

**PROCEEDINGS OF THE COCHISE COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
REGULAR MEETING HELD ON
TUESDAY, AUGUST 5, 2025**

A regular board meeting of the Cochise County Board of Supervisors was held on Tuesday, August 5, 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, County Administrator; Joe Casey, Deputy County Administrator; Paul Correa, Chief Civil Deputy County Attorney; Lara Loewenheim, Clerk of the Board

Chairman Antenori called the meeting to order at 10:32 a.m.

CALL TO THE PUBLIC

E. Allen Groover requested copies of each Board member's bond pursuant to Title 38.

Daniel LaChance demanded certified copies of each Board member's Arizona bond.

Michael Schafer expressed concerns about prior elections.

Allison Morse expressed gratitude for recent improvements to the speaker request process, and opposed Paul Rice's presentation on voting machine certification and demanded transparency in Supervisor Crosby's external legal funding.

Sandy Trull argued that elections involving third-party corporations are unconstitutional.

CONSENT

Board of Supervisors

1. Approve the Minutes of the regular meeting of the Board of Supervisors of July 22, 2025.

Elections

2. Approve the appointment of one Democrat Precinct Committeemen and resignation of two Republican Precinct Committeemen by recommendation of their respective Cochise County Party Chairman, to serve through the October 1, 2026, term.

Engineering & Natural Resources

3. Adopt Resolution 25-22 to Authorize the addition of roads within Kings Ranch at Coronado located in Hereford to the Cochise County Maintained Road System.

Finance

4. Approve demands and budget amendments for operating transfers.

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

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

PUBLIC HEARINGS

Board of Supervisors

5. Order the continued establishment of the Cochise County Jail District pursuant to A.R.S. § 48-4001 and Resolution 25-16 after finding the public interest, convenience, and necessity, subject to voter approval of the excise tax at the election scheduled for November 4, 2025.

Supervisor Gomez made a motion to enter Public Hearing. Vice-Chairman Crosby seconded the motion.

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

Chairman Antenori opened the Public Hearing.

Ms. Gilman presented this item. Ms. Gilman explained that a public hearing is being held to consider the continued establishment of the Cochise County Jail District. She noted that the previous board established the jail district in 2022 and held a tax election in May 2023, but since the tax was repealed as of July 31st, 2025, legal counsel recommended this hearing and subsequent board action to approve the district's continued establishment.

Mr. Correa responded to the Board by clarifying that the Jail District was returning to the status quo prior to the litigation, emphasizing that the court's opinion did not resolve the matter either factually or legally, nor did the settlement agreement.

Ellen Groover stated that Resolutions 25-16 and 25-24 fail to demonstrate that the board of supervisors has fulfilled constitutional requirements.

Steve Dickinson expressed his appreciation to the Board for the progress being shown for the Jail District. He raised concerns about Resolution 25-16 and 25-24.

Daniel LaChance urged the Board to vote no due to unconstitutionality.

Kim Depew stated that all her questions about the jail district had been answered and expressed concern about the certainty of the district's dissolution.

Tricia Gerrodette stated that the shift from opposition to support for the jail proposal may be due to the omission of operational and maintenance costs.

Vice-Chairman Crosby stated that the board must follow what the courts dictate regarding the jail district and discussed the distinction between the legal (dour) process and the de facto situation they are currently facing.

Chairman Antenori closed the Public Hearing.

ACTION

Board of Supervisors

6. Adopt Resolution 25-24 Ordering the Continued Establishment of the Cochise County Jail District Contingent Upon Voter Approval of an Excise Tax at the November 4, 2025, Election.

Supervisor Gomez made a motion to adopt Resolution 25-24 Ordering the Continued Establishment of the Cochise County Jail District Contingent Upon Voter Approval of an Excise Tax at the November 4, 2025, Election. Vice-Chairman Crosby seconded the motion.

Allen Groover was called upon but did not speak.

Steve Dickenson was called upon but did not speak.

Daniel LaChance argued that the resolution is unconstitutional because it does not adhere to the signature requirements mandated by the Arizona Constitution for initiatives and referendums.

Chairman Antenori stated that there was one anonymous person in support of the resolution.

Supervisor Gomez stated that the Board is bound by the settlement agreement and cannot challenge the law regarding the 60% requirement. She emphasized that the Board made the decision in good faith and will therefore follow the settlement.

Chairman Antenori explained that the current situation is a technicality resulting from the settlement. He stated the motion is only to extend current operations until the November 4th, 2025 election for voters to decide the district's future.

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

PUBLIC HEARINGS (CONTINUED)

Development Services

7. Adopt Resolution 25-23, amending the Development Services Fee schedule for inspection services provided by Development Services, effective August 5, 2025.

