

**PROCEEDINGS OF THE COCHISE COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS  
WORK SESSION HELD ON  
TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 26, 2024**

A work session of the Cochise County Board of Supervisors was held on Tuesday, November 26, 2024, at 2:00 p.m. in the Board of Supervisors' Hearing Room, 1415 Melody Lane, Building G, Bisbee, Arizona.

Present: Ann English, Chairman; Tom Crosby, Vice-Chairman

Absent: Peggy Judd, Supervisor

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

Attendees: Phil Bourdon, Project Manager  
Mark Dannels, Sheriff  
Kenneth Bradshaw, Jail Commander

Chairman English called the meeting to order at 2:00 p.m.

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

***ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION***

**Board of Supervisors**

1. Discussion regarding the new jail planning project, including the progress of the jail planning study with Chinn Planning, and selection process for owner's representative services.

Phil Bourdon, project manager, presented this item using a PowerPoint presentation. Mr. Bourdon provided an update on the County Jail District project. Mr. Bourdon outlined the progress of the contract with Chinn Planning, approved in August 2024, which includes a comprehensive study of the criminal justice system, inmate population forecasts, operational concepts, and cost estimates for a new jail. He stated Chinn Planning has been gathering data, conducting interviews, and hosting meetings with a technical advisory committee since September. Mr. Bourdon stated a jail facility programming session is scheduled for mid-December, with the overall study set to conclude in May 2025. He stated progress is being made on selecting an owner's representative firm for design and construction support, with contract discussions underway.

In response to the Board, Mr. Bourdon clarified that the site selection process for the jail project is part of the ongoing study. He stated six potential locations across the county have been identified, including sites reviewed during previous jail outreach efforts. Mr. Bourdon stated the consultant, Chinn Planning, along with architectural firm DLR, will analyze and evaluate these sites and the findings will help determine the most suitable location and will be presented to the Board of Supervisors for consideration.

Mr. Karwaczka explained that Chinn Planning's role involves gathering and organizing all relevant data to support informed, data-driven decisions by the Board of Supervisors.

In response to the Board, Mr. Bourdon explained the next step will involve selecting a method for designing and constructing the new jail. He noted this phase will emphasize hiring qualified professionals to ensure efficient management of the project. Mr. Bourdon stated the upcoming discussions with the technical advisory committee will focus on inmate population projections and potential recommendations for improvements to the criminal justice system. He stated the process is critical for maintaining control over the project's timeline and budget.

Mr. Karwaczka, emphasized that Phil Bordon's expertise is crucial for ensuring the jail project avoids missteps and follows a diligent, informed process. Mr. Karwaczka stated Phil's prior experience with building a jail in Arizona makes him an invaluable resource for guiding the board through data-driven and analytical decision-making. He noted that the use of experts, like Mr. Bourdon and Chinn Planning, ensures a thorough evaluation of factors such as location and jail size based on studies rather than assumptions.

Chairman English highlighted that building a new jail involves addressing many interconnected factors to ensure effectiveness. She stated the current jail has reached a point where further modifications are no longer practical, despite past efforts made in good faith. Chairman English stated that planning for the new facility, the existing jail must remain operational, leading to increased expenses for the Jail District. She noted these costs reflect the need to maintain the currently facility, prepare the new one, and manage front-end requirements like staffing and training.

Sheriff Dannels stated the jail represents the biggest liability for both the Sheriff and the Board, emphasizing the importance of addressing the issue properly and thoroughly and ensure the new facility is planned and executed effectively.

2. Discussion and possible direction regarding the relocation of the Sierra Vista Jail, including considerations for additional staffing requirements to operate the facility.

Kenny Bradshaw, Jail Commander, presented this item and responded to questions from the Board throughout. Commander Bradshaw discussed the idea of utilizing the currently empty Juvenile Detention Facility in Sierra Vista due to the passing of Proposition 314, which will allow local law enforcement to arrest individuals in the country illegally. He stated the facility, with 42 beds and a dedicated classroom, could accommodate juveniles charged as adults, keeping them separate from the general population. He stated the plan includes adding 21 staff members to support the transition and new operations, with funding coming from an existing budget for staffing and operations. Commander Bradshaw stated the proposal aims to improve efficiency and safety, with a formal presentation to the jail district if there is support to move forward.

Mr. Karwaczka stated the current staff at the Juvenile Detention Facility mainly hold juveniles overnight until they see the judge and are given a court date. He stated they also run various programs aimed at keeping juveniles out of detention, which has reduced the number of juveniles in detention over the years. Mr. Karwaczka stated they need additional space for these programs, and currently, they are using part of the jail's facility and the proposal is to swap the current facilities, where the sheriff's

department would move to a different part of the facility to accommodate the growing needs of juvenile detention and programming.

Chairman English stated the Board is encouraged to consider this possibility, with a focus on creating a clear and understandable presentation for the public.

Sheriff Dannels stated the Juvenile Detention Center is considered a well-structured, underused facility that could be more efficient and effective for the county. He stated the existing facility, with its functional sallyport and other features, is not fully utilized despite the high volume of bookings for border crimes; with over 4,000 bookings in the last 35 months and the passing of Proposition 314, there is uncertainty about how local agencies will enforce the new laws, and there is concern that the population could increase significantly.

In response to the Board, Sheriff Dannels stated the situation surrounding Proposition 314 is still uncertain, with ongoing discussions with the governor's office and other groups. He stated while the passing of 314 is seen as a useful tool for local law enforcement, the real concern lies in the ongoing issues the county faces, such as pursuits and other border-related problems. Sheriff Dannels stated there is a belief that while 314 may not cause a huge surge in challenges, the ongoing border issues will likely worsen.

Vice-Chairman Crosby and Sheriff Dannels discussed the operational challenges of stopping illegal entries at the border.

Commander Bradshaw stated that bringing staff on how to run the current facility would allow for seamless transition to a new facility. He stated this would allow juvenile and general population to be separated while optimizing staff utilization and reducing future expenses.

Sheriff Dannels stated that once the assessments are complete, they will evaluate the need for satellite offices, exploring potential closures to reduce staffing liabilities and costs while addressing the current burden on law enforcement cause by high booking demands.

Mr. Karwaczka stated that the Chinn Planning assessment examined the whole justice system, not just the jail. He stated that taking a holistic approach ensures a comprehensive understanding of needs across the county's justice system.

The Board, Sheriff Dannels and staff discussed recruiting and retaining personnel.

Chairman English adjourned the meeting at 2:40 p.m.

APPROVED:

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Ann English, Chairman

ATTEST:

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Lara Loewenheim, Clerk of the Board