

**PROCEEDINGS OF THE COCHISE COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
WORK SESSION HELD ON
THURSDAY, APRIL 3, 2025**

A work session of the Cochise County Board of Supervisors was held on Thursday, April 3, 2025, at 10:00 a.m. in the Board of Supervisors' Hearing Room, 1415 Melody Lane, Building G, Bisbee, Arizona.

Present: Tom Crosby, Vice-Chairman; Kathleen L. Gomez, Supervisor

Absent: Frank Antenori, Chairman

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

Vice-Chairman Crosby 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 April 6, 2025.

Ms. Gilman and the Board reviewed the upcoming agendas for the week of April 7, 2025, through April 11, 2025. She provided an overview of upcoming meetings, starting with Monday, April 7, 2025, a work session on the county budget, discussing projected revenues, expenses, and expenditure limits. She mentioned that she and the budget manager, Stacy Fenhaus, have compiled known expense increases and funding requests from various departments. Ms. Gilman mentioned a follow-up work session on Monday, April 7, 2025, to discuss the county administrator's job description. She mentioned on Tuesday, April 8, 2025, there are consent items to be discussed for the library district, flood control district, and the jail district regarding minutes and expenditures.

Ms. Gilman moved on to the Regular Board meeting, Tuesday, April 8, 2025, at 10:00 a.m. agenda, confirming that item 9 under the County Sheriff had been removed as it was a routine operational matter not requiring Board approval. She started with the consent items, which included routine approvals such as meeting minutes and Emergency Services requests.

In response to the Board, Mr. Duchon estimated the blanket to be around 10 by 12 feet, large enough to cover a vehicle. He explained that the blanket is specifically designed to smother electric vehicle fires, as water is generally ineffective in extinguishing them.

Ms. Gilman discussed Action item 5, recognizing April 5, 2025 through April 11, 2025 as the Week of the Young Child in Cochise County. This annual recognition highlights the

work of First Things First in supporting early childhood development.

Ms. Gilman discussed Action item 6, stated there was a discussion on meeting procedures, specifically regarding the invocation policy and procedure. She stated County Attorney Paul Correa drafted a resolution incorporating the key points from that discussion and the resolution will be presented for consideration.

Ms. Gilman discussed Action item 7 and 8 and introduced Dr. Jacqui Clay, School Superintendent. Dr. Clay and the Board discussed the Student Advisory Council, which provides students with a platform to voice their opinions at the county level, develop leadership skills, and address educational challenges. Dr. Clay stated the council is currently focused on an anti-bullying awareness campaign, which they plan to present to the board and the State Board of Education in July. She stated efforts are being made to expand student participation, particularly in the Douglas School District, while Dr. Clay clarified that her office does not directly handle military recruiting but collaborates with school and military leaders to share relevant information.

Marisol Renteria, Interim Elections Director, and the Board discussed agenda item number 10. Ms. Renteria confirmed that the Special Primary Election will take place on July 15, 2025, and the Special General Election on September 23, 2025. She stated the voting centers in Douglas, Bisbee and Palominas. She stated early voting in Douglas was confirmed for June 21 and June 28, with standard early voting procedures also occurring at the regular county location. She noted the hours for early voting are expected to be from 8:00 AM to 5:00 PM. Supervisor Gomez noted efforts will be made to ensure local awareness, including through announcements by the Douglas City Council.

Jackie Watkins, Engineering and Natural Resources Director, and the Board discussed agenda item number 11, which involved approving an intergovernmental agreement (IGA24-001-0929-1) between the Arizona Department of Transportation (ADOT) and Cochise County for the Whitewater Draw Bridge on Rucker Road. Ms. Watkins explained that the bridge, an 86-year-old wooden one-lane structure with a 5-10 ton load limit, requires frequent maintenance to replace its wooden deck. The funding for this project comes from the federal Off-System Bridge Program, which supports bridges not on major roads. She stated the current phase of the project is a scoping study, after which additional funding will be sought for design and construction. The entire process is expected to take at least three years. Ms. Watkins also mentioned that Cochise County maintains 62 bridges and applies annually for funding to replace or repair them. She stated the planned replacement for the Whitewater Draw Bridge will be a modern two-lane structure, prioritizing safety over preserving its rustic aesthetic.

Suzanne Hagle, Prevention Services Health Director, and the Board discussed agenda item number 12. Ms. Hagle provided an update on the amendment to the Arizona Prescription Drug Overdose Prevention Program, which continues to focus on naloxone distribution, overdose fatality review, and linkages to care, with no changes from the previous amendment. She stated the grant of \$247,000 is fully funded by state and federal sources, with no county match required, and the program also includes transportation services for individuals in need of treatment.

Vice-Chairman Crosby stated there was no State and Federal Legislation to discuss.

Ms. Gilman and the Board discussed the upcoming work session scheduled for 1:00 PM on Tuesday, April 8, 2025, which will cover the Sheriff's financial position, focusing on the grants and their expenditures, including reimbursement processes. Vice-Chairman Crosby requested detailed information on the Sheriff's grants, particularly those related

to border funding, and how funds are being spent. Additionally, the discussion touched on the future of Cochise College's Douglas campus, its transformation into a federal training facility, and the need to ensure sustainability and long-term benefits for the region, particularly Douglas.

Ms. Gilman and the Board discussed the upcoming budget meeting on Monday, April 7, 2025, at 10:00 AM, where the Board will review how changes to the jail district could impact the general fund and expenditure limits.

Ms. Gilman and the Board discussed the upcoming joint meeting with the Planning and Zoning Commission on Wednesday, April 9, 2025, where the Board will discuss responsibilities, the comprehensive plan, and other zoning issues. Ms. Gilman mentioned that on Thursday, April 10th, there will be a staff update regarding the concerns raised by the Tres Almos Community Alliance that the board had heard from residents a few weeks ago.

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

The Board had no discussion.

Vice-Chairman Crosby adjourned the meeting at 10:53 a.m.

APPROVED:

Tom Crosby, Vice-Chairman

ATTEST:

Lara Loewenheim, Clerk of the Board