

**PROCEEDINGS OF THE COCHISE COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
WORK SESSION HELD ON
THURSDAY, MAY 1, 2025**

A work session of the Cochise County Board of Supervisors was held on Thursday, May 1, 2025, at 10:00 a.m. in the Board of Supervisors' Hearing Room, 1415 Melody Lane, Building G, Bisbee, Arizona.

Present: Frank Antenori, Chairman, Telephonic; 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.

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 May 4, 2025.

Ms. Gilman presented this item. Ms. Gilman previewed the upcoming Library, Flood Control, and Jail District meetings, all of which include only minutes and budget items, with one potential confidential action item under the Jail District. She stated the regular meeting agenda will include routine consent items like minutes, budget transfers, and recurring grant renewals. She stated Supervisor Gomez will have an action item to use community enhancement funds for a community cleanup effort involving a dumpster and a tire recycling bin, with a proposed budget of \$2,500. She stated Development Services will also present a contract for board approval related to an affordable housing plan for Cochise County.

Susan Bronson, Planner I, stated that a contract was awarded to Elliott D. Pollack & Co. to create an affordable housing plan for Cochise County, fully funded by a \$194,450 state grant. She stated the awarded contract totals \$177,400, with the remaining funds allocated for administration and contingencies. She noted the project includes a needs and affordability assessment, plus a focus on implementation strategies intended to ensure the plan leads to action rather than being shelved.

Ms. Bronson clarified that the City of Bisbee will not be included in the county's affordable housing plan because Bisbee received its own grant and chose to develop a separate plan. She stated that while Bisbee's incorporated area is excluded, the county's plan will still cover six other incorporated areas along with unincorporated parts of the county with the intent of ensuring broad, countywide housing strategy coverage.

Christine McLachlan, Interim Development Services Director, noted that while the County's comprehensive plan has included some data analysis, the upcoming

affordable housing study will provide much more detailed insights. She stated the study is expected to take about six months and wrap up by the end of the year.

Rita Shipley, Division Director of Superior Court Budget and Finance, introduced Agenda Item number 3 as an overview of the "Fill the Gap" funding, a state grant from the Arizona Administrative Office of the Courts. She stated the funding helps support six pre-sentence investigator officer positions. She stated the officers interview defendants, victims, and witnesses, and then create reports for judges to review before sentencing. She stated the reports help ensure judges have enough background to make informed sentencing decisions.

Teresa McNab, Administrative Finance Manager, introduced Agenda Item number 6 as a request for the Board to sign a resolution allowing the acceptance of family counseling funds. She stated the money is allocated based on juvenile population per county, totals \$11,960, with a required county match of \$2,990. She stated the annual funding is used by the juvenile department for family counseling aimed at preventing delinquency and strengthening family relationships.

Joe Casey, Interim Deputy County Administrator, introduced Agenda Item number 9 and requested to transfer funds from contingency into the Facilities budget. He stated the purpose is to replace outdated heating units, also known as gas packs, located at the Health Department. He stated the units are aging and need to be brought up to current standards.

The Board had no new discussion items for Agenda Item 10 regarding state and federal legislation. Supervisor Gomez shared updates from recent advocacy efforts in Washington, D.C. related to the port of entry and the connector road.

Ms. Gilman shared that the final item for the week is a work session scheduled for Thursday, May 8th, at 10:00 a.m. focused on Mexican Gray Wolf management. She stated Pascal Berlioux from the Eastern Arizona Counties Association will present information on the issue. She stated the session will address the challenges ranchers face under current rules, especially around livestock protection, and explore coordination efforts to change those rules, and the goal is to inform the Board so it can consider potential actions moving forward.

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

Supervisor Gomez noted that the recent firing of the Douglas shelter manager by the Friends group has raised concerns in the community. She stated a few individuals are now pushing to form a task force focused on animal shelters due to the apparent disarray. Ms. Gilman explained that animal control and animal shelters are not separate, and they function together and rely on one another.

Chairman Antenori adjourned the meeting at 10:34 a.m.

APPROVED:

Frank Antenori, Chairman

ATTEST:

Lara Loewenheim, Clerk of the Board