

**PROCEEDINGS OF THE COCHISE COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
REGULAR MEETING HELD ON
TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 18, 2025**

A regular board meeting of the Cochise County Board of Supervisors was held on Tuesday, November 18, 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; Bert Whitehead, Civil Deputy County Attorney; Lara Loewenheim, Clerk of the Board

Chairman Antenori called the meeting to order at 10:05 a.m.

CALL TO THE PUBLIC

George Adams stated his appreciation for the recent meeting on road matters. He stated the PowerPoint presentation raised concerns about how effectively the equipment functions, and he touched on available materials and the possibility of using railroad track material for road needs.

Alfred Kern expressed his appreciation to Supervisor Gomez for meeting with him. He stated railroad ballast and tailings near the pit could be used for roads.

CONSENT

Board of Supervisors

1. Approve the Minutes of the Regular meeting of the Board of Supervisors of October 21, 2025.
2. Accept a grant from the Ak-Chin Indian Community as a pass-through for the Mescal J-6 Fire District in the amount of \$8,501.93.
3. Acknowledge the receipt from the Cochise County Jail District Board of Directors of a certified copy of the official canvass of the November 4, 2025, election, and order it be filed with the Clerk of the Board.

County Schools

4. Approve Fiscal Year 2026 Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) Grant from the Arizona Department of Education (ADE), in the amount of \$884.66.

Elections

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

Engineering & Natural Resources

6. Adopt Resolution 25-33 authorizing the addition of a portion of Conaway Circle located within the subdivision of Red Hawk II Units 2 & 3 to the Cochise County Maintained Road System.

Finance

7. Approve demands and budget amendments for operating transfers.

Supervisor Gomez made a motion to approve Consent items 1 through 7. Vice-Chairman Crosby seconded the motion.

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

PUBLIC HEARINGS

Development Services

8. Approve, deny, modify, or remand Docket SUA25-04 an appeal by Bennie and Janell Schmidt (applicants) of the Planning and Zoning Commission's denial of Docket SU25-14, a Special Use Authorization request to allow a 30-space recreational vehicle park on tax parcel 104-34-010A along S. Hereford Road in Palominas (Supervisor District 1).

Supervisor Gomez made a motion to approve, deny, modify, or remand Docket SUA25-04 an appeal by Bennie and Janell Schmidt (applicants) of the Planning and Zoning Commission's denial of Docket SU25-14, a Special Use Authorization request to allow a 30-space recreational vehicle park on tax parcel 104-34-010A along S. Hereford Road in Palominas (Supervisor District 1). Vice-Chairman Crosby seconded the motion.

Chairman Antenori opened the Public Hearing.

Matthew Taylor, Planning Division Manager, stated at the chair's discretion, the applicant had requested the Board of Supervisors table this item for the March 24th, 2026, regular meeting.

Supervisor Gomez made a motion to table Item 8 to March 24, 2026.

Vice-Chairman Crosby made a motion to delete the words approve, modify, remand and only deny 30-space recreational vehicle park. Supervisor Gomez seconded the motion.

Supervisor Gomez withdrew her motion to table Item 8 to March 24, 2026.

Vice-Chairman Crosby made a motion to deny docket SUA25-04 an appeal by Bennie and Janell Schmidt (applicants) of the Planning and Zoning Commission's denial of Docket SU25-14, a Special Use Authorization request to allow a 30-space recreational vehicle park on tax parcel 104-34-010A along S. Hereford Road in Palominas (Supervisor District 1). Supervisor Gomez seconded the motion.

Bennie Schmidt, Applicant, explained that his family reached out to several opposing petitioners but received no replies. He described significant investment in the homestead and concerns about growing activity along the one-lane bridge trail. He emphasized a desire to protect the land's long-standing character while creating responsible economic use. He asked for more time to engage opponents and preserve the land's beauty rather than abandoning the effort.

Supervisor Gomez remarked that much of the public response to local proposals often turns reactive. She noted receiving many emails about the project but felt Mr. Schmidt deserved an opportunity to fully explain his intentions. Gomez suggested that clearer communication and another review by Planning and Zoning might resolve some misunderstandings. Supervisor Gomez emphasized a preference for careful listening and measured decision-making before rejecting long-standing land-use traditions.

Joanne Roberts spoke in opposition and discussed the reasons.

Mark B. Apel spoke in opposition and discussed the reasons.

