

**PROCEEDINGS OF THE COCHISE COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
REGULAR MEETING HELD ON
TUESDAY, DECEMBER 16, 2025**

A regular board meeting of the Cochise County Board of Supervisors was held on Tuesday, December 16, 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 10:26 a.m.

CALL TO THE PUBLIC

Alfred Kern expressed frustration after four years of repeated requests, and asked for clear direction on who is responsible for addressing the lack of road maintenance.

Supervisor Gomez replied, that a site review was conducted, clarified limitations on certain roads and materials, and committed to meeting in January to explain which roads can be addressed and how the county plans to respond to the concerns.

James Schmidt requested Board intervention regarding Old Ranch Road, citing years of unresolved issues with the county engineering office, lack of access to surveys, refusal to install a required no-parking sign, and concerns over an attempted road widening without notice to affected landowners.

Allison Morse raised detailed questions about the proposed county animal shelter, and requested these concerns be addressed at the upcoming work session.

CONSENT

Board of Supervisors

1. Approve the Minutes of the regular meeting of the Board of Supervisors of November 18, 2025.

Development Services

2. Approve the reappointment of Paul Brick to the Board of Adjustment, representing District 3, effective January 1, 2026 through December 31, 2029.

3. Approve the appointment of John Benedict to the Planning & Zoning Commission representing District 2, effective January 1, 2026, through December 31, 2029.
4. Acknowledge the Completion of Right-of-Way Dedication for Rezoning Docket RZ25-04 – Zoning Ordinance 25-08 Compliance.

Elections

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

Finance

6. Approve demands and budget amendments for operating transfers.

Health & Social Services

7. Approve Amendment 3 to Intergovernmental Agreement (IGA) CTR059344, "Senate Bill 1847 Funding" between the Arizona Department of Health Services and Cochise County Health and Social Services, in the amount of \$2,686.62, effective July 01, 2025, through June 30, 2027.

Workforce Development

8. Approve the revised Arizona@Work Southeastern Arizona Consortia Agreement, effective December 2025.

Vice-Chairman Crosby made a motion to approve Consent agenda items 1 through 8. Supervisor Gomez seconded the motion.

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

PUBLIC HEARINGS

Board of Supervisors

9. Adopt Resolution 25-36 granting an Electric Services Franchise to Arizona Public Service (APS).

Supervisor Gomez made a motion to adopt Resolution 25-36 granting an Electric Services Franchise to Arizona Public Service (APS). Vice-Chairman Crosby seconded the motion.

Chairman Antenori opened the Public Hearing.

Dylan Hendel, Deputy Civil County Attorney, presented this item. Mr. Hendel stated that Arizona law requires the Board of Supervisors to approve a 25-year electric utility franchise with Arizona Public Service (APS) to regulate use of county rights-of-way. He confirmed all legal requirements were met and recommended approval to ensure county control and utility responsibility for road impacts.

Jessica Perry, APS Public Affairs Manager, thanked the Board, county staff, and APS representatives for their assistance in renewing the franchise agreement. She stated the agreement supports continued coordination between APS and the county.

Tricia Gerrodette, asked whether the phrase “qualified electors of said county” in the resolution refers to electors of the entire county or only those within the service area. Ms. Perry clarified that in other areas of the state, petitions must be signed by the entire county’s voting population, not just those within the utility’s service area.

Richard Rosales, APS Public Affairs, explained that while service areas are considered, APS also has transmission lines and infrastructure outside those areas, so petition requirements likely apply countywide.

Mr. Hendel confirmed that, according to statute, any petition must be signed by qualified electors of the entire county.

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

Chairman Antenori closed the Public Hearing.

10. Approve Series 13 (Farm Winery) new liquor license application submitted by John Mike McLoughlin of Arizona Wineries, LLC, at 8401 S Bell Ranch Rd, Willcox, AZ 85643.

Vice-Chairman Crosby made a motion to approve Series 13 (Farm Winery) new liquor license application submitted by John Mike McLoughlin of Arizona Wineries, LLC, at 8401 S Bell Ranch Rd, Willcox, AZ 85643. Supervisor Gomez seconded the motion.

Chairman Antenori opened the Public Hearing.

