

**PROCEEDINGS OF THE COCHISE COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
REGULAR MEETING HELD ON
TUESDAY, OCTOBER 7, 2025**

A regular board meeting of the Cochise County Board of Supervisors was held on Tuesday, October 7, 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, Telephonic; Kathleen L. Gomez, Supervisor

Staff Present: Sharon Gilman, County Administrator; Joe Casey, Deputy County Administrator; Dylan Hendel, Civil Deputy County Attorney; Lara Loewenheim, Clerk of the Board

Chairman Antenori called the meeting to order at 10:16 a.m.

CALL TO THE PUBLIC

George Adams expressed frustration about ongoing road issues.

Supervisor Gomez stated that road concerns would be addressed at the November 6 meeting,

Vice-Chairman Crosby advised residents to keep a detailed record of communications regarding road issues to avoid misunderstandings and explained that road priorities are based on the number of residents affected and emergency access needs.

Alfred Kern expressed frustration over road issues, citing safety concerns for elderly residents and emergency responders.

Allison Morse raised concerns over escalating attorney fees related to multiple jail district tax lawsuits.

CONSENT

Board of Supervisors

1. Approve the Minutes of the regular meeting of the Board of Supervisors of September 16, 2025.

County Sheriff

2. Approve Amendment 1 to Agreement M22-0060 between the Arizona Department of Emergency and Military Affairs (DEMA), Cochise County, and the Cochise County Sheriff's Office (CCSO), to integrate and enhance the Sheriff's Office 700MHz Radio System with regional and state law enforcement partners, to revise the effective date to be October 1, 2022, through December 31, 2025.
3. Approve Amendment 1 Agreement M21-0081 between the State of Arizona Department of Emergency and Military Affairs(AZ DEMA), Cochise County, and the Cochise County Sheriff's Office, for Human Trafficking Prevention and Entry into the United States Prevention, revising the term agreement from July 1, 2021, through December 31, 2027.
4. Approve Amendment 1 to Agreement M21-0082 between the State of Arizona Department of Emergency and Military Affairs (AZ DEMA), Cochise County, the Cochise County Sheriff's Office, and the Cochise County Attorney, for Border Related Crimes, Prosecution and Imprisonment, revising the term agreement from July 1, 2021, through December 31, 2027.

Elections

5. Approve the appointment of two Precinct Committee members and two resignations by recommendation of the Cochise County Democratic Party Chair, to serve through the October 1, 2026, term.
6. Appoint Poll Workers and Early Board Members for the November 4, 2025, General Election, and authorize the Elections Director to make additions or substitutions as necessary prior to the election, to ensure that all Vote Centers are staffed adequately with trained election Poll Workers and Early Board Members.

Engineering & Natural Resources

7. Adopt Resolution 25-31 to Authorize the Abandonment of a Portion of a Public Right-of-Way known as West Mills Boulevard, near Portal, Arizona.
8. Approve the transfer of land held by the State of Arizona under tax deed, as described in Exhibits A & B, to Cochise County and to the Cochise County Flood Control District, for transportation and flood control purposes.;

Finance

9. Approve demands and budget amendments for operating transfers.

Supervisor Gomez made a motion to approve Consent Items 1 through 9.
Vice-Chairman Crosby seconded the motion.

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

PUBLIC HEARINGS

Board of Supervisors

10. Approve Series 09 (Liquor Store) liquor license application submitted by Jeffrey Craig Miller of Quick Pic Market & Gas at 62 N Oak Dr, Benson, AZ 85602.

Chairman Antenori opened the Public Hearing.

Supervisor Gomez made a motion to approve Series 09 (Liquor Store) liquor license application submitted by Jeffrey Craig Miller of Quick Pic Market & Gas at 62 N Oak Dr, Benson, AZ 85602. Vice-Chairman Crosby seconded the motion.

Ms. Loewenheim presented this item. Ms. Loewenheim stated the item is an owner transfer of a Series 9 liquor store license for Quick Pic Market & Gas, formerly J and C Beverage, noting all departmental reviews are complete, no formal protests were received, fees were paid, and staff recommends approval.

Chairman Antenori closed the Public Hearing.

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

Development Services

11. Adopt Zoning Ordinance 25-20 to rezone tax parcels 117-06-063, 064, 065, 066, 067, 074, 075, 076, 077, and 078 from SR-43 (Single-Household Residential District, one dwelling per 43,000 square feet) to SR-174 (Single-Household Residential District, one dwelling per 4 acres) pursuant to the application of Paul Prince (Supervisor District 3).

