

**PROCEEDINGS OF THE COCHISE COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS  
WORK SESSION HELD ON  
THURSDAY, JUNE 26, 2025**

A work session of the Cochise County Board of Supervisors was held on Thursday, June 26, 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

Absent: Kathleen L. Gomez, Supervisor

Staff Present: Sharon Gilman, County Administrator  
Joe Casey, Deputy County Administrator  
Dylan Hendel, 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 June 29, 2025.

Ms. Gilman presented this item. She noted there were several items on the agenda for discussion and proposed starting with the Library District, followed by the Flood Control District, then the Regular Board meeting and concluding with the Jail District. Ms. Gilman requested any questions regarding the Consent Agenda items.

The Board and staff discussed how adult probation changed firearm calibers from .40 to 9mm, leaving behind unused .40 caliber ammunition. The Board provided options like selling, trading, or donating the ammo, which were considered, with concerns about legal restrictions and shipping costs; further research will be done before taking action.

Denise Riden, Civil Deputy County Attorney, explained consent agenda item 3, that the City of Douglas submitted a notice of intent to annex a portion of the Sunnyside Special Fire District. She clarified that the Board is not approving or denying the action, but simply acknowledging receipt of the notice, which does not involve county property.

Cynthia Meyers, Outreach Manager for the School Superintendent, presented consent agenda item 4, and explained the contract with Navigate 360 is for the behavioral health portion of the school safety technology platform. She stated the new grant-funded features include anonymous tip reporting, threat assessment training, suicide prevention, and case management tools for schools. Dr. Clay noted that in small communities, tip lines to local police can discourage student reporting due to fear of being identified. She emphasized that many incidents go unreported for this reason, but the students recently met by the Board fully support the anonymous reporting system. Ms. Meyers stated the Navigate 360 contract, funded by a \$947,000 grant, will cover the technology and consulting needed to implement a behavioral threat assessment platform, enabling

schools to better track, manage, and share student behavioral data across districts.

Ms. Gilman reviewed consent agenda items 5 and 6, which involve party breakdowns for precinct committeemen and the appointment of poll workers for the CD7 election. She clarified that party affiliation details are included in the agenda exhibits. She stated the list of poll workers for Bisbee, Douglas, and Palominas vote centers, as well as early board staff, will be attached to the final agenda. She stated early board duties include handling early ballots, not signature verification, which is completed by the Recorder's Office before ballots reach Elections.

Jackie Watkins, Director of Engineering and Natural Resources, discussed consent agenda items 7, 8, and 9, explaining that the areas in question are platted rights-of-way, not maintained roads, and are often vegetated and unused. She clarified that no public access to state or federal lands is being blocked, and the county sends letters when property owners improperly gate public easements.

Ms. Gilman introduced the public hearings, noting that the liquor license item is routine. She explained that Development Services is presenting a zoning ordinance update, which has already been reviewed by Planning and Zoning.

The Board and staff reviewed Action Item 13, which included appointments to various committees and approval of related membership dues. There was discussion about the relevance and effectiveness of groups like the Upper San Pedro Partnership and Sierra Vista Metropolitan Planning Organization, with concerns raised about funding, influence, and federal grant conditions. Staff clarified that membership often enables access to road funding and in-kind contributions, with specific timelines for dues payments. The Board suggested pulling the item for discussion in a future work session.

Ms. Gilman discussed Action Item 14, which involves adopting Resolution 25-16 for a public hearing regarding the continued establishment of the jail district. She clarified that the resolution is necessary to meet statutory requirements for the upcoming election on November 4th, 2025. She stated the resolution addresses the fact that the previous board established the jail district in 2022, but with the new election, the process needs to be reaffirmed.

In response to the Board, Mr. Hendel explained that the purpose of the public hearing was to confirm the continuation of the jail district, as required by statute. He stated that although the jail district already exists, the statute mandates a public hearing to affirm its necessity and the action is a procedural step to ensure compliance with statutory requirements.

The Board and staff discussed the upcoming public hearing on August 5th, 2025 at 10 a.m., which is meant to allow public comment on the continuation of the jail district's establishment. The Board clarified that the previous district is still in effect, and the hearing is necessary due to unique legal circumstances not fully addressed by the courts. The Board agreed to proceed with the hearing to ensure legal compliance.

Catherine Traywick, County Treasurer, discussed Agenda Item 15, which is a proclamation honoring Kevin Pyles, by naming the archives space the "Kevin Pyles Legacy Archives and Hall of History." She noted that Kevin personally created the hallway display featuring Cochise County history.

Christine McLachlan, Director of Development Services, presented agenda items 16 and 17, starting with a plat abandonment and amended assurance agreement for a property in Mescal, west of Benson. She stated Agenda item 17 was an amended lease

agreement for a film studio at a public airport, which had previously been approved but required revisions requested by the FAA. She stated the updated lease includes language to comply with federal requirements, particularly concerning non-aeronautical use and interim use policies.

Amanda Eckroth, Health Promotion Administrative Manager, presented Agenda Item 18. She stated the grant, now in its 11th year, supports a range of public health initiatives to include tobacco and chronic disease prevention, teen pregnancy prevention, youth mental health first aid, and suicide mortality review.

Ms. Gilman introduced Agenda Item 19, noting it involves a 911 program grant agreement totaling nearly \$300,000. She stated the funding is intended to support the 911 phone system.

Chairman Antenori shared an update on the state budget stalemate following discussions with Speaker Montenegro at a local event. He stated a budget was passed by both chambers but was quickly vetoed by the governor, who had already negotiated a separate deal with the Senate president. He stated the unresolved issue is causing uncertainty for counties and agencies, especially regarding grant-dependent funding, as July 1, 2025, approaches without a finalized state budget.

Ms. Gilman announced two upcoming work sessions scheduled for July 1st. She stated the first at 1:00 p.m. will focus on revising a 1979 Emergency Services resolution and related policy updates. She stated the second session, beginning at 2:00 p.m., would involve a discussion about site selection for the county jail.

The Board and staff discussed the Draft Jail District consent and action items. Vice-Chairman Crosby expressed concern over legal ambiguities in the statute used to establish the jail district, especially in how the ballot language avoids terms like "initiative" or "referendum." He questioned whether the process was being followed correctly, given that the district technically isn't established until voter approval of a tax. Mr. Hendel clarified that Proposition 132 does not apply in this case because it's a special taxing district, not a statewide ballot initiative. The Board and counsel acknowledged the statute's ambiguity but emphasized that the process has been vetted by multiple attorneys and complies with current legal interpretation.

Mr. Hendel pointed out that the public had not been notified about the potential for an executive session during the work session. He clarified that without proper notice, the Board could not proceed with an executive session and would have to wait until the next meeting on Tuesday to discuss the issue.

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

Chairman Antenori adjourned the meeting at 11:22 a.m.

APPROVED:

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Frank Antenori, Chairman

ATTEST:

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Lara Loewenheim, Clerk of the Board