Holly E. Richter spoke in opposition and discussed the reasons.

Tricia Gerrodette spoke in opposition and discussed the reasons.

Pamela Bouilly spoke in opposition and discussed the reasons.

Mr. Schmidt responded by rejecting the idea that his family deserved sympathy, emphasizing prior research, zoning confirmation, and guidance from the county about RV park needs. He highlighted significant investment, long-standing well capacity, solar design, and a claim that alternative allowed uses could create greater environmental impact. He requested additional time to complete detailed preparation, continue outreach, and return in the spring with a specific proposal consistent with the property's zoning.

The Board and staff discussed granting the applicant additional time to complete due diligence and present a more detailed plan, with the possibility of returning to the Planning and Zoning Board in March 2026. The Board emphasized the importance of private property rights, fair discussion, and considering both environmental concerns and responsible development before making a final decision.

Kim DePew, Planning and Zoning Chairwoman, agreed that granting more time is the most reasonable solution but noted staff faces challenges when applicants or opposition are unprepared.

Vice-Chairman Crosby made a motion to withdraw his motion to deny docket SUA25-04

an appeal by Bennie and Janell Schmidt (applicants) of the Planning and Zoning Commission's denial of Docket SU25-14, a Special Use Authorization request to allow a 30-space recreational vehicle park on tax parcel 104-34-010A along S. Hereford Road in Palominas (Supervisor District 1).

Chairman Antenori made a motion to remand docket SUA25-04 an appeal by Bennie and Janell Schmidt (applicants) of the Planning and Zoning Commission's denial of Docket SU25-14, a Special Use Authorization request to allow a 30-space recreational vehicle park on tax parcel 104-34-010A along S. Hereford Road in Palominas (Supervisor District 1). Supervisor Gomez seconded the motion.

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

ACTION

Board of Supervisors

9. Adopt Resolution 25-34 affirming the status of Old Ranch Road as a Public County Highway.

Chairman Antenori removed Action item 9 from the agenda.

County Attorney

10. Approve Department of Public Safety (DPS) Grant Agreement 2025-137, CFDA 16.575, Subgrant Award Agreement, from the Arizona Department of Public Safety, for the Victims of Crime Act Victim Assistance Program, in the amount of \$96,667, with required matching funds of \$24,167, effective October 1, 2025, through September 30, 2026.

Supervisor Gomez made a motion to approve Department of Public Safety (DPS) Grant Agreement 2025-137, CFDA 16.575, Subgrant Award Agreement, from the Arizona Department of Public Safety, for the Victims of Crime Act Victim Assistance Program, in the amount of \$96,667, with required matching funds of \$24,167, effective October 1, 2025, through September 30, 2026. Vice-Chairman Crosby seconded the motion.

Jillian Nunes, Victim Witness Program Manager, presented this item. Ms. Nunez explained that the County Attorney's Office oversees the victim service department. The Victim of Crime Act (VOCA) grant reimburses wages for four positions in that department. She stated the funding supports services for crime victims throughout the criminal justice process. She stated the grant also keeps the county in compliance with state-mandated requirements long followed in Arizona.

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

County Schools

11. Approve reimbursement to the Bisbee Unified School District, in the amount of \$51,312.27, for an indirect cost billing error and resulting overpayment made in Fiscal Year 2023.

Supervisor Gomez made a motion to approve reimbursement to the Bisbee Unified School District, in the amount of \$51,312.27, for an indirect cost billing error and resulting overpayment made in Fiscal Year 2023. Vice-Chairman Crosby seconded the motion.

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

12. Approve year 2 Intergovernmental Agreement (IGA) between Arizona Department of Education and Cochise County Schools for the Arizona Project Bright Futures Program, in the amount of \$146,010, effective upon execution.

Supervisor Gomez made a motion to approve year 2 Intergovernmental Agreement (IGA) between Arizona Department of Education and Cochise County Schools for the Arizona Project Bright Futures Program, in the amount of \$146,010, effective upon execution. Vice-Chairman Crosby seconded the motion.

Cynthia Meyers, Outreach Manager, presented this item. Ms. Meyers requested approval for a renewal of the Arizona Projects Bright Futures suicide prevention grant for five years. She stated the only funding change allows the purchase of training materials directly, rather than through the Arizona Department of Education. She introduced Zachary Plucas, the program manager, and provided updates on the first year of the grant.

