

**PROCEEDINGS OF THE COCHISE COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS  
WORK SESSION HELD ON  
TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 12, 2024**

A work session of the Cochise County Board of Supervisors was held on Tuesday, November 12, 2024, at 1:00 p.m. in the Board of Supervisors' Hearing Room, 1415 Melody Lane, Building G, Bisbee, Arizona.

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

Staff Present: Richard G. Karwaczka, County Administrator  
Lara Loewenheim, Clerk of the Board

Attendees: Jason Faccio, Public Works Director  
Jessica Moore, Administrative Manager  
Joseph Hutchison, Operations Superintendent Heavy Fleet  
Fred Nixon, Operations Superintendent Fleet  
Robert Hill, Operations Superintendent Solid Waste

Vice-Chairman Crosby 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 and answered questions from the Board throughout. Mr. Faccio provided an update highlighting the progress on the Public Works quarterly plan. He stated road maintenance and improvements, including chip sealing on 53 roads, totaling about 30.8 miles since July. He stated the goal remains to chip seal 70 miles and fog seal around 140 miles annually. Mr. Faccio upcoming projects included installing culverts on Birch Road and replacing a culvert on Airport Road in Willcox, with repairs from multiple fissures also made to various areas impacted by the monsoon season.

Mr. Faccio stated the highways work plan update includes several completed and upcoming road projects. He noted shoulder repair on Moson Road, chip seal in Sierra Estates, and culvert improvements on Birch Road are among the recent completions aimed at improving drainage and road longevity. He stated future tasks

involve hot mix applications on Davis and Frontier Roads, erosion control on Moson and Sybil Roads, and slope repair at the Bisbee Junction Bridge to address underlying erosion issues. Mr. Faccio stated they will be contracting out a large chip seal project for the Sunsites subdivision, a task that exceeds the capacity of current staff and would require nearly \$1 million to complete, with plans to initiate in spring.

In response to the Board, Mr. Faccio stated gabions are wire mesh baskets filled with river rocks to protect the roads from erosion, and they are placed along the road edges. He stated the gabions prevent rainwater from washing away the underlying soil, providing a stable base and preventing large gouges from forming after storms. Mr. Faccio stated fissures, or cracks in the ground, are also a concern in the area and can result from monsoon erosion or from subsidence due to groundwater level drops, especially in ancient lake beds like Sulphur Springs Valley.

Mr. Faccio stated the solid waste team highlighted the efficiency gains from the landfill compactor, which has increased trash compaction rates, conserving valuable airspace in their cells. He stated the compactor has helped extend cell life from five to seven years, saving on landfill costs. He stated the Transfer station rehab project for the Douglas facility includes repairing the damaged bottom 12 feet of sheet metal. He stated the rehab work is out for bid and then will come to the Board for approval.

Mr. Faccio stated the Arizona Department of Environmental Quality (ADEQ) proposed a rate change. He stated the increase, along with inflation and necessary repairs, may lead to a future tipping fee increase to cover rising costs. He stated the facility breaks even by charging \$67 per ton, which aligns with operational expenses, excluding the ADEQ permit changes. He stated efforts to recycle materials like steel, aluminum, and copper continue to help offset costs, while the facility also considers taking initial steps in cell preparation to reduce future expenses.

Mr. Faccio stated the Free Dump Day event saw over 2,000 tons of material accepted. He stated total fees collected amounted to \$12,975, with an additional \$22,000 paid by individuals who exceeded the half-ton limit, covering the extra fees for those larger loads.

Mr. Faccio stated Cell 5 was unofficially opened on August 5th, and by mid-October, around 6,400 tons had been processed. He stated Cell 4 is still in use, and every week of material saved there reduces costs by approximately \$30,000.

Mr. Faccio stated the fleet update includes the auction of 13 vehicles, with eight sold and the remaining five scheduled for the next auction. He stated fifteen new vehicles have been ordered for replacement. He stated the fleet shop has hired a person to manage vehicle upfits, improving turnaround time from two to three months to just three vehicles in three months. Mr. Faccio stated the new paint truck has been delivered, and two heavy trucks for solid waste and utility tractors for airports have been ordered.

In response to the Board, Mr. Faccio stated during the winter, the staff works on winter projects like grass cutting, weed spraying training, and concrete work. He stated graders are typically running almost non-stop except during chip seal season, when they may be parked for brief periods. He stated the team has a good rotation system, and road grading complaints are often addressed quickly, with residents frequently satisfied even before the issue is formally reported.

Vice-Chairman Crosby adjourned the meeting at 1:36 p.m.

APPROVED:

---

Tom Crosby, Vice-Chairman

ATTEST:

---

Lara Loewenheim, Clerk of the Board