

**PROCEEDINGS OF THE COCHISE COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS  
SPECIAL MEETING HELD ON  
MONDAY, AUGUST 18, 2025**

A special meeting of the Cochise County Board of Supervisors was held on Monday, August 18, 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  
Lara Loewenheim, Clerk of the Board

Attendees: Catherine Traywick, County Treasurer  
Stacy Fenhaus, Budget Manager

Chairman Antenori called the meeting to order at 10:02 a.m.

***PUBLIC HEARINGS***

**Board of Supervisors**

1. Adopt the Tax Rates and Levies for Cochise County Taxing Entities as set forth in the attached Exhibit.

There was an audio technical issue from the beginning of the meeting and was fixed at 2:26 minutes.

Ms. Gilman, presented this item. She reported that Cochise County held truth and taxation hearings on July 8, 2025, and other taxing authorities have adopted budgets and levies listed in the attached exhibit.

Vice-Chairman Crosby discussed the \$76 million combined unfunded liability for public safety pensions in his district and requested information on expected additional payments.

In response to the Board, Stacy Fenhaus, Budget Manager, stated the Sheriff's Office has an excess from last year's budget of \$975,154.

The Board discussed using any extra departmental budget surplus to reduce the county's pension liability while remaining mindful of the expenditure limit. The Board addressed the growth of special districts inflating spending elsewhere and considered alternatives.

Catherine Traywick, County Treasurer, explained that special districts provide services not covered by the county general fund, such as fire suppression, road maintenance, and hospitals, funded by taxes approved by the communities that benefit from them. She emphasized that without these districts, the county could not financially support these services on its own.

In response to the Board, Ms. Traywick clarified that hospital districts are created through grassroots community efforts and voter approval, not by the Board of Supervisors. She stated Northern Cochise Hospital serves Willcox and San Pedro Valley Hospital serves Benson, while Canyon Vista Hospital is privately owned.

In response to the Board, Ms. Traywick stated that most special districts have elected boards responsible for managing funds, with the county overseeing only certain districts like light and flood control, and emphasized that these grassroots boards provide essential services with minimal staff and no salaries. She noted the importance of supporting these districts and acknowledging the challenges their members face in serving the community.

The Board and staff reviewed the extensive variety of special districts in the county, noting many were created historically or by voter approval, while some are initiated by counties or cities and later approved by voters. The Board discussed how population growth and development in remote areas necessitate these districts for services like fire, water, and roads, emphasizing that property buyers must understand that purchasing land does not automatically guarantee county-provided services.

The Board and staff discussed recent tax changes, noting that most jurisdictions showed decreases due to rate adjustments despite rising valuations, while some school and fire districts experienced increases.

In response to the Board, Ms. Loewenheim stated the special districts submit their annual reports to the Clerk's office as well as their annual budgets each year.

Vice-Chairman Crosby made a motion to adopt the Tax Rates and Levies for Cochise County Taxing Entities as set forth in the attached Exhibit. Supervisor Gomez seconded the motion.

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

Chairman Antenori adjourned the meeting at 10:26 a.m.

APPROVED:

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Frank Antenori, Chairman

ATTEST:

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Lara Loewenheim, Clerk of the Board