Mr. Plucas presented this item using a PowerPoint presentation. He stated The Arizona Bright Futures pilot program engages students, parents, teachers, the juvenile system, and community partners in suicide prevention through training, awareness, and behavioral monitoring. He stated the program focuses on recognizing warning signs, improving continuity of care, and equipping schools and community organizations with tools and trained personnel to respond effectively. He noted the training has reached students, staff, and law enforcement, with ongoing efforts to expand awareness, involve parents, and track outcomes to guide future interventions.

In response to the Board, Dr. Clay stated that there are meetings once per month and that she will reach out to Douglas.

Vice-Chairman Crosby noted that isolation often signals a risk for suicide. He referenced concerns across military settings, the jail, and youth, urging attention to students who separate into small social groups. He added that someone who notices these signs can help break the isolation or find another person who can.

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

County Sheriff

13. Adopt Resolution 25-35 recognizing Howard G. Buffett and the Howard G. Buffett Foundation for outstanding philanthropic contributions to Cochise County and the Cochise County Sheriff's Office.

Supervisor Gomez made a motion to adopt Resolution 25-35 recognizing Howard G. Buffett and the Howard G. Buffett Foundation for outstanding philanthropic contributions

to Cochise County and the Cochise County Sheriff's Office. Vice-Chairman Crosby seconded the motion.

Kenny Bradshaw, Cochise County Jail Commander, presented this item. Mr. Bradshaw stated that Mr. Buffett had donated over 100 million dollars worth of equipment and money to Cochise County and the Cochise County Sheriff's Office. He stated Cochise County would like to recognize him for all the support he has provided to Cochise County.

Tom Alinen, Chief of Staff, stated Mr. Buffett's role in improving the County's public safety communications network. He stated a connection to the state highway patrol system is planned for March, marking a significant upgrade.

Chairman Antenori explained that a video will be provided by Mr. Buffett in recognition of recent support. He stated the Southeastern Arizona Communications (SEACOM) and Saber team radio upgrades were described as benefiting both the county and the country due to the county's position on the border. He stated the contribution was credited with strengthening public-safety efforts without placing added financial strain on local taxpayers.

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

Court Administration

14. Certify that the total court revenues collected in Fiscal Year 2025 exceeded total court revenues collected in Fiscal Year 1998, and authorize distribution of the 5% set-aside revenues, pursuant to A.R.S. § 41-2421.

Supervisor Gomez made a motion to certify that the total court revenues collected in Fiscal Year 2025 exceeded total court revenues collected in Fiscal Year 1998, and authorize distribution of the 5% set-aside revenues, pursuant to A.R.S. § 41-2421. Vice-Chairman Crosby seconded the motion.

Rita Shipley, Division Director Budget and Finance, presented this item. Ms. Shipley requested confirmation that fiscal year 2025 court revenues reached \$8.2 million, exceeding the 1998 baseline of \$2.1 million. She stated certification allows distribution of the 5% set-aside totaling \$338,000 to criminal-justice departments for work tied to processing criminal cases.

In response to the Board, Ms. Shipley explained that courts track extensive statistics, many of which appear on the Arizona Courts public dashboard.

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

Development Services

15. Approve the San Pedro Ranch Estates Final Plat Docket SUB25-02 with a waiver allowing an unpaved private subdivision road, provided long-term road maintenance and assurance agreements are recorded with the approved Final Plat (Supervisor District 3).

Supervisor Gomez made a motion to approve the San Pedro Ranch Estates Final Plat Docket SUB25-02 with a waiver allowing an unpaved private subdivision road, provided long-term road maintenance and assurance agreements are recorded with the approved Final Plat (Supervisor District 3). Vice-Chairman Crosby seconded the motion.

Matthew Taylor, Planning Division Manager, presented this item using a PowerPoint presentation. Mr. Taylor presented the staff summary for docket SUB25-02, detailing an 8-lot residential subdivision on 36 acres in Pomerene, zoned RU4, with all parcels meeting the minimum 4-acre requirement. He noted the Planning and Zoning Commission's conditional approval, the applicant's road maintenance and assurance agreements, and confirmed that all conditions and plat revisions have been met prior to final plat release.

Tricia Gerrodette raised concerns about the water supply for the Pomerene subdivision, noting that no Arizona Department of Water Resources (ADWR) application or analysis of adequate water supply appears to have been submitted. She stated that the Pomerene Water District is not an ADWR approved provider, which is required under Cochise County's mandatory adequacy jurisdiction for subdivisions.

