

**PROCEEDINGS OF THE COCHISE COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
REGULAR MEETING HELD ON
TUESDAY, APRIL 8, 2025**

A regular board meeting of the Cochise County Board of Supervisors was held on Tuesday, April 8, 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 10:06 a.m.

CALL TO THE PUBLIC

Allison Morse spoke in opposition to Resolution 25-02.

Tricia Gerrodette discussed draft resolution clarifying County Administrator's role.

CONSENT

Board of Supervisors

1. Approve the Minutes of the regular meeting of the Board of Supervisors of March 25, 2025.

Emergency Services

2. Accept issuance of two spools of technical rescue rope from the Tucson Fire Department, awarded and purchased from the State Homeland Security Grant Program.
3. Accept issuance of two electric vehicle fire blankets from the Arizona Department of Environmental Quality (ADEQ) Emergency Response Fund (ERF).

Finance

4. Approve demands and budget amendments for operating transfers.

Supervisor Gomez made a motion to approve consent agenda items 1 through 4. Vice-Chairman Crosby seconded the motion.

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

ACTION

Board of Supervisors

5. Approve a Proclamation declaring April 5-11, 2025, as the Week of the Young Child in Cochise County.

Supervisor Gomez made a motion to approve a Proclamation declaring April 5-11, 2025, as the Week of the Young Child in Cochise County. Vice-Chairman Crosby seconded the motion.

Supervisor Gomez read the Proclamation declaring April 5-11, 2025 as the Week of the Young Child in Cochise County.

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

6. Approve Resolution 25-07 establishing an Invocation Policy and Procedure for Regular Meetings of the Cochise County Board of Supervisors.

Supervisor Gomez made a motion to approve Resolution 25-07 establishing an Invocation Policy and Procedure for Regular Meetings of the Cochise County Board of Supervisors. Chairman Antenori seconded the motion.

Mr. Correa presented this item. Mr. Correa explained that a group from Bisbee raised concerns about whether a recent invocation respected the First Amendment. Mr. Correa and his staff researched similar resolutions, including one from the Arizona Legislature, following a suggestion from Chairman Antenori. He stated a simple and straightforward resolution was drafted to ensure alignment with constitutional guidelines. He stated the intent is to honor the Establishment Clause while appropriately reflecting community values.

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

County Schools

7. Approve a grant award from the Sulphur Springs Valley Electric Cooperative (SSVEC) to the Cochise County School Superintendent for the Community Share Initiative, in the amount of \$20,000.

Supervisor Gomez made a motion to approve a grant award from the Sulphur Springs Valley Electric Cooperative (SSVEC) to the Cochise County School Superintendent for the Community Share Initiative, in the amount of \$20,000. Vice-Chairman Crosby seconded the motion.

Dr. Jacqui Clay, School Superintendent, presented this item using a PowerPoint presentation. Dr. Clay presented the Community Share Project, emphasizing the importance of connecting educators, students, and families with local resources. She stated the initiative provides a digital platform for educators to collaborate with community partners and bring real-world learning into the classroom. She stated local professionals and businesses can offer mentorship, project guidance, and internships to support student growth. Dr. Clay expressed hope that these connections will inspire students to remain in Cochise County and contribute to its economic and community success.

In response to the Board, Cynthia Myers, Outreach Manager, explained that Community Share is a nationwide platform currently in use in Pima County and soon to be implemented throughout Cochise County. She stated the goal is to enhance support for local students through expanded regional partnerships.

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

8. Approve a grant award from the Sulphur Springs Valley Electric Cooperative (SSVEC) to the Cochise County School Superintendent for the Student Advisory Council, in the amount of \$19,993.

Supervisor Gomez made a motion to approve a grant award from the Sulphur Springs Valley Electric Cooperative (SSVEC) to the Cochise County School Superintendent for the Student Advisory Council, in the amount of \$19,993. Vice-Chairman Crosby seconded the motion.

Dr. Clay presented this item using a PowerPoint presentation. Dr. Clay explained the Student Advisory Council, which gives students a platform to voice their concerns at the county level while building leadership and communication skills. She stated the Council promotes civic engagement and is currently focused on creating an anti-bullying awareness campaign, with 15 student representatives from various schools. She stated the group meets monthly and plans to present their campaign locally and to the State Board of Education in July.

Supervisor Gomez expressed strong support for the Student Advisory Council and emphasized the importance of having student representation from every school, including Bisbee, McNeal, and Apache Douglas. Supervisor Gomez shared a personal passion for involving youth in government and fostering future leadership. Supervisor Gomez offered to assist with outreach and recruitment.

Chairman Antenori expressed appreciation to Sulphur Springs Valley Electric

Cooperative for their \$40,000 contribution to education in Cochise County. He highlighted the company's recognition of the importance of investing in the county's future workforce and praised the commitment to helping local youth become productive, contributing members of society.

