

**PROCEEDINGS OF THE COCHISE COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
WORK SESSION HELD ON
THURSDAY, JANUARY 23, 2025**

A work session of the Cochise County Board of Supervisors was held on Thursday, January 23, 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, Interim County Administrator
Joe Casey, Interim Deputy County Administrator
Paul Correa, Chief Civil Deputy County Attorney
Lara Loewenheim, Clerk of the Board

Chairman Antenori called the meeting to order at 10:06 a.m.

ANY ITEM ON THIS AGENDA IS OPEN FOR DISCUSSION

Members of the public may also [attend this meeting](#) via Microsoft Teams computer or mobile app, or via phone by calling 602-609-7513 or 888-680-6714, Conference ID 445 090 59#. If you have trouble accessing this meeting remotely, call 520-432-9200 for direction.

Work Sessions are a time for County staff to inform and discuss agenda items with the Board of Supervisors and public comments will not be taken.

INTRODUCTIONS

ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION

Board of Supervisors

1. Review of Agenda Items for the Upcoming Regular Board of Supervisors Meeting.

Sharon Gilman, Interim County Administrator, stated the first meeting on Tuesday will be a Board of Equalization (BOE) meeting. She stated the decisions from the State Board of Equalization hearing officer will be ratified or amended.

Chairman Antenori stated the regular meeting would begin after the BOE meeting. In reference to agenda item 3, he asked if finance would provide a list of demands.

In response to the Board, Ms. Gilman stated the demands would be provided on Friday at the earliest with the finalized agenda.

The Board and staff discussed the need for improved processes, including better explanations, detailed categorizations like Professional Services, and a spot-check system to avoid errors. The Board suggested hiring a government accounting expert and implementing periodic audits to ensure accountability and accuracy.

Vice-Chairman Crosby requested to discuss agenda item 2.

In response to the Board, Mr. Casey stated that agenda item number 2 is not related to a franchise agreement and that it is a Broadband Equity Access and Deployment (BEAD) letter.

In response to the Board, Mr. Casey stated he and Dan Coxworth are the liaisons who are working with the state on broadband. He stated the efforts to expand fiber infrastructure across the county, and acknowledged that it won't be feasible everywhere due to high costs. He stated the grant is funding that will provide an opportunity to improve connectivity in many areas of the county.

Chairman Antenori addressed agenda item 4.

In response to the Board, Teresa Rockrich, administrative finance director, stated the funding originates from the Administrative Office of the Courts (AOC). She stated the particular grant is for a project focused on restitution assistance with the initiative to allow youth on probation to work or complete community service while earning minimum wage to pay off their restitution. She stated the grant can go on for up to three years.

Chairman Antenori asked that on agenda items 5, 6, and 7, where the district property is located be added to the agenda item verbiage.

In response to the Board, Ms. Gilman stated that the Planning and Zoning minutes and meetings available on the website. She stated each agenda item includes a staff-prepared presentation that provides an explanation of the Planning and Zoning Commission's review process and their vote.

In response to the Board, Mr. Taylor stated that one of the dockets faces opposition. He stated that agenda attachments include the staff memo and presentation summarizing the commission's actions, and the meeting video is available on YouTube. He encouraged the Board to contact the case planner with any questions about docket items prior to the meeting.

Chairman Antenori raised concern regarding agenda item 8, Intergovernmental Agreements (IGAs) and emphasized the need to understand their dollar impacts.

The Board and staff discussed tourism funding and representation in Cochise County. The Board discussed concerns about whether cities like Douglas are benefiting proportionally from contributions to the regional tourism board, with suggestions for improved communication and data-sharing to demonstrate return on investment. The Board proposed including additional partners, like Tombstone, to create a more unified countywide tourism strategy and leverage collective efforts. The Board agreed that better metrics and reports on the impact of marketing could address doubts and justify the investment in tourism initiatives.

In response to the Board, Ms. Gilman stated she will discuss with the City of Sierra Vista, Economic Development Director, to address concerns about the return on investment (ROI) of tourism investments. She suggested that working with the city's staff to refine reporting and data collection could help develop a clearer metric to evaluate the effectiveness of the funding.

Chairman Antenori stated agenda item 9 addresses an IGA between Arizona Department of Education and Cochise County Schools in the amount of \$122,000.