Supervisor Gomez made a motion to adopt Zoning Ordinance 25-20 to rezone tax parcels 117-06-063, 064, 065, 066, 067, 074, 075, 076, 077, and 078 from SR-43 (Single-Household Residential District, one dwelling per 43,000 square feet) to SR-174 (Single-Household Residential District, one dwelling per 4 acres) pursuant to the application of Paul Prince (Supervisor District 3). Vice-Chairman Crosby seconded the motion.

Chairman Antenori opened the Public Hearing.

Matthew Taylor, Planning Division Manager, presented this item using a PowerPoint presentation. Mr. Taylor presented docket RZ25-12, a rezoning request by Paul Prince to change property from SR 43 to SR 174 for residential use under the county's owner-builder program. He stated there was minimal public concern, and that both the Planning and Zoning Commission and staff recommended approval.

In response to the Board, Mr. Taylor confirmed the rezoning and text amendment meet the applicants' needs and that it was an overall win for the citizens of the county.

Paul Prince expressed gratitude and satisfaction, acknowledging the challenges faced and appreciating the Board's efforts to accommodate his request.

Chairman Antenori closed the Public Hearing.

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

12. Adopt Zoning Ordinance 25-21 to rezone tax parcel 202-81-169 from SR-8 (Single-Household Residential District, one dwelling per 8,000 square feet) to RU-10 (Rural District, one dwelling per 10 acres) pursuant to the application of Ryan and Desiree Gerth (Supervisor District 3).

Supervisor Gomez made a motion to adopt Zoning Ordinance 25-21 to rezone tax parcel 202-81-169 from SR-8 (Single-Household Residential District, one dwelling per 8,000 square feet) to RU-10 (Rural District, one dwelling per 10 acres) pursuant to the application of Ryan and Desiree Gerth (Supervisor District 3). Vice-Chairman Crosby seconded the motion.

Chairman Antenori opened the Public Hearing.

Matthew Taylor, Planning Division Manager, presented this item using a PowerPoint presentation. Mr. Taylor presented docket RZ25-13, to downzone a 40-acre property from SR-8 to RU-10 for rural residential use, noting compliance with 9 of 15 evaluation factors, minimal public response, and recommendations for approval from both the Planning and Zoning Commission and staff.

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

ACTION

Board of Supervisors

13. Approve a proclamation to declare October as "Cochise County Opt-Out Month" to recognize and promote the county's unique Owner-Builder Opt-Out tradition.

Supervisor Gomez made a motion to approve a proclamation to declare October as "Cochise County Opt-Out Month" to recognize and promote the county's unique Owner-Builder Opt-Out tradition. Chairman Antenori seconded the motion.

Raymond Korleski spoke in favor and discussed the reasons.

Clay Greathouse spoke in favor and discussed the reasons.

Danny McGregor spoke in favor and discussed the reasons.

Karen McGregor highlighted the success of the opt-out program and workshops that discuss off-grid building.

Christian Sawyer thanked Supervisor Gomez for assisting with Mr. Prince's permit modification, noting it resolved neighbor conflicts, and highlighted opportunities for rural economic development.

Jonathan Longnecker highlighted the global impact of Cochise County's opt-out program, emphasizing that alternative, sustainable building methods are cost-effective, environmentally friendly, and resilient, and expressed support for expanding the program to further promote innovative, accessible housing.

Richard Samartino spoke in favor and discussed the reasons.

Joy Banks shared her personal experience living in an opt-out house and expressed deep gratitude to the county for providing the opportunity to opt-out.

Supervisor Gomez read the Proclamation for the record.

Vice-Chairman Crosby commented that citizens are actively protecting their lifestyle and building choices.

In response to the Board, Mr. Taylor stated that the opt-out community did not lose anything over the previous board with any modifications.

Chairman Antenori expressed admiration for the creativity and engineering in opt-out homes, commended community mentorship, emphasized the importance of due diligence when purchasing property, and affirmed the Board's intent to make the building process as accessible and straightforward as possible while respecting zoning rules.

Supervisor Gomez expressed appreciation for the Expo and stated that there will be county representatives available for future events.

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

Clerk of Superior Courts

14. Approve Funding Agreement for Access to Justice (A2J) Grant between Arizona Supreme Court Administrative Office of the Courts and Cochise County Superior Court, for the purchase and implementation of the NEMO-Q ticketing system to improve customer service operations, in the amount of \$44,850, effective October 7, 2025, through June 30, 2027.

Supervisor Gomez made a motion to approve the Funding Agreement for Access to Justice (A2J) Grant between Arizona Supreme Court Administrative Office of the Courts and Cochise County Superior Court, for the purchase and implementation of the NEMO-Q ticketing system to improve customer service operations, in the amount of \$44,850, effective October 7, 2025, through June 30, 2027. Vice-Chairman Crosby seconded the motion.