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

Elections

9. Adopt Resolution 25-06 to approve 3 Vote Centers for the 2025 Special Primary and General Elections for Congressional District 7 as listed on the attached Exhibit; and authorize the Elections Director to make substitutions as necessary prior to each election, in the event that a Vote Center replacement needs to be made in accordance with A.R.S. § 16-411.

Supervisor Gomez made a motion to adopt Resolution 25-06 to approve 3 Vote Centers for the 2025 Special Primary and General Elections for Congressional District 7 as listed on the attached Exhibit; and authorize the Elections Director to make substitutions as necessary prior to each election, in the event that a Vote Center replacement needs to be made in accordance with A.R.S. § 16-411. Vice-Chairman Crosby seconded the motion.

Marisol Renteria, Interim Elections Director, presented this item. Ms. Renteria presented Resolution 25-06, requesting approval for the establishment of three vote centers. She stated these centers would be used for the 2025 Special Primary and Special General Elections for Congressional District 7 scheduled for July 15 and September 23.

Supervisor Gomez emphasized the importance of voter participation, particularly for residents of Douglas, Pirtleville, Bisbee, Naco, and part of Palominas. She encouraged everyone to vote, regardless of how they choose, as a strong voter turnout would ensure that future representatives cannot ignore their community.

In response to the Board, Ms. Renteria provided details about the voting process for the upcoming election, stating there are 17,775 active voters in the affected precincts, with 12,733 enrolled in early voting. She listed the 12 precincts in the Congressional District and noted the key election dates. She stated voter registration must be completed by June 16th, and early voting starts on June 18th, with two Saturday voting dates in Douglas (June 21st and June 28th). She stated the deadline to request an early mail ballot is July 7, 2025, with Election Day on July 15, 2025 and voting centers in Bisbee, Douglas, and Palominas will be open from 6:00 AM to 7:00 PM, and early voting will be available until the Friday before Election Day.

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

Engineering & Natural Resources

10. Approve Intergovernmental Agreement (IGA) 24-0010929-I, Whitewater Draw Bridge St #08109, between Arizona Department of Transportation (ADOT) and Cochise County, in the amount of \$127,305, with a local match of \$7,635, effective upon signing of all parties through completion of the project.

Supervisor Gomez made a motion to approve Intergovernmental Agreement (IGA) 24-0010929-I, Whitewater Draw Bridge St #08109, between Arizona Department of

Transportation (ADOT) and Cochise County, in the amount of \$127,305, with a local match of \$7,635, effective upon signing of all parties through completion of the project. Vice-Chairman Crosby seconded the motion.

Jackie Watkins, Engineering and Natural Resources Director, presented this item. Ms. Watkins provided details about the Whitewater Bridge and explained that the grant is a scoping grant, allowing her department to plan for the eventual replacement of the bridge.

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

Health & Social Services

11. Approve CTR063847, Amendment 2 - Arizona Prescription Drug Overdose Prevention Program, between the Arizona Department of Health Services (ADHS) and Cochise County Health & Social Services (CCHSS) in the amount of \$247,270, effective September 30, 2024.

Supervisor Gomez made a motion to approve CTR063847, Amendment 2 - Arizona Prescription Drug Overdose Prevention Program, between the Arizona Department of Health Services (ADHS) and Cochise County Health & Social Services (CCHSS) for the amount of \$247,270, effective September 30, 2024. Vice-Chairman Crosby seconded the motion.

Suzanne Hagle presented this item. Ms. Hagle presented an amendment to the IGA, stating that the deliverables and dollar amount would remain the same as the previous year. She noted the only change is the addition of a 2.6 Full-Time Equivalent (FTE) for this year. She also reiterated that the services, including the linkages to care program, naloxone distribution, overdose fatality work, and county trainings, would continue as before.

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

STATE & FEDERAL LEGISLATION

12. 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.

Chairman Antenori shared that there was no update due to the cancellation of the recent meeting. He spoke with Senator Gowan, who mentioned that budget negotiations and water legislation discussions are facing difficulties, with no clear compromise in sight.

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

Ms. Gilman updated the Board with the recruitment for the Development Services Director is still open, closing this Friday, and interviews are being conducted for the Elections Director. She stated the Arizona Department of Transportation is finalizing the design concept report for the Connector Road, with publication expected soon once engineering signatures are in place. She will share the report with the Board and make it publicly available via the website and Facebook.

SUMMARY OF CURRENT EVENTS

Report by District 1 Supervisor, Tom Crosby

Vice-Chairman Crosby reminded everyone that traditionally, the governor controls three times the amount of money administered by the legislature. He mentioned it would be helpful to know the likely figures if anyone speaks to Senator Gowan or other representatives before he does.

Report by District 2 Supervisor, Kathleen L. Gomez

Supervisor Gomez deferred her report.

Report by District 3 Supervisor, Frank Antenori

Chairman Antenori deferred his report.

Chairman Antenori adjourned the meeting at 10:44 a.m.

APPROVED:

Frank Antenori, Chairman

ATTEST:

Lara Loewenheim, Clerk of the Board