The Board and staff discussed water supply for the Pomerene subdivision, noting that each of the eight lots could drill individual wells, but the applicant plans to use Pomerene Water. Mr. Taylor stated the well-serve letter from Pomerene Water District and the option for individual wells satisfy the state and county requirements. The Board has some uncertainty remains ok whether the district must separately demonstrate adequacy under ADWR rules.

Christine McLachlan, Development Services Director, clarified that all plats are subject to mandatory water adequacy requirements. She explained that approval of the final plat requires either an ADWR determination of adequate water supply or a written commitment from a recognized water provider with sufficient capacity for the subdivision.

Chairman Antenori made a motion to table the San Pedro Ranch Estates Final Plat Docket SUB25-02 with the waiver to December 16, 2025. Supervisor Gomez seconded the motion.

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

Health & Social Services

16. Approve Intergovernmental Agreement (IGA) CTR068849 Amendment 2 between Arizona Department of Health Services and Cochise County Health & Social Services for Sexually Transmitted Infection Investigations, in the amount of \$57,866.50, effective January 1, 2024, through December 31, 2028.

Supervisor Gomez made a motion to approve Intergovernmental Agreement (IGA) CTR068849 Amendment 2 between Arizona Department of Health Services and Cochise County Health & Social Services for Sexually Transmitted Infection Investigations, in the amount of \$57,866.50, effective January 1, 2024, through December 31, 2028. Vice-Chairman Crosby seconded the motion.

Emily Harris, Division Director Clinical Services, presented this item. She stated the Board is being asked to approve an amendment to a previously approved IG for county-wide STI investigations. She stated the only change involves laboratory processes and whether internal or external labs are used for specimen processing and all other procedures and protocols remain unchanged.

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

17. Approve Intergovernmental Agreement (IGA) CTR067930 Amendment 2 between the Arizona Department of Health Services (ADHS) and Cochise County Health & Social Services (CCHSS) for the Women, Infants, and Children (WIC) and the Breastfeeding Peer Counselor (BFPC) Program, in the amount of \$699,050 for WIC and \$63,824 for BFPC, for the period of October 1, 2025, through September 30, 2026.

Supervisor Gomez made a motion to approve Intergovernmental Agreement (IGA) CTR067930 Amendment 2 between the Arizona Department of Health Services (ADHS) and Cochise County Health & Social Services (CCHSS) for the Women, Infants, and Children (WIC) and the Breastfeeding Peer Counselor (BFPC) Program, in the amount of \$699,050 for WIC and \$63,824 for BFPC, for the period of October 1, 2025, through September 30, 2026. Vice-Chairman Crosby seconded the motion.

Suzanne Hagle, Division Director Prevention Services, presented this item. Ms. Hagle stated this is Amendment Two to a previously approved program, with no changes to day-to-day operations. The funding amount has been increased, while services including nutrition and breastfeeding education and tailored food packages will continue. The program currently serves about 3,000 families per month countywide.

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 noted that the federal government shutdown has been temporarily averted until January 30th, 2026, with potential impacts on social services funding and military salaries. He stated efforts are underway to monitor and address how these issues affect Cochise County and Fort personnel. He stated the legislature will begin its session in January, and the county continues to work with legislators on pending bills.

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

Ms. Gilman informed the Board that previously canceled animal shelter work sessions will be rescheduled now that the USDA has provided guidance on grant usage. She announced a county vehicle auction running from November 17th through December 4th, 2026, featuring high-mileage vehicles available for purchase as-is.

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 suggested moving updates on current events and state and federal legislation to the beginning of meetings, so more attendees can hear them, noting that many leave before the end of the agenda. She shared personal news about the passing of her father, Dr. Michael Gomez, and provided details on the upcoming rosary, mass, and celebration of life. She highlighted recent community events, including an international border gravel race with over 500 participants and the Indian festival attended by Congresswoman Grijalva, giving special recognition to county maintenance crews for their support.

Report by District 3 Supervisor, Frank Antenori

Chairman Antenori deferred his report.

Chairman Antenori adjourned the meeting at 11:58 a.m.

APPROVED:

Frank Antenori, Chairman

ATTEST:

Lara Loewenheim, Clerk of the Board