Supervisor Gomez made a motion to adopt Resolution 25-23, amending the Development Services Fee schedule for inspection services provided by Development Services, effective August 5, 2025. Vice-Chairman Crosby seconded the motion.

Christine McLachlan, Director of Development Services, presented this item. Ms. McLachlan explained that the Arizona Department of Housing updates its fee schedule annually, and the county's inspection fees, which are user-paid to cover service costs. She presented current and proposed fee changes, including increases for mobile home inspections and other services.

In response to the Board, Ms. McLachlan confirmed that the inspection fees will be the same for residents in Douglas, Tombstone, and Benson under similar agreements.

Chairman Antenori opened the Public Hearing and no one chose to speak.

Chairman Antenori closed the Public Hearing.

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

ACTION (CONTINUED)

Board of Supervisors (Continued)

8. Approve the withdrawal of Cochise County Board of Supervisors from the Association of Defense Communities (ADC).

Vice-Chairman Crosby made a motion to approve the withdrawal of Cochise County Board of Supervisors from the Association of Defense Communities (ADC). Supervisor Gomez seconded the motion.

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

9. Approve the withdrawal of Cochise County Board of Supervisors from the Coalition of Arizona/New Mexico Counties.

Supervisor Gomez made a motion to approve the withdrawal of Cochise County Board of Supervisors from the Coalition of Arizona/New Mexico Counties. Vice-Chairman Crosby seconded the motion.

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

10. Approve the termination of the Intergovernmental Agreement (IGA) between the City of Sierra Vista and Cochise County that authorizes both entities to administer programs and to receive and disburse funds for the Upper San Pedro Partnership (USPP) and terminate membership in the USPP, effective August 5, 2025.

Vice-Chairman Crosby made a motion to approve the termination of the Intergovernmental Agreement (IGA) between the City of Sierra Vista and Cochise County that authorizes both entities to administer programs and to receive and disburse funds for the Upper San Pedro Partnership (USPP) and terminate membership in the USPP, effective August 5, 2025. Supervisor Gomez seconded the motion.

Tricia Gerrodette questioned whether membership in the Cochise Conservation and Recharge Network (CCRN) might be a requirement for participating in the Upper San Pedro Partnership (USPP).

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

11. Renew and/or revise committee appointments for members of the Board of Supervisors and executive staff for the 2025-26 Fiscal Year and approve continuing annual memberships for 2025-26, with payment of associated dues as described herein.

Supervisor Gomez made a motion to renew and/or revise committee appointments for members of the Board of Supervisors and executive staff for the 2025-26 Fiscal Year and approve continuing annual memberships for 2025-26, with payment of associated dues as described herein. Vice-Chairman Crosby seconded the motion.

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

Facilities

12. Approve transfer from the County Capital Projects Fund contingency to the Facilities Department for roofing at 1415 W Melody Lane, Bldg A in Bisbee, in the amount of \$235,528.20.

Vice-Chairman Crosby made a motion to approve transfer from the County Capital Projects Fund contingency to the Facilities Department for roofing at 1415 W Melody Lane, Bldg A in Bisbee, in the amount of \$235,528.20. Supervisor Gomez seconded the motion.

Darrel Crowley, Director of Facilities, presented this item. He stated it was a request to replace the roof on Building A.

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

13. Approve transfer from the County Capital Projects Fund contingency to the Facilities Department to replace (4) ductless mini-split systems and (19) gas pack units at the Juvenile Detention Center located at 100 Colonia de Salud in Sierra Vista, in the amount of \$317,230.23.

Supervisor Gomez made a motion to approve transfer from the County Capital Projects Fund contingency to the Facilities Department to replace (4) ductless mini-split systems and (19) gas pack units at the Juvenile Detention Center located at

100 Colonia de Salud in Sierra Vista, in the amount of \$317,230.23. Vice-Chairman Crosby seconded the motion.

Darrel Crowley, Director of Facilities, presented this item. Mr. Crowley explained that the HVAC system replacements are part of a long-term plan, noting the current units are over 20 years old and will be replaced with more efficient models.

In response to the Board, Mr. Crowley explained that the building housing the juvenile detention center also contains a superior court and clerk's office, making it a shared facility for multiple judicial systems.

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

Elections

14. Adopt Resolution 25-26 authorizing Cochise County's voluntary participation in the U.S. Election Assistance Commission's (EAC) Field Services Program (FSP).

Vice-Chairman Crosby made a motion to adopt Resolution 25-26 authorizing Cochise County's voluntary participation in the U.S. Election Assistance Commission's (EAC) Field Services Program (FSP). Supervisor Gomez seconded the motion.

