

**PROCEEDINGS OF THE COCHISE COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
WORK SESSION HELD ON
TUESDAY, AUGUST 13, 2024**

A work session of the Cochise County Board of Supervisors was held on Tuesday, August 13, 2024, at 1:00 p.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
Joe Casey, Associate County Administrator
Christine Roberts, Chief Civil Deputy County Attorney
Lara Loewenheim, Clerk of the Board

Attendees: Jason Faccio, Public Works Director
Jessica Moore, Administrative Manager
Robert Hill, Operations Supervisor
Harold Nixon, Operations Superintendent
Joseph Hutchison, Operations Superintendent

Vice-Chairman Crosby called the meeting to order at 1:00 p.m.

ANY ITEM ON THIS AGENDA IS OPEN FOR DISCUSSION

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 presented this item using a PowerPoint presentation. Mr. Faccio explained the emphasis on a rigorous safety training program and the goal of achieving 100% safety training for all employees on each piece of equipment and the introduction of operation certificates for experienced operators.

Mr. Faccio stated Public Works has developed a new in-house orientation program for employees, which has been beneficial for the department. He stated the program ensures that employees start with the right equipment, safety training, and understanding of benefits like Personal Time Off (PTO) and sick leave. Mr. Faccio stated the initiative aims to reduce confusion for new hires and is expected to improve employee retention.

Mr. Faccio stated the upcoming road work and projects have a strategic approach to road management, particularly with the exploration of new technology for pavement

condition assessment. He stated the ability to attach a measurement apparatus to existing vehicles for real-time data collection is an innovative solution that will enhance efficiency and reduce costs associated with external assessments. He stated the goal of chip sealing 70 miles of road annually, which sets a clear standard for maintenance and ensures that the 700 miles of chip-sealed roads within 10 years.

Mr. Faccio discussed the Gantt chart and highlighted recent and ongoing road maintenance projects, including chip sealing, pothole repairs, and storm damage repairs. He stated key areas like Sierra Vista Estates, Mountain Mesa, Cascabel Road, and Airport Road received significant attention, with work such as chip sealing, fog sealing, and crack filling completed. Mr. Faccio stated Central Highway faced multiple flash floods, leading to repeated repairs by the highway crew.

Mr. Faccio stated the sheriff's department is awaiting ten grant-funded vehicles. He mentioned there was a recent vehicle auction and the fleet staff were assisting with vehicle pickup and preparation.

Mr. Faccio stated the second boot truck arrived in mid-July, which was timely as another truck went down, allowing the new truck to be put to work immediately. He stated the old paint striper is still functional, the new one, which was expected before the new fiscal year, has been delayed due to refurbishment issues.

In response to the Board, Mr. Faccio stated a boot truck applies oil for chip sealing or fogs the chip after it's laid down. Mr. Faccio stated the vehicles auctioned off were mostly high-mileage, with some potentially non-operational; buyers were informed of each vehicle's condition. Mr. Faccio stated the road maintenance mentioned include planned and emergency repairs, influenced by weather and damage from storms, with specific protocols for different types of roadwork. He stated the safety training is now more specialized and formal, focusing on each type of equipment, and includes certification based on experience and safety training.

Mr. Faccio stated cell four of the landfill is expected to open this week. He stated the county having saved approximately \$1.1 million by extending its use for two years by pulling cardboard. He stated a closure study is underway to determine future costs and ensure the county has funds set aside for proper closure. Mr. Faccio indicated there could be an increase in permit rates from the Arizona Department of Environmental Quality (ADEQ) that may impact tipping fees in the future.

Mr. Faccio stated the solid waste financial update shows an increase in tonnage, likely due to a free dump day, with 82,281 tons processed this year, up by 1,400 tons. He stated funds are being allocated for landfill closure, future cell development, and transfer station improvements, with a positive cash flow of \$312,000 for the last fiscal year.

Mr. Faccio highlighted the improvement in density studies, showing a significant increase in pounds per cubic yard compared to previous results. He noted the improvement is attributed to effective metal and cardboard removal and proper equipment operation, which is expected to have long-term benefits.

Chairman English acknowledged the significant improvements in waste density management, highlighting the shift in approach and its positive impact. Chairman English emphasized maintaining a practical stance on recycling, ensuring materials are only recycled if it can be sold. Chairman English stated the improvements in both the highway and solid waste departments were recognized as positive steps.

Vice-Chairman Crosby adjourned the meeting at 1:28 p.m.

APPROVED:

Tom Crosby, Vice-Chairman

ATTEST:

Lara Loewenheim, Clerk of the Board