

**PROCEEDINGS OF THE COCHISE COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
SPECIAL MEETING HELD ON
THURSDAY, JULY 10, 2025**

A special meeting of the Cochise County Board of Supervisors was held on Thursday, July 10, 2025, at 5:30 p.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 5:30 p.m.

ACTION

Board of Supervisors

1. Opportunity for members of the public to provide input regarding the proposed location for the new Cochise County Jail facility.

Chairman Antenori explained that the jail election redo is part of a legal settlement, and the ballot will only include specific language, not location or cost details; these will appear in the publicity pamphlet. He stated public input is being gathered on where to place the new jail, and pro/con statements for the pamphlet are due to the Clerk by August 6, 2025.

Supervisor Gomez made a motion for an opportunity for members of the public to provide input regarding the proposed location for the new Cochise County Jail facility. Vice-Chairman Crosby seconded the motion.

Richard C. Skinner expressed support for constructing the new jail at the current jail and discussed the reasons.

Ken Budge expressed support for constructing the new jail at the current jail and discussed the reasons.

Cado Daily expressed support for constructing the new jail at the current jail and discussed the reasons.

Stephen Pauken expressed support for constructing the new jail at the current jail and discussed the reasons.

Logan Dodd expressed support for constructing the new jail at the current jail and discussed the reasons.

Jim Conlogue expressed support for constructing the new jail at the current jail and discussed the reasons.

Allison Morse expressed support for constructing the new jail at the current jail and discussed the reasons.

Monika Patience expressed support for constructing the new jail at the current jail and discussed the reasons.

Jeff Sturges expressed support for constructing the new jail at the current jail and discussed the reasons.

Zheylya Baltierrez expressed support for constructing the new jail at the current jail and discussed the reasons.

Tamara Birch expressed support for constructing the new jail at the current jail and discussed the reasons.

Cinda Combs expressed support for constructing the new jail at the current jail and discussed the reasons.

Steve Helffrich expressed support for constructing the new jail at the current jail and discussed the reasons.

Commander Kenneth Bradshaw shared that the Sheriff couldn't attend due to a prior out-of-county commitment. He emphasized that, by law, the sheriff is responsible for overseeing the county jail and noted logistical and financial concerns with moving it, including increased transport times and the fact that 45% of jail staff live in Douglas.

Chairman Antenori stated that there were six non-speakers that would like their names on the record.

Christine Rhodes supports Jail Site stay in Bisbee.

John T Viverto supports Jail Site stay in Bisbee.

Susan Gayle Sanders supports Jail Site stay in Bisbee.

Jennifer Druckman supports Jail Site stay in Bisbee.

Ronnie Maestas-Condos supports Jail Site stay in Bisbee.

Diana LaMar supports Jail Site stay in Bisbee.

Chairman Antenori stated there were 13 speakers tonight that were in person or on Teams in support of the jail in Bisbee and 6 people who provided written letters in support of the jail in Bisbee. He stated 13 individuals had signed in anonymously supporting the jail in Bisbee. He stated there was a total of 32 in support of the jail site remain in Bisbee.

Vice-Chairman Crosby clarified that while he didn't campaign for or against the jail tax in 2023, he was critical of how the election was handled, which led to the Board's

decision to settle. He noted that the projected jail cost has dropped from the original \$200 million estimate to around \$120 million.

Supervisor Gomez strongly supported building a new jail, emphasizing the risks and liabilities of continuing with the current facility. She cited the high percentage of staff from Douglas and inmates with mental health issues, arguing that moving the jail to a remote location like Tombstone would create staffing and infrastructure challenges.

Chairman Antenori emphasized the importance of making a data-driven decision on the jail's location, stating that this is a long-term, 50-year commitment with lasting financial impacts. He has requested a detailed cost-benefit analysis before committing to any site, though he acknowledged the location will likely be in Bisbee. He stated the board is actively working on site studies and architectural planning to ensure voters have accurate cost information in the publicity pamphlet.

2. Approve the selection of the existing jail site located at 203 N Judd Dr, Bisbee, AZ 85603, as the official location for construction of the new Cochise County Jail facility.

Vice-Chairman Crosby made a motion to approve the selection of the existing jail site located at 203 N Judd Dr, Bisbee, AZ 85603, as the official location for construction of the new Cochise County Jail facility. Supervisor Gomez seconded the motion.

Vice-Chairman Crosby said he approaches the jail issue without strong emotion and prefers to rely on data but acknowledged deferring at times. He reaffirmed his stance that if the jail tax fails, the jail will remain at its current location. Vice-Chairman Crosby emphasized his commitment to letting the voters decide and noted concerns from the previous election about voter disenfranchisement.

Supervisor Gomez stated she believes the Board needs to listen to the people and have common sense about this Jail and be cost-effective.

Chairman Antenori requested a more detailed financial and logistical analysis of each potential site—whether off North Judd Drive, Melody Lane, or elsewhere, highlighting unseen infrastructure and site-preparation costs. He noted a personal site visit revealed hidden expenses and expressed a preliminary preference for the easier-to-prepare location pending full cost data.

The Board and staff discussed the election publicity pamphlet and clarified that the mailing typically occurs in late September, with printing in early to mid-September. The Board noted that including clear, accurate information, especially about cost and location, is essential for voter understanding.

Chairman Antenori made a motion to table Agenda Item 2. The motion failed for lack of second.

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

Supervisor Gomez thanked Chairman Antenori for organizing the public session and emphasized the importance of mutual respect despite differing opinions.

Chairman Antenori adjourned the meeting at 6:29 p.m.

APPROVED:

Frank Antenori, Chairman

ATTEST:

Lara Loewenheim, Clerk of the Board