

**PROCEEDINGS OF THE COCHISE COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS  
WORK SESSION HELD ON  
THURSDAY, JULY 31, 2025**

A work session of the Cochise County Board of Supervisors was held on Thursday, July 31, 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, Telephonic; Kathleen L. Gomez, Supervisor

Staff Present: Sharon Gilman, County Administrator  
Paul Correa, Chief Civil Deputy County Attorney  
Lara Loewenheim, Clerk of the Board

Chairman Antenori called the meeting to order at 10:01 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 August 4, 2025.

Ms. Gilman reviewed the upcoming week's meetings, starting with a special executive session on Tuesday, August 5th, to discuss the Court of Appeals decision. She stated the Library District will hold their standard meeting at 10:00 AM, with no action items scheduled.

Supervisor Gomez raised concerns about debris-filled speed cuts and flooding on private properties, with questions about the County's ability to help.

Jackie Watkins, Engineering and Natural Resources Director, explained the legal limits on using public funds for work on private land, even with permission, and noted that sandbags are available to residents.

Ms. Gilman noted that the County Jail District meeting has three action items. She stated the first is a vote to approve a budget of up to \$130 million for design, engineering, and construction of the new jail project, aimed at confirming Board consensus ahead of the publicity pamphlet.

Megan Kennedy, Detention Medical Services Manager, discussed Action items 4 and 5. She shared that a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) will be presented next week between Arizona Complete Health and the Cochise County Sheriff's Office. She stated the agreement involves a no-cost data-sharing setup to support continuity of care for individuals entering and exiting the County jail.

Ms. Gilman reviewed the upcoming regular meeting agenda, starting with consent items including minutes, and the addition of a road in Hereford to the county-maintained system. She stated a Public Hearing is scheduled regarding the continued establishment of the jail district, followed by an action item to adopt a resolution affirming

that continuation.

Mr. Correa advised this step to formally recognize the district's ongoing status, especially in light of past litigation and the upcoming election. The Board agreed this action doesn't change anything but clarifies the current legal and procedural position for transparency.

Christine McLachlan, Development Services Director, discussed Public Hearing item 7, which involves a resolution on the Development Services fee schedule. She stated the updated fees apply specifically to inspections of manufactured homes, mobile homes, and factory-built buildings. She explained that the process includes reviewing submitted plans and performing inspections once the units are installed to ensure they meet the code.

Ms. Gilman reviewed Board Action items 8, 9, and 10. She stated the items involve withdrawing from the Association of Defense Communities and the Coalition of Arizona/New Mexico Counties and to terminate the Intergovernmental Agreement with the City of Sierra Vista regarding the Upper San Pedro Partnership.

Ms. Gilman discussed Action item 11 and 12. She stated item 11 includes a list of organizations the County will remain a part of. She stated items 12 and 13 involve requests from the Facilities Department to transfer funds from the County Capital Projects Fund to the Facility Contingency Fund. She stated this supports two projects: \$230,500 for roof improvements at the Health Department in Bisbee and \$317,000 for HVAC equipment at the Juvenile Detention Center.

Melissa Avant, Election Director, explained Action Item 14, which involves entering into a voluntary agreement related to the County's election system. She stated the agreement allows a federal team to review the voting system's configuration, confirm certified software, and assess both physical and data security measures. She stated it includes an audit of procedures and facilities, with a report to be provided to the County. There is no cost to the County, and the review is tied to the Help America Vote Act of 2002.

Ms. Gilman introduced Action Item 15, a resolution for the County Treasurer to remit tax funds collected from common school districts that are not part of a high school district. She stated the resolution stems from recent legal changes affecting how these funds are handled, and it specifically applies to smaller, rural districts that only operate elementary or middle schools and are not part of a unified district.

The Board and staff discussed Action Items 16 and 17, which involve grants from the Arizona Criminal Justice Commission for drug, gang, and violent crime control, as well as victim compensation.

The Board discussed a wolf sighting near the Catholic Cemetery in Pirtleville, with a photo showing a collared wolf wearing a neon green collar. The Board stated the Sheriff's office has been informed, and the ranch patrol will investigate. The Board shifted to legislative proposals from the County Supervisors Association, including raising the budget limit in exchange for not managing special districts or capping it at 5%.

Ms. Gilman stated the upcoming Work Session with the County Supervisors Association (CSA) on August 5th, 2025, will provide an update on legislative actions and the staff will assist with the legislative proposals.

Chairman Antenori discussed Open Meeting Laws with a proposal to clarify the three

Board members in the same room. He also mentioned exploring the option of a one-cent gas tax across all gas stations in the county.

Ms. Gilman discussed the Work Session scheduled for August 5th, 2025 at 2:00 p.m. regarding the voting system accreditation and compliance.

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

The Board discussed a potential work session regarding the economic development road map. The Board addressed concerns about feral animals and animal control, with discussions underway regarding collaboration with the Sheriff's Department and a work session planned later in August.

Chairman Antenori adjourned the meeting at 10:52 a.m.

APPROVED:

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Frank Antenori, Chairman

ATTEST:

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Lara Loewenheim, Clerk of the Board