Melissa Avant, Director of Elections, presented this item. Ms. Avant explained that the agreement is to participate in the voluntary Field Service Program under the Help America Vote Act, which ensures that the voting system being used is identical to the one certified by the Election Assistance Commission.

In response to the Board, Ms. Avant explained that the Secretary of State signed off on participation for Cochise County in the voluntary Field Service Program, which is established by Congress to verify that the county's voting system matches the certified system. She emphasized that the program is voluntary, with Cochise County being the first in Arizona to participate.

Allison Morse expressed support for Cochise County's voluntary participation in the EAC's Field Services Program.

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

County Treasurer

15. Adopt Resolution 25-25 Directing the County Treasurer to Remit Funds Collected from Taxes Levied in Common School Districts Not Within a High School District.

Supervisor Gomez made a motion to adopt Resolution 25-25 Directing the County Treasurer to Remit Funds Collected from Taxes Levied in Common School Districts Not Within a High School District. Vice-Chairman Crosby seconded the motion.

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

County Attorney

16. Approve the Drug, Gang and Violent Crime Control Grant Agreement DC-26-021 between the Arizona Criminal Justice Commission (ACJC) and Cochise County, in the amount of \$155,586.18, effective July 1, 2025, through June 30, 2026.

Vice-Chairman Crosby made a motion to approve the Drug, Gang and Violent Crime Control Grant Agreement DC-26-021 between the Arizona Criminal Justice Commission (ACJC) and Cochise County, in the amount of \$155,586.18, effective July 1, 2025, through June 30, 2026. Chairman Antenori seconded the motion.

Kenny Reeves, Chief of Staff, presented this item. Mr. Reeves requested approval for a grant that the county has had for decades, which provides significant funding for prosecutors, particularly in drug and violent crime cases.

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

17. Approve the Crime Victim Compensation Grant Agreement VC-26-002 between the Arizona Criminal Justice Commission and the Cochise County Attorney's Office, in the amount of \$141,014, effective July 1, 2025, through June 30, 2026.

Supervisor Gomez made a motion to approve the Crime Victim Compensation Grant Agreement VC-26-002 between the Arizona Criminal Justice Commission and the Cochise County Attorney's Office, in the amount of \$141,014, effective July 1, 2025, through June 30, 2026. Vice-Chairman Crosby seconded the motion.

Jillian Nunez, Victim Witness Program Manager, presented this item. Ms. Nunez emphasized the importance of supporting crime victims in the county through a mandated victim compensation coordinator and other victim-related services.

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

STATE & FEDERAL LEGISLATION

18. 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 informed the Board that he had provided a list of legislation to County Supervisors Association (CSA) for consideration on state and federal legislative issues, including concerns about Fort Huachuca and electronic ground operations. He mentioned plans to meet with the Electronic Proving Ground (EPG) commander to address potential downsizing impacts on the county and emphasized the importance of actively advocating to prevent negative effects. He mentioned plans to meet with the EPG commander to address potential downsizing impacts on the county and emphasized the importance of actively advocating to prevent negative effects.

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

Ms. Gilman confirmed that the Arizona Department of Revenue that the jail tax did cease collection on July 31, 2025, at midnight.

SUMMARY OF CURRENT EVENTS

Report by District 1 Supervisor, Tom Crosby

Vice-Chairman Crosby discussed Tina Peters, former Mesa County Clerk and Recorder, highlighting her legal issues related to election record preservation and the premature overwrite of election data, raising concerns about election integrity. He also mentioned a recent federal court ruling in Texas supporting voter ID laws and referenced a letter from Representative Abe Hamadeh requesting an investigation into election services breaches, expressing skepticism about privatized election oversight.

Report by District 2 Supervisor, Kathleen L. Gomez

Supervisor Gomez shared details about upcoming community events, including a tribute to Val Kilmer in Tombstone. She noted the 150th anniversary football game between Douglas and Bisbee on September 5th, 2025, which also marks the groundbreaking for the port of entry. She stated there is an art exhibition at the Douglas Art Association located at the historic library building.

Report by District 3 Supervisor, Frank Antenori

Chairman Antenori shared information about an upcoming veteran community connect event hosted by the Pearce-Sunsites VFW, in collaboration with the Arizona Coalition of Military Families, scheduled for September 12th, 2025. He stated the event would include workshops on veteran benefits, mental health, employment, housing, and food assistance, with lunch provided. He reminded the community about the regular Friday farmers market at the Boardwalk Market Location.

Chairman Antenori adjourned the meeting at 11:37 a.m.

APPROVED:

Frank Antenori, Chairman

ATTEST:

Lara Loewenheim, Clerk of the Board