

**PROCEEDINGS OF THE COCHISE COUNTY JAIL DISTRICT BOARD OF DIRECTORS
MEETING HELD ON
TUESDAY, DECEMBER 16, 2025**

A meeting of the Cochise County Jail District Board of Directors 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 10:03 a.m.

CALL TO THE PUBLIC

Allison Morse stated that several county businesses continue charging a terminated half-percent jail sales tax due to lack of clear notice and requested the county formally inform the public that the tax ended July 31, 2025, and will not resume until July 1, 2026, of next year.

CONSENT

Board of Directors

1. Approve the Minutes of the Cochise County Jail District Board of Directors meeting for November 18, 2025, and December 2, 2025.
2. Approve demands and budget amendments for operating transfers.

Vice-Chairman Crosby made a motion to approve Consent agenda items 1 and 2. Supervisor Gomez seconded the motion.

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

ACTION

Board of Directors

3. Adopt Jail District Resolution 25-04, levying the Cochise County Jail District Excise Tax.

Supervisor Gomez made a motion to adopt Jail District Resolution 25-04, levying the Cochise County Jail District Excise Tax. Vice-Chairman Crosby seconded the motion.

Ms. Gilman explained that the Board properly ended the jail tax effective July 31, 2025, notified the Arizona Department of Revenue (ADOR), and confirmed a public and business notice was issued. She noted declining jail district revenue since July 2025, and stated the Board must now notify ADOR to resume collection July 1, 2026, and noted existing funds reserved for the new jail construction.

Chairman Antenori clarified that all transaction privilege tax collection is handled by the ADOR, not the county. He explained how ADOR notifies businesses and point-of-sale systems of tax changes, and stated that continued overcharging is likely due to outdated or unused software.

Vice-Chairman Crosby stated that the situation stemmed from a forced mail-in ballot election lacking traditional in-person voting safeguards. He stated it created ambiguity in voter eligibility under state statute, and ultimately led to the need for a redo of the election.

Supervisor Gomez suggested using Tucson television news coverage to help inform the public that the jail tax should not be charged until July 1, 2026, and encouraged residents to question any charges seen before that date.

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

4. Approve the selection of design-build as the project delivery method for design and construction contracts for the new jail project.

Vice-Chairman Crosby made a motion to approve the selection of design-build as the project delivery method for design and construction contracts for the new jail project. Supervisor Gomez seconded the motion.

Ms. Gilman presented this item. Ms. Gilman explained that staff recommends using the design-build delivery method for the county's major construction project because it offers faster completion, tighter cost control, and a streamlined single-contract approach, and requested Board approval to proceed with the design-build process and issue a Request for Quote (RFQ) for a criteria architect.

Chairman Antenori stated that despite frustration with restrictive state procurement laws, a review of options showed the design-build method offered the best balance of speed, added architectural oversight, and cost control.

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

Chairman Antenori adjourned the meeting at 10:24 a.m.

APPROVED:

Frank Antenori, Chairman

ATTEST:

Lara Loewenheim, Clerk of the Board