

**PROCEEDINGS OF THE COCHISE COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
SPECIAL/EXECUTIVE MEETING HELD ON
TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 11, 2025**

A special meeting of the Cochise County Board of Supervisors was held on Tuesday, February 11, 2025, at 1:00 p.m. in the Board of Supervisors' Executive Conference 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

Attendees: Mark Dannels, Sheriff
Kenneth Bradshaw, Jail Commander
John Gjerde, Deputy Sheriff Sergeant
Carl Larimer, Deputy Sheriff Corporal
Celina Ybarra, Finance Manager
Carol Capas, Public Information Officer

Chairman Antenori called the meeting to order at 1:00 p.m.

ANY ITEM ON THIS AGENDA IS OPEN FOR DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION

THE ORDER OR DELETION OF ANY ITEM ON THIS AGENDA IS SUBJECT TO MODIFICATION AT THE MEETING

ACTION

Board of Supervisors

This executive session is authorized under A.R.S. § 38-431.03, Subsection (A), (3) and (9).

1. Discussion and possible direction regarding the President's Executive Orders related to immigration, Arizona's Proposition 314, and the impact on Cochise County and the County Sheriff's Office.

Pursuant to A.R.S. § 38-421.03 (A)(3) and (9) the board may go into executive session for legal advice with the attorney or attorneys of the public body and discussions or consultations with designated representatives of the public body in order to discuss security plans, procedures, assessments, measures or systems relating to, or having an impact on, the security or safety of buildings, facilities,

operations, critical infrastructure information and information technology maintained by the public body.

Chairman Antenori suggested discussing the executive orders, which cover a wide range of topics like agriculture, law enforcement, and border security, in a general manner first. He emphasized the importance of reviewing how they impact the county, particularly the Sheriff's Office.

Sheriff Dannels highlighted the significant efforts of the Cochise County Sheriff's Office in tackling border security issues. He emphasized the collaboration with local, state, and federal partners, and the attention their operations are attracting due to their innovative approach. Over the past three years, the county has booked over 4,000 individuals for border-related crimes, totaling a cost of \$14.4 million. Sheriff Dannels also pointed out that border operations are primarily funded through state grants, not the county's general funds, with minimal federal funding involved. Sheriff Dannels reassured the Board that the grants supporting border operations remain unaffected by federal funding freezes, and some grants were initially paused, they were quickly reinstated, and there has been no disruption to public safety funding.

The Board and Sheriff Dannels discussed the county's role as a key hub for the Department of Defense's Southwest border operations. Sheriff Dannels shared that military officials recently visited to assess local operations, and Cochise County was selected as a central location for incoming personnel and resources. Sheriff Dannels stated the deployment is expected to have a positive economic impact on local communities, with increased housing demand and potential federal training opportunities at the Douglas campus.

The Board and Sheriff Dannels discussed the expanded 287(g) powers and why Cochise County has not adopted the program. Sheriff Dannels explained that participating in 287(g) would turn the county into a federal installation, restricting local officers to solely enforcing federal immigration laws. Instead, the county coordinates directly with Border Patrol to transfer individuals without needing federal designations. Sheriff Dannels also raised concerns about a proposed Arizona bill that would mandate all sheriffs to adopt 287(g), warning that it could lead to immediate jail shutdowns due to compliance issues.

The Board and Sheriff Dannels discussed funding priorities, including state and federal support for border security and jail construction. Sheriff Dannels highlighted concerns over budget cuts to the Border Strike Force while funding was increased for counties that don't acknowledge border issues. Efforts are underway to secure \$40 million from the state, adding to an existing \$20 million for jail construction, with additional funding requests sent to the federal government. Sheriff Dannels assured the Board that discussions with state and federal leaders are progressing to secure financial support for operations and infrastructure.

Sheriff Dannels discussed key priorities, including addressing staffing shortages and pay disparities for deputies and detention officers. He stated efforts are underway to restore a pension plan eliminated in 2018 and secure higher salaries to remain competitive with DPS. The Board discussed border security, including the role of the new Port of Entry and potential infrastructure improvements, with Sheriff Dannels suggesting ongoing efforts to influence federal support for local needs.

Vice-Chairman Crosby questioned Sheriff Dannels on the definition of border security and preventing illegal entry. Vice-Chairman Crosby pressed for a clear commitment to using manpower specifically for prevention, while the Sheriff emphasized ongoing

actions and results. Sheriff Dannels pointed to grants and resources allocated for border security efforts, stating that his department is doing the best it can.

Vice-Chairman Crosby made a motion to pursuant to ARS 38-421.03 (A)(3) and (9) the Board may go into Executive Session for legal advice with the attorney or attorneys of the public body in discussions or consultants with designated representatives and for discussion and possible direction regarding the President's Executive Orders related to immigration, Arizona's Proposition 314, and the impact on Cochise County and the County Sheriff's Office. Supervisor Gomez seconded the motion.

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

The Board moved into Executive Session at 1:35 p.m.

The Board came out of Executive Session at 2:06 p.m. All Board members were present.

Chairman Antenori adjourned the meeting at 2:07 p.m.

APPROVED:

Frank Antenori, Chairman

ATTEST:

Lara Loewenheim, Clerk of the Board