

**PROCEEDINGS OF THE COCHISE COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
SPECIAL/EXECUTIVE MEETING HELD ON
THURSDAY, MARCH 27, 2025**

A special meeting of the Cochise County Board of Supervisors was held on Thursday, March 27, 2025, at 9:00 a.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
Lara Loewenheim, Clerk of the Board

Attendees: Billy Cloud, County Recorder
Marisol Renteria, Interim Elections Director
Timothy La Sota, Outside Counsel

Chairman Antenori called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m.

ACTION

Board of Supervisors

This executive session is authorized under A.R.S. § 38-431.03, Subsection (A), (3) and (4).

1. Discussion, consideration and possible approval of the proposed settlement of the Daniel LaChance, et al, vs County of Cochise, Cochise County Jail District, Board of Supervisors, et al., CV202300363, now pending in Superior Court of the State of Arizona, Cochise County.

Pursuant to A.R.S. § 38-421.03 (A)(3) and (4), the board may go into executive session for legal advice with the attorney of the public body to consider its position and instruct attorneys regarding the public body's position in pending litigation.

Chairman Antenori stated that since the topic has already been covered in the media, there is no need for an executive session. Mr. La Sota agreed, noting that he would speak up if the discussion entered sensitive territory.

In response to Supervisor Gomez, Mr. La Sota acknowledged an incorrect case number at the last meeting but stated it did not affect compliance or involve formal action. He confirmed the issue had been corrected and that approving the final settlement agreement would resolve any concerns.

Mr. La Sota provided a summary of the recent court hearing, stating that the court

will first rule on the motion to intervene. He noted that a settlement appeared imminent, pending the Board's formal approval, and emphasized that pursuing litigation could delay resolution until late 2025. He stated the agreement includes a \$130,000 payment, a November 2025 election, and a suspension of the tax, while also acknowledging the plaintiff's statements without making them binding terms of the settlement.

In response to Supervisor Gomez, Mr. LaSota stated that the legal fees were reasonable given the work involved. He emphasized the importance of resolving the matter to avoid further attorney fees and move forward efficiently.

In response to Vice-Chairman Crosby, Mr. La Sota stated that the focus should remain on the settlement agreement.

Chairman Antenori stated that depending on the judge's final ruling, there will be time to draft the resolution language for the November ballot. He stated the matter will be addressed after the case is concluded, during discussions on how to place it back on the ballot.

Vice-Chairman Crosby made a motion to approve the proposed settlement of the Daniel LaChance, et al, vs County of Cochise, Cochise County Jail District, Board of Supervisors, et al., CV202300363, now pending in Superior Court of the State of Arizona, Cochise County. Supervisor Gomez seconded the motion.

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

Chairman Antenori adjourned the meeting at 9:13 a.m.

APPROVED:

Frank Antenori, Chairman

ATTEST:

Lara Loewenheim, Clerk of the Board