Amy Hunley, Clerk of the Superior Court, presented this item. She stated the clerk's office was approved to purchase a customer service ticketing system and subsequently received a Supreme Court grant to fund it.

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

County Sheriff

15. Approve the Highway Safety Grant Agreement 2026-405d-013 from the Governor's Office of Highway Safety, for the DUI / Impaired Driver Enforcement program, in the amount of \$25,079, effective October 1, 2025, through September 30, 2026.

Supervisor Gomez made a motion to approve the Highway Safety Grant Agreement 2026-405d-013 from the Governor's Office of Highway Safety, for the DUI / Impaired Driver Enforcement program, in the amount of \$25,079, effective October 1, 2025, through September 30, 2026. Vice-Chairman Crosby seconded the motion.

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

16. Approve the Highway Safety Grant Agreement 2026-PTS-016 from the Governor's Office of Highway Safety, for Selective Traffic Enforcement Program (STEP) overtime, employee related expenses, and radar equipment, in the amount of \$29,474.00, effective October 1, 2025, through September 30, 2026.

Supervisor Gomez made a motion to approve the Highway Safety Grant Agreement 2026-PTS-016 from the Governor's Office of Highway Safety, for Selective Traffic Enforcement Program (STEP) overtime, employee related expenses, and radar equipment, in the amount of \$29,474.00, effective October 1, 2025, through September 30, 2026. Vice-Chairman Crosby seconded the motion.

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

17. Approve Agreement M25-0026 between the State of Arizona Department of Emergency and Military Affairs(AZ DEMA) and the Cochise County Sheriff's Office, for equipment to support Operation Desert Guardian, in the amount of \$748,900, effective March 10, 2025, through December 31, 2027.

Supervisor Gomez made a motion to approve Agreement M25-0026 between the State of Arizona Department of Emergency and Military Affairs(AZ DEMA) and the Cochise County Sheriff's Office, for equipment to support Operation Desert Guardian, in the amount of \$748,900, effective March 10, 2025, through December 31, 2027. Vice-Chairman Crosby seconded the motion.

John Gjerde, Captain, presented this item. He explained that Operation Desert Guardian is a statewide, multi-agency effort to combat narcotic and human smuggling and disrupt cartels. He stated the grant would fund equipment like a true narc scanner for safer and more efficient fentanyl detection by deputies.

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

Court Administration

18. Approve the appointment of Anne M. Borowiec as Superior Court Judge Pro Tempore, pursuant to Article VI, § 31 of the Arizona Constitution and A.R.S. §§ 12-141, 12-144, et seq. and authorize Court Administration to utilize a duly appointed Superior Court Judge Pro Tempore from another county, if needed under extenuating circumstances, pursuant to A.R.S. § 12-144, effective October 7, 2025, through June 30, 2026.

Supervisor Gomez made a motion to approve the appointment of Anne M. Borowiec as Superior Court Judge Pro Tempore, pursuant to Article VI, § 31 of the Arizona Constitution and A.R.S. §§ 12-141, 12-144, et seq. and authorize Court Administration to utilize a duly appointed Superior Court Judge Pro Tempore from another county, if needed under extenuating circumstances, pursuant to A.R.S. § 12-144, effective October 7, 2025, through June 30, 2026. Vice-Chairman Crosby seconded the motion.

Laura Cardinal expressed support and discussed the reasons.

Allison Morse expressed support and discussed the reasons.

Jeanne Whitney read into the record that retired attorney Candy Pardee was unable to

attend, but she is in support of the appointment. Ms. Whitney expressed support and discussed the reasons.

Chairman Antenori reported that Deborah Herzog, Michael L. Brown, Christy Brown, and four others, including some anonymous supporters, expressed support for the appointment.

Vice-Chairman Crosby expressed a broader concern that judges should be elected rather than appointed annually, though he said political affiliation would not influence his judgment in this instance.

Supervisor Gomez expressed support for the judicial appointment but noted frustration at not receiving adequate information about the applicant or the process beforehand. She emphasized the importance of being informed as a Board member responsible for budget decisions and stated she does not want to serve as a rubber stamp.

Chairman Antenori stated that politics inevitably influences judicial decisions and that judges' personal philosophies affect their rulings. He announced he would vote against the appointment, citing a principled opposition to contributing to what he views as a liberal-leaning judiciary.

Chairman Antenori called for the vote, and it was approved 2-1 (Antenori Opposed).

