the meeting at 1:18 p.m.

APPROVED:

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Ann English, Chairman

ATTEST:

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Sharon Gilman, Interim Clerk of the Board