

**PROCEEDINGS OF THE COCHISE COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
WORK SESSION HELD ON
TUESDAY, MAY 1, 2024**

A work session of the Cochise County Board of Supervisors was held on Tuesday, May 1, 2024, at 3:00 p.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 3:00 p.m.

ANY ITEM ON THIS AGENDA IS OPEN FOR DISCUSSION

Members of the public may also [attend this meeting](#) via Microsoft Teams computer or mobile app, or via phone by calling 602-609-7513 or 888-680-6714, Conference ID 433 804 167#. If you have trouble accessing this meeting remotely, call 520-432-9200 for direction.

Work Sessions are a time for County staff to inform and discuss agenda items with the Board of Supervisors and public comments will not be taken.

INTRODUCTIONS

ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION

Board of Supervisors

1. Discussion and possible direction regarding County animal shelter agreements and projects.

Sharon Gilman, Deputy County Administrator, presented this item using a PowerPoint and responded to questions from the Board throughout. Ms. Gilman provided an update on progress since the last work session in August 2023. She highlighted the renewal of the Willcox IGA, addressing changes in Douglas with assistance from the Sheriff's Office, and managing impacts from changes at the Humane Society of Southern Arizona. She also informed the Board of a grant for a Management Consultant and discussed the potential purchase of a business in Sierra Vista to serve as a shelter.

Ms. Gilman stated the Humane Society of Southern Arizona underwent a change in leadership. She stated the changes have impacted the ability of the organization to commit to running the operation in Bisbee. She stated there are ongoing discussions regarding the contract for transporting animals from Douglas, with questions about potential charges for animals from other areas in Cochise County. She noted that progress has been made on the USDA grant project, with a contract for pre-design services set for approval at the upcoming board meeting.

Ms. Gilman stated the City of Douglas and the County received the Maddie's Million Pet Challenge grant, and consultants are expected to assess data, policies, and population served, providing recommendations on shelter management. She noted the assessment, typically valued at \$30,000 to \$40,000, will be provided for free. Ms. Gilman stated the goal is to improve efficiencies, reduce intake, and minimize euthanasia rates while addressing community needs, such as low-income support and spay/neuter programs, ultimately aiming to decrease the animal shelter population.

Ms. Gilman learned about a boarding kennel potentially for sale in Sierra Vista, named Tailtopia, located at 161 South Wardle Road. She noted the owner is willing to stay on as a consultant post-sale, and is asking for \$1.5 million.

In response to the Board, Ms. Gilman stated the main concern lies in managing the ongoing operations, whether it's at Tailtopia or the proposed site on Tovreaville Road. She emphasized the importance of securing a management partner. She highlighted the need for careful consideration of long-term budget implications. Ms. Gilman encouraged finding management solutions before proceeding with any acquisitions.

The Board and staff discussed the management, staffing and budget to operate a new shelter.

Chairman English adjourned the meeting at 3:47 p.m.

APPROVED:

Ann English, Chairman

ATTEST:

Sharon Gilman, Interim Clerk of the Board