

**PROCEEDINGS OF THE COCHISE COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
WORK SESSION HELD ON
THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 13, 2025**

A work session of the Cochise County Board of Supervisors was held on Thursday, November 13, 2025, at 10:00 a.m. in the Board of Supervisors's 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
Joe Casey, Deputy County Administrator
Bert Whitehead, Civil Deputy County Attorney
Lara Loewenheim, Clerk of the Board

Chairman Antenori called the meeting to order at 10:07 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 November 17, 2025.

Ms. Gilman outlined the agenda preview work session, covering the Library District, Flood Control District, Jail District and Regular Board meeting. Ms. Gilman stated the Library District and Flood Control District will both discuss minutes and demands on the Consent agenda. She stated the Jail District has minutes and demands and two additional consent agenda items. She noted the 3rd consent item is to approve a data-sharing agreement that would allow the Sheriff's Office Jail medical area to access the Arizona Complete Health System to support continuity of care upon release and the fourth is an agreement with the Arizona Department of Corrections, Rehabilitation and Re-Entry, with an amendment proposing cancellation. Ms. Gilman planned to contact the Sheriff's Office for clarification.

Ms. Gilman outlined the start of the Regular Board of Supervisors meeting agenda for November 18, 2025, beginning with consent items to approve minutes and a pass-through agreement which is a routine arrangement used when a fire district receives a grant from the Gila River Indian Community and needs the county to serve as the fiscal conduit. Ms. Gilman noted that item three would apply once the Jail District Board of Directors completed the canvass later in the day. She stated the Board of Supervisors would then formally acknowledge receipt of that canvass.

Jaqui Clay, School Superintendent, presented Consent item 4 and agenda items 11 and 12. Dr. Clay stated the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) grant supports educational programs for 10 to 2 jail students and will likely fund their participation in the Arizona Correctional Educators Conference (ACE).

The Board and staff discussed challenges in staffing the jail's educational program, emphasizing the need for a certified, preferably bilingual teacher to serve the primarily Spanish-speaking students, while noting current efforts to find suitable candidates and ensure all students, including those with special needs, receive proper instruction.

Dr. Clay explained Action item 11 that Bisbee was mistakenly charged \$51,000 for indirect services, which normally go into the general fund, and the error was discovered in FY23 when the new Bisbee Superintendent pointed out the overcharge.

Cynthia Meyers, Outreach Manager, stated that the county, as a pilot for a statewide suicide prevention program, is entering the second year of the grant, with an added \$30,654 to allow direct purchase of training materials.

Zachary Plucas, Program Manager, reported that training has been conducted in three school districts, including Benson High School, Elfrida, and Valley Union, reaching 18 students and several staff members in each, with additional participants invited to observe the sessions.

The Board and staff discussed the county's suicide prevention program, which provides evidence-based, culturally sensitive training and support in schools, including counseling and therapy dogs, while coordinating with school leaders and respecting each school's requests. Mr. Plucas stated the program also teaches staff and students to recognize warning signs, offers intervention strategies, and complements other initiatives like Signs of Suicide and Sandy Hook Promise to reduce suicide risk.

Chairman Antenori discussed Consent item 5, elections and precinct committees and one resignation from a Democrat.

Lisa Enriquez, Right-of-way Agent Senior, explained that consent item 6 involves adding 0.5 miles to a subdivision road, which has been built to county standards, and homes can be added once construction is complete.

The Board and staff discussed that subdivision roads must be built to county standards before the county accepts maintenance. Chairman Antenori stated the process ensures proper infrastructure, prevents abandoned or poorly maintained roads, and supports property sales, tax revenue, and population growth.

Ms. Gilman presented Public Hearing item 7, and stated that a public hearing is scheduled to approve, deny, modify, or remand an appeal of the Planning and Zoning Commission's denial of a special use authorization for a 30-space recreational vehicle park in Hereford.

Matthew Taylor, Planning Division Manager, stated that the applicants requested that the Board table the item, and they were encouraged to call in for the public hearing next Tuesday in case the Board has questions or decides not to grant the tabling.

Ms. Gilman introduced Action item 9, which includes discussion of the Old Ranch Road Resolution requested by Chairman Antenori, noting public comment will be allowed.

Ms. Gilman introduced Action item 10, and stated the annual Crime Victim Assistance Program grant of \$96,667, with county match funds of \$24,168 to be sourced from available funds, requiring Board approval.

Ms. Gilman introduced Action item 13, and stated the Resolution recognizes Howard G. Buffett and the Howard G. Buffett Foundation for their philanthropic contributions.

Niltza Flores, Court Administrator, introduced Action item 14, and explained that she is presenting the annual court revenue certification, a process established by a 1999 Arizona law to allocate collected revenues to criminal justice entities. She stated the allocation is based on a 1998 baseline, which has not been adjusted for inflation, and disbursements are made if revenues exceed that baseline.

Matthew Taylor, Planning Division Manager, introduced Action item 15, and explained that the applicant's request for a waiver to not pave the private road is reasonable given the short distance, and the proposed hard-surfaced apron will provide a practical transition from the paved Pomerene Road to the unpaved San Pedro Ranch Road.

The Board and staff discussed the applicant's request for a waiver to not pave a short private road in the eight-lot San Pedro Ranch Estates subdivision, noting that the road would remain private, and the developer would assume maintenance. The Board raised stormwater impacts from the raised building sites, as water is channeling through a narrow corridor and threatening existing culverts and roads, particularly on Pomerene Road, prompting consideration of potential off-site improvements and flood control measures to protect surrounding infrastructure.

Emily Harris, Director of Clinical Services, introduced Action Item 16, requesting approval for an intergovernmental agreement with ADHS for tracking and investigating sexually transmitted infections.

Suzanne Hagle introduced Action item 17, stating the Intergovernmental Agreement (IGA) is for WIC and the breastfeeding counselor program to include education and food benefits for low-income families.

The Board and staff discussed the challenge of restricting access on a county highway that passes through private, state trust, and national forest lands, noting that no alternate access exists, and federal law prevents limiting public use. Chairman Antenori clarified that the road has historic county highway status, and a detailed map and presentation outlining property boundaries and past incidents will be available on the upcoming public agenda.

Ms. Gilman reminded the Board of the meeting on Tuesday, November 18th, at 2:00 p.m. for the Board of Equalization to ratify the hearing officer's decisions.

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

The Board and staff discussed several work sessions and future meetings were requested to address ongoing issues. Ms. Gilman stated the Animal Shelter work session has been rescheduled and will include negotiations with Douglas and the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA). The Board verified an election verification is planned for December 4, 2025, with potential follow-up to solicit participation from other counties and the County Supervisors Association. The Board discussed future meetings to cover rural health, ambulance and fire district services and possible legislative lobbying strategies.

Chairman Antenori adjourned the meeting at 11:36 a.m.

APPROVED:

Frank Antenori, Chairman

ATTEST:

Lara Loewenheim, Clerk of the Board