

**PROCEEDINGS OF THE COCHISE COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS  
WORK SESSION HELD ON  
THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 6, 2025**

A work session of the Cochise County Board of Supervisors was held on Thursday, February 6, 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 10:00 a.m.

**ANY ITEM ON THIS AGENDA IS OPEN FOR DISCUSSION**

***ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION***

**Board of Supervisors**

1. Review of agenda items for the Board of Supervisors/Directors meetings and work sessions for the week of February 9, 2025.

Sharon Gilman, Interim County Administrator, presented this item. Ms. Gilman discussed the Cochise County Jail District Board of Directors agenda. She stated the Jail District agenda Action item 3 included approving legal counsel for Tim La Sota and finalizing his role in a petition review, and the second agenda item was to discuss the Metro Fire's installation of a new fire alarm system.

The Board discussed Jail District agenda Action item 4, the necessity of an executive session regarding the fire alarm installation at the jail, with concerns raised about whether it was required for security reasons. The Board had discussion about properly separating financial approvals, ensuring that Jail District expenses are approved in the appropriate meeting rather than under the Board of Supervisors.

The Board and staff discussed the importance of maintaining clear distinctions between different governing capacities, particularly regarding the Jail District and the Board of Supervisors. Concerns were raised about legal challenges related to the establishment of the Jail District and whether proper procedures were followed in its formation and taxation. Members also debated whether to seek a judicial review for clarification on these issues and agreed to schedule a future agenda item or work session for further discussion. Additionally, the Board confirmed that legal expenses related to the lawsuit should be paid from the Board of Supervisors' general fund, as is standard for county litigation.

The Board and staff reviewed Jail District agenda Action item 5, an item regarding a rate

revision for the Arizona Health Care Cost Containment System (AHCCCS) agreement. Megan Kennedy, Division Director of Detention Health Services, presented this item. She stated the agreement has been in place since 2012. It allows the county to pay lower hospitalization rates for inmates and ensures that their healthcare benefits are suspended rather than terminated upon incarceration. She stated it prevents a lapse in benefits when individuals are released back into the community, allowing immediate reinstatement of benefits.

The Board reviewed the Regular meeting Consent agenda item number 2 to accept the resignation of Kevin Byer, Constable for Justice of the Peace Precinct 4 in Willcox. Discussion followed regarding the low activity levels of constables in Willcox and Benson, which may impact their eligibility for pay under state statute. Questions arose about whether the issue stemmed from a lack of demand for services or failure to submit necessary documentation. The Board agreed that a work session is needed to evaluate the role of constables, their workload, and potential solutions moving forward.

The Board and staff reviewed Consent agenda items 3, 4 and 5, including formally accepting the County Recorder's resignation. They also discussed upcoming Precinct Committeeman (PC) appointments, clarifying that political party chairs are responsible for vetting nominees. Staff provided an update on budget amendments and the list of Demands.

The Board and staff discussed agenda Action item number 6, an over-the-counter sale of tax-deeded property, where a bid was received for a parcel that remained unsold after the auction.

Catherine Traywick, Treasurer, explained agenda Action item number 6, that the properties which have been tax-delinquent for over ten years, are deeded to the state and can be purchased through the Board of Supervisors to return to the tax rolls. She stated that the upcoming tax lien sale was mentioned, where individuals can purchase tax liens on delinquent properties and potentially assume ownership after three years. The Board expressed support for both processes as ways to recover unpaid taxes and restore properties to active use.

The Board and staff discussed agenda Action item number 7, abatements for personal and business property taxes, which apply to items such as mobile homes and business equipment that are either unlocatable or no longer taxable. These abatements help clean up the tax rolls, ensuring that school districts and special districts base their budgets on accurate property values. Ms. Traywick provided insight into issues like mobile home theft, abandoned properties, and the process for removing derelict assets from the tax system.

The Board and staff discussed a draft Resolution in support of addressing election issues. The Board recognized Ms. Gilman's outstanding efforts in preparing the resolution, and expressed the Board's support for legislative changes to improve the election process.

The Board and staff discussed agenda Action item number 8, a grant application from the Development Services Department for housing repairs funded by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) through the Community Foundation for Southern Arizona. They noted the grant aims to assist low-to-moderate-income residents with home repairs, such as fixing hot water heaters, heat pumps, and roofs. Concerns were raised about potential federal restrictions, and the Board agreed to review the specific terms and conditions when the grant is awarded.

The Board discussed several state and federal legislative issues, including a bill that would centralize control over water management, significantly limiting local authority over zoning and development. The bill, supported by a state senator, is part of a broader effort by the state to take over water management statewide, which could impact Cochise County's autonomy. Additionally, concerns were raised about a bill limiting rural ambulance coverage, which could allow private companies to cherry-pick profitable areas, potentially leaving underserved regions without adequate services. The Board plans to gather more details on these issues and participate in discussions to protect local interests.

2. Discussion and possible direction to staff on proposed meetings, scheduling, and agenda items for future meetings and work sessions.

The Board discussed various upcoming meetings and procedures. A work session on executive orders and their impact on the Sheriff's Office is scheduled for 1:00 p.m. on January 11, 2025, focusing on operational changes related to the orders. There was also discussion about incorporating a rotating invocation at meetings, similar to the legislative process, where each member would take turns or bring in someone to say the prayer. Additionally, a work session on parliamentary procedures has been scheduled.

Chairman Antenori adjourned the meeting at 11:00 a.m.

APPROVED:

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Frank Antenori, Chairman

ATTEST:

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Lara Loewenheim, Clerk of the Board