Jacqui Clay, County Superintendent of Schools, presented an intergovernmental agreement (IGA) with the Department of Education focused on suicide prevention and student mental health. She stated the initiative aims to bring in a dedicated individual to support schools, especially in rural areas, by providing resources, training, and crisis response. She stated the project is part of a pilot program to develop statewide protocols for suicide awareness, prevention, and behavioral health. She stated annual updates on the program's effectiveness, supported by grants and data collection, will ensure progress and collaboration with schools and state agencies.

Chairman Antenori inquired about the job postings for all county positions, including those in the sheriff's office.

In response to the Board, Ms. Gilman stated all job postings are listed on the county's website under the human resources page. She stated each department posts their positions separately, but they can all be accessed through a single site and the postings are made available in local newspapers.

Chairman Antenori inquired about the specific individuals or entities involved in agenda item 10, and whether an executive session is required due to the involvement of litigation and the attorney.

In response to the Board, Paul Correa, Chief Civil Deputy County Attorney, stated the issue at hand is an appeal regarding a zoning violation. He stated the appeal is based on a hearing officer's order that requires a property owner to clean up their yard and cease operating a junkyard, following a neighbor's complaint. He stated this is not an executive session matter, and that the Board will be provided with all the relevant information to review the case. Mr. Correa stated that Gary Raemaker is the new hearing officer.

Chairman Antenori stated agenda item 11 is to discuss a contract with the Information Technology (I.T.) Department.

Alan Gordon, Chief Technology Officer, presented a request to approve a new contract for replacing all multifunction copiers throughout the county. He stated the current contract is expiring, prompting an open bidding process that received proposals from five companies and the recommended proposal was selected as the best fit and offered the best price for the county's needs.

In response to the Board, Mr. Gordon stated the contract for the new copiers spans 60 months (five years). He stated the duration helps distribute depreciation costs more evenly, avoiding larger upfront expenses.

Chairman Antenori requested the inflationary increase numbers at next week's board meeting.

Chairman Antenori stated agenda item number 12 is to discuss the juvenile probation prevention services act, Title IV-E Service Agreement between the Arizona Supreme Court, the Administrative Office of the Courts (AOC) and Cochise County Probation Department.

Rita Shipley, Division Director of Superior Court Budget & Finance, presented a service agreement with the Supreme Court to provide behavioral health or substance abuse treatment for youth involved in foster care or guardianship programs and the juvenile court system. She stated costs are reimbursed through a federal Title IV-E program, with minimal administrative impact on the county, as reimbursements are used for

one-time expenses rather than ongoing projects. She stated the agreement includes procedures for out-of-home placements in facilities for necessary care, which vary in levels of confinement based on individual needs.

The Board discussed recent executive orders and proclamations from the president that directly impact federal funding and law enforcement authority in the county; topics included changes to immigration policies, enhanced powers for law enforcement under the modified 287(g) program, and measures targeting specific groups identified as terrorist organizations. Concerns were raised about the legal, financial, and operational implications for local agencies, including the sheriff's department and other federally funded services.

Chairman Antenori proposed drafting a resolution in support of election reform, specifically advocating for the return of mail-in ballots by 5:00 p.m. on the Friday before election day.

In response to the Board, Mr. Casey stated work sessions with the Elections department and recorder should happen next month.

Vice-Chairman Crosby suggested holding several comprehensive meetings to discuss election matters to include the Purcell Doctrine. He stated the Doctrine emphasized that closer to an election, fewer changes should be made to processes to avoid confusion that might discourage voter turnout.

Chairman Antenori raised concerns regarding the election procedures manual and there was some controversy over the additions made to the manual. He would like to get input from the the Elections director to clarify the issue.

Vice-Chairman Crosby stated that there was a removal of 10 pages that occurred between 2019 and the most current update.

In response to the Board, Ms. Gilman stated that a work session regarding the Recorder process is set for next week.

Chairman Antenori reminded the Board to think about current events that they would like to discuss at the next regular meeting.

Vice-Chairman Crosby made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Supervisor Gomez seconded the motion.

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

Chairman Antenori adjourned the meeting at 11:32 a.m.

APPROVED:

Frank Antenori, Chairman

ATTEST:

Lara Loewenheim, Clerk of the Board