Emergency Services

19. Approve amendments to Policy 2218: Emergency Declaration and Resources.

Supervisor Gomez made a motion to approve amendments to Policy 2218: Emergency Declaration and Resources. Vice-Chairman Crosby seconded the motion.

Dan Duchon, Emergency Management Director, presented this item. Mr. Duchon presented updates to Policy 2218, clarifying the chain of command and use of county resources before and after emergencies. He stated the revisions also include guidelines for employees, elected officials, appointed departments, and proper tracking and reimbursement when using special revenue funds.

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

20. Approve Resolution 25-30 Relating to Cochise County Emergency Management, the Emergency Powers and Authorities of the Board of Supervisors and Implementing the Provisions of ARS Sections 26-301, et seq.

Supervisor Gomez made a motion to approve Resolution 25-30 Relating to Cochise County Emergency Management, the Emergency Powers and Authorities of the Board of Supervisors and Implementing the Provisions of ARS Sections 26-301, et seq. Vice-Chairman Crosby seconded the motion.

Dan Duchon, Emergency Management Director, stated a caveat was added stating that any proclamations or regulations issued by the Chairman must be presented to the Board within 24 hours, or they will be considered void.

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

Health & Social Services

21. Approve Amendment 3 to Intergovernmental Agreement (IGA) CTR070113, CDC Overdose Data to Action (OD2A), between the Arizona Department of Health Services (ADHS) and Cochise Health & Social Services (CHSS), in the amount of \$83,636, effective September 1, 2025, through August 31, 2026.

Supervisor Gomez made a motion to approve Amendment 3 to Intergovernmental Agreement (IGA) CTR070113, CDC Overdose Data to Action (OD2A), between the Arizona Department of Health Services (ADHS) and Cochise Health & Social Services (CHSS), in the amount of \$83,636, effective September 1, 2025, through August 31, 2026. Vice-Chairman Crosby seconded the motion.

Kendra Allen, Overdose Prevention Health Educator, presented this item. She stated the amendment continues year three of the OD2A grant, supporting core prevention activities.

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

STATE & FEDERAL LEGISLATION

22. 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 discussed the federal government shutdown and shared that he and Supervisor Gomez will be attending the County Supervisors Association to propose legislation for the upcoming state session.

Supervisor Gomez noted that the shutdown significantly affects funding for rural health and hospitals, emphasizing its detrimental impact on rural counties.

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

Ms. Gilman reminded the Board about the Cochise County Justice and Care Collective happening tomorrow, October 8, 2025, offering individuals with non-felony warrants a chance to clear records and access support services. She also noted the economic development work session was canceled. She recognized Health Department Director Barb Lang for receiving the 2025 Public Health Leadership Award.

SUMMARY OF CURRENT EVENTS

Report by District 1 Supervisor, Tom Crosby

Vice-Chairman Crosby clarified that his earlier comment on agenda item 18 should have specified the appointment involved a former Republican supervisor.

Report by District 2 Supervisor, Kathleen L. Gomez

Supervisor Gomez highlighted several upcoming cultural and community events in Cochise County.

Native American Festival – Saturday, November 15th, 2025, at the Cochise County Fairgrounds in Douglas (\$10, kids under 12 free).

Bisbee Plain-Air Festival– October 9–12, 2025, in Bisbee (artists paint and compete for prizes).

Great Stair Climb– October 18, 2025, in Bisbee.

B.R.A.T.S Event (Rolling Arts Transport Society)– October 25, 2025.

Mariachi Festival– November 1, 2025, at Warren Ball Park, in Bisbee.

Helldorado Days– October 17–19, 2025 in Tombstone (includes parade judged by Supervisor Gomez).

Tombstone Chamber Christmas Tree Lighting – November 28, 2025.

Supervisor Gomez noted that despite rain at the Cochise County Fair, attendees had a great time. She criticized the Cochise County Tourism Board for not supporting the fair, highlighting that 53,000 people attended last year, and emphasized that future events, including other carnivals like the one in Sierra Vista, should consider the fair as part of the broader county community.

Report by District 3 Supervisor, Frank Antenori

Chairman Antenori announced the first annual Water Fair in District 3 on Saturday, October 18th, 2025, from 10:00 am to 4:00 pm at the Sunsites Community Center in Pearce. He stated the event would offer information on well maintenance, identifying pump issues, rainwater harvesting, water-efficient gardening, and feature various water-related vendors.

Chairman Antenori adjourned the meeting at 11:51 a.m.

APPROVED:

Frank Antenori, Chairman

ATTEST:

Lara Loewenheim, Clerk of the Board