

**PROCEEDINGS OF THE COCHISE COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
REGULAR MEETING HELD ON
TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 11, 2025**

A regular board meeting of the Cochise County Board of Supervisors was held on Tuesday, February 11, 2025 at 10:00 a.m. in the Board of Supervisors' Hearing Room, 1415 Melody Lane, Building G, Bisbee, Arizona.

Present: Frank Antenori, Chairman; Tom Crosby, Vice-Chairman; Kathleen L. Gomez, Supervisor

Staff Present: Sharon Gilman, Interim County Administrator; Joe Casey, Interim Deputy County Administrator; Paul Correa, Chief Civil Deputy County Attorney; Lara Loewenheim, Clerk of the Board

Chairman Antenori called the meeting to order at 10:37 a.m.

ANY ITEM ON THIS AGENDA IS OPEN FOR DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

THE ORDER OR DELETION OF ANY ITEM ON THIS AGENDA IS SUBJECT TO MODIFICATION AT THE MEETING

CALL TO THE PUBLIC

Tricia Gerrodette discussed various reasons in support of elections and their processes.

Allison Morse addressed the Board to clarify election-related concerns.

Tamara Birch discussed concerns regarding elections and voting procedures.

Radford Hyde addressed concerns regarding county matters and cited issues with elections.

CONSENT

Board of Supervisors

1. Approve the Minutes of the regular meeting of the Board of Supervisors of January 28, 2025.
2. Accept the resignation letter submitted by Kevin Beyer, Constable for Justice Precinct 4, effective January 29, 2025.

3. Accept the resignation of County Recorder David W. Stevens, effective February 28, 2025.

Elections

4. Approve the appointment of Ronnie Maestas-Condos, Democrat Precinct Committeeman by recommendation of the Cochise County Party Chairmen to serve through the October 1, 2026 term.

Finance

5. Approve demands and budget amendments for operating transfers.

Vice-Chairman Crosby made a motion to approve consent agenda items 1 through 5. Supervisor Gomez seconded the motion.

Vice-Chairman Crosby expressed regrets on agenda item number 3, accepting the resignation of David Stevens.

Chairman Antenori congratulated the appointed precinct committee members.

Chairman Antenori called for the vote and it was approved 3-0.

ACTION

Board of Supervisors

6. Approve the Over-the-Counter sale of tax deed properties as set forth in the attached Exhibit A, plus related administrative fees.

Supervisor Gomez made a motion to approve the Over-the-Counter sale of tax deed properties as set forth in the attached Exhibit A, plus related administrative fees. Vice-Chairman Crosby seconded the motion.

Lara Loewenheim, Clerk of the Board, presented this item. Ms. Loewenheim provided an update on the tax deed land auction, noting that four parcels remained unsold after last year's auction. She stated these parcels were made available for over-the-counter sale starting January 13th, 2025 with the sale running through March 28th, 2025. One bid was received for \$4,900, exceeding the minimum bid of \$4,680, and the bidder also submitted the required \$25 administration fee.

Chairman Antenori called for the vote and it was approved 3-0.

County Treasurer

7. Approve the recommendation of the County Treasurer for the abatement of property taxes and interest on personal property and the removal of personal property tax liens on Treasurer's Certificate of Clearance No. 2025-001 to 2025-049.

Vice-Chairman Crosby made a motion to approve the recommendation of the County Treasurer for the abatement of property taxes and interest on personal property and the removal of personal property tax liens on Treasurer's Certificate of Clearance No. 2025-001 to 2025-049. Supervisor Gomez seconded the motion.

Catherine Traywick, County Treasurer, presented this item. Ms. Traywick provided an update on clearing uncollectible properties. She stated there are 49 parcels in dereliction, dilapidation, or complete tax removal, including mobile homes that have disappeared without proper clearance, since taxes cannot be collected on these properties, the process is necessary to abate previously levied taxes that are no longer enforceable.

Chairman Antenori called for the vote and it was approved 3-0.

Development Services

8. Authorize the Development Services Department to submit a grant application to the Community Foundation for Southern Arizona for housing repairs.

Supervisor Gomez made a motion to authorize the Development Services Department to submit a grant application to the Community Foundation for Southern Arizona for housing repairs. Vice-Chairman Crosby seconded the motion.

Susan Bronson, Planner I, presented this item. She introduced a new grant opportunity from the Community Foundation of Southern Arizona, funded by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), that would help expand the program. She stated the funding would allow repairs within the city limits of Sierra Vista and Douglas, as well as in flood-prone areas. She stated the grant would support projects improving home health, energy efficiency, and water conservation, aligning with existing efforts to repair roofs, showers, and HVAC systems.

In response to the Board, Ms. Bronson noted that funding is expected to decrease, and the program prioritizes critical repairs like roofs, heating, cooling, and water heaters over non-essential improvements. She stated that due to legal bidding requirements, emergency hazards cannot always be addressed immediately. Roof repairs make up about 30% of projects, with most funds going toward heating and cooling. She stated outreach efforts extend countywide, including McNeal and Elfrida, where at least one home in each area has been assisted.

Chairman Antenori called for the vote and it was approved 3-0.

STATE & FEDERAL LEGISLATION

9. Discussion and possible action regarding state and federal legislative matters listed or described in the attached County Supervisors Association Legislative Policy Committee Agenda, the Arizona Association of Counties (AACo) Legislative Policy Committee Agenda, and the proposed State budget, and other matters related thereto.

The Board discussed several legislative updates from the County Supervisors

Association, including bills affecting counties, open meeting laws, and pension system changes for corrections officers. Concerns were raised about a proposed food sales tax repeal, which could significantly impact rural city budgets, especially in Bisbee and Douglas. The Board also reviewed the governor's rural groundwater management bill, noting its potential financial impact on property values, agriculture, and tax revenues. Members debated alternative taxation methods, including property tax adjustments, and emphasized the importance of considering rural communities when making legislative decisions.

REPORT BY SHARON GILMAN, INTERIM COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR -- RECENT AND PENDING COUNTY MATTERS

Ms. Gilman reminded the Board and public to submit letters of interest for the County Recorder position, with the Board set to review applications the next day.

SUMMARY OF CURRENT EVENTS

Report by District 1 Supervisor, Tom Crosby

Vice-Chairman Crosby deferred his report.

Report by District 2 Supervisor, Kathleen L. Gomez

Supervisor Gomez read a letter from a constituent commending staff member Joe Casey for his professionalism in resolving an issue near Tombstone, thanked attendees of the recent Dance for Douglas event, and announced plans to attend the Eastern County Association meeting to address concerns about the Mexican wolf impacting local ranchers.

Report by District 3 Supervisor, Frank Antenori

Chairman Antenori differed his report.

Chairman Antenori adjourned the meeting at 11:18 a.m.

APPROVED:

Frank Antenori, Chairman

ATTEST:

Lara Loewenheim, Clerk of the Board