Ms. Loewenheim presented this item. Ms. Loewenheim stated that the new Series 13 farm winery liquor license application for Arizona Wineries in Willcox meets all legal and departmental requirements, has current property taxes, no formal protests, and recommended Board approval.

Chairman Antenori closed the Public Hearing.

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

ACTION

Court Administration

11. Approve Fiscal Year 26 State of Arizona Supreme Court Fill the Gap (FTG) grant application for Cochise County Superior Court, in the amount of \$233,227.59, effective July 1, 2025, through June 30, 2026.

Supervisor Gomez made a motion to approve Fiscal Year 26 State of Arizona Supreme Court Fill the Gap (FTG) grant application for Cochise County Superior Court, in the amount of \$233,227.59, effective July 1, 2025, through June 30, 2026. Vice-Chairman Crosby seconded the motion.

Rita Shipley, Division Director Budget and Finance, presented this item. Ms. Shipley requested Board approval for the FY26 Fill the Gap application to the Arizona Supreme Court, combining state and local funds, to support salaries and related expenses.

In response to the Board, Ms. Shipley explained that pre-sentence investigators compile comprehensive personal, criminal, and medical histories to assist judges in sentencing, while pre-trial officers supervise individuals awaiting trial, ensuring compliance with court requirements and participation in treatment or drug testing.

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

Development Services

12. [Item Tabled from the November 18, 2025, Regular Board of Supervisors agenda] 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 made a motion to remove from the Table 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). Supervisor Gomez seconded the motion.

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

Vice-Chairman Crosby 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). Chairman Antenori seconded the motion.

Matthew Taylor, Planning Division Manager, presented this item. Mr. Taylor stated the applicant is working with the Arizona Department of Water Resources (ADWR), directly regarding the water assurance issue. He stated the process could take up to 120 days, and recommended the Board table the item until the March 10, 2026, regular meeting.

Tricia Gerrodette stated she only needed to speak if there was anything other than tabling the item.

Vice-Chairman Crosby made a motion to table agenda item 12, which is 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 until Board meeting March 10, 2026. Supervisor Gomez seconded the motion.

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

Engineering & Natural Resources

13. Approve Intergovernmental Agreement (IGA) 25-0011314-I, Middle March Creek Bridge Project 8087 (Pearce Rd Mile Post 4.8) Scoping Project, between Arizona Department of Transportation and Cochise County, in the amount of \$127,305, with a County match of \$7,695.

Supervisor Gomez made a motion to approve Intergovernmental Agreement (IGA) 25-0011314-I, Middle March Creek Bridge Project 8087 (Pearce Rd Mile Post 4.8) Scoping Project, between the Arizona Department of Transportation (ADOT) and Cochise County, in the amount of \$127,305, with a County match of \$7,695. Vice-Chairman Crosby seconded the motion.

Jackie Watkins, Engineering and Natural Resources Director, presented this item. Ms. Watkins stated the item represents the initial scoping phase funded largely by ADOT to evaluate rehabilitation versus replacement. She stated that while the bridge clearly needs replacement, long-standing procedure requires completing scoping before construction funds become available.

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

14. Approve Intergovernmental Agreement (IGA) 25-0011315-I, Leslie Creek Bridge Project 8115 (Leslie Canyon Rd Mile Post 16.9) Scoping Project, between Arizona Department of Transportation (ADOT) and Cochise County, in the amount of \$146,165, with a County match of \$8,835.

Vice-Chairman Crosby made a motion to approve Intergovernmental Agreement (IGA) 25-0011315-I, Leslie Creek Bridge Project 8115 (Leslie Canyon Rd Mile Post 16.9) Scoping Project, between Arizona Department of Transportation (ADOT) and Cochise County, in the amount of \$146,165, with a County match of \$8,835. Supervisor Gomez seconded the motion.

Jackie Watkins, Engineering and Natural Resources Director, presented this item. Ms. Watkins stated the bridge crosses an environmentally sensitive area and is a true span bridge supported by piers. She stated the current phase focuses on scoping to review options for rehabilitation or full replacement.

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

Health & Social Services

15. Approve Intergovernmental Agreement (IGA) CTR063847, Amendment 3 between the Arizona Department of Health Services (ADHS) and Cochise County Health & Social Services (CCHSS) for the Arizona Prescription Drug Overdose Prevention Program, in the amount of \$258,509.55, effective September 30, 2025, through September 29, 2026.

Supervisor Gomez made a motion to approve Intergovernmental Agreement (IGA) CTR063847, Amendment 3 between the Arizona Department of Health Services (ADHS) and Cochise County Health & Social Services (CCHSS) for the Arizona Prescription Drug Overdose Prevention Program, in the amount of \$258,509.55, effective September 30, 2025, through September 29, 2026. Vice-Chairman Crosby seconded the motion.

Kendra Allen, Administrative Manager, stated the amendment represents the third year of the grant, continuing funding for the overdose fatality review board and the linkages to care project supporting substance use recovery during community reentry from the county jail.

In response to the Board, Ms. Allen stated Narcan is provided to participants in the link to care program upon release from jail, project staff are equipped, and the Sheriff's Department and jail have coverage, while the broader health department does not.

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

Public Works

16. Adopt Resolution 25-37 Establishing a Public Works Adopt-A-Roadway Program.

Vice-Chairman Crosby made a motion to adopt Resolution 25-37 Establishing a Public Works Adopt-A-Roadway Program. Chairman Antenori seconded the motion.

Jason Faccio, Public Works Director, presented this item. Mr. Faccio stated the resolution establishes a Cochise County Adopt-A-Roadway Program that allows volunteers to maintain road segments for two years, with Public Works providing supplies and support to improve roadside appearance, promote community pride, and reduce taxpayer costs.

The Board and staff discussed details of the Adopt-A-Roadway Program, including signage placed after the first cleanup, a two-year commitment, and a minimum of two cleanups per year. Mr. Faccio stated Public Works would provide safety training, equipment, and clearly marked bags, with county crews collecting the bagged litter afterward. Mr. Faccio emphasized that the program revives a proven approach, supports cleaner roads, and allows county crews to focus on core maintenance work while saving taxpayer resources.

Allison Morse voiced strong support for the county's Adopt-A-Roadway Program as a beneficial and well-supported effort, encouraged broad public outreach, and clarified that earlier questions on the animal shelter reflected constituent concerns rather than personal criticism.

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

STATE & FEDERAL LEGISLATION

17. 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 stated the upcoming legislative session will involve meetings with Senator Gowen and coordination with Representative Diaz on potential county bills, and invited input from Board members and staff. He also noted an issue related to a study affecting Fort Huachuca are monitored as it continues through the legislative process and may still be amended.

Supervisor Gomez stated she attended the County Supervisors Association conference and updates were provided on numerous bills, fire districts, and special districts, including discussions on Elfrida and Sunnyside. She stated a follow-up meeting is planned in January to review developments, with attention to bill progress and potential changes in leadership at the state level.

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

Ms. Gilman stated the economic development study bid has been posted on the procurement site, seeking qualified firms to create a comprehensive roadmap for the county, including the port of entry and Highway 191 corridor. She stated the posting will remain open until January 30, 2026, with interviews and a recommendation to the Board expected by February.

Supervisor Gomez stated attending a congressional briefing highlighted the need for an economic development study and reform of the Douglas International Port of Entry Board. She stated the current Board lacks stakeholders and transparency, unlike models in Yuma and Nogales, and new bylaws and articles will create an accountable, representative Board. She stated the reform is essential for authentic trade, attracting investment, and ensuring economic development in Douglas and the county.

Chairman Antenori stated county revenue has remained flat and does not keep pace with inflation, making economic development essential to avoid raising property taxes.

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 thanked Mr. Faccio, Mr. Rosales, APS, and county staff for their efforts in Pirtleville, noting the successful cleanup event with dumpsters and restored streetlights, which greatly improved the community's appearance. Ms. Gomez thanked county staff for sending a wreath to her father's funeral.

Report by District 3 Supervisor, Frank Antenori

Chairman Antenori deferred his report.

Chairman Antenori adjourned the meeting at 11:31 a.m.

APPROVED:

Frank Antenori, Chairman

ATTEST:

Lara Loewenheim, Clerk of the Board