

**PROCEEDINGS OF THE COCHISE COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS  
WORK SESSION HELD ON  
TUESDAY, DECEMBER 2, 2025**

A work session of the Cochise County Board of Supervisors was held on Tuesday, December 2, 2025, at 1:00 p.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  
Bert Whitehead, Civil Deputy County Attorney  
Lara Loewenheim, Clerk of the Board

Attendees: Jason Faccio, Public Works Director  
Jessica Moore, Administrative Manager  
Robert Hill, Solid Waste Superintendent  
Fred Nixon, Superintendent Highways  
Josh Steinberg, Public Works Safety and Training Coordinator

Chairman Antenori called the meeting to order at 1:01 p.m.

***ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION***

**Board of Supervisors**

1. Discussion and possible direction regarding the Public Works Department Informational Update, including the following topics:
  - Highways Quarterly Workplan;
  - Solid Waste Division Update; and,
  - Light and Heavy Fleet Divisions Update.

Jason Faccio, Public Works Director, presented this item using a PowerPoint presentation. Mr. Faccio provided an update on the fleet and solid waste divisions, noting that 12 of 17 ordered vehicles have been received, heavy equipment like the motor grader and chip box is in place, and a rebuilt solid waste compactor is operational after engine work. He also mentioned progress on recycling efforts, including grants for high-side trailers and a cardboard baler for Douglas, as well as purchases of smaller mowers for airport and facilities use.

Mr. Faccio discussed introducing an "Adopt A Roadway" program to align the county with others, allowing volunteers to help pick up trash. He stated a resolution for the program will be presented for a vote at the next Board meeting.

The Board and staff discussed past use of inmates for cleanup, noting that solid waste and highways previously employed Department of Corrections inmates for litter removal, but oversight and liability concerns made the program problematic. Staff noted the challenges included staffing to supervise inmates, higher-than-anticipated wages,

transportation and insurance costs, and restrictions on which inmates could work, though revisiting the program through prison-managed crews was suggested as a possible solution.

Mr. Faccio presented the quarterly Gantt chart, updating the Board on ongoing and upcoming road maintenance projects, including grading, mowing, striping, chip sealing, washout repairs, and guardrail replacements across multiple roadway yards. He detailed materials sourcing, contractor coordination, and equipment use, highlighting quality checks for chip seal materials and efforts to prepare roads for the next season while managing ongoing winter projects.

Mr. Faccio updated the Board on road maintenance projects, including hot mix patching on Gleason and Davis Roads, sand removal from Ocotillo and Flower Roads, and concrete repair on Sibyl Road to address washouts. He also explained efforts to manage chip seal quality, noting challenges with the double chip application on Kansas Settlement and the use of sticky stamps to mark road centers for proper line placement.

The Board and staff discussed how paved roads maintained by the county are classified as county highways. Staff noted that dirt roads can also function as highways if they meet statutory conditions, even without a formal declaration. Jackie Watkins, Engineering and Natural Resources Director, stated a memo will be provided to clarify wording and distinctions between public roads, county highways, and declared highways.

The Board and staff discussed the timing and maintenance of primitive and county roads, emphasizing the importance of keeping them passable to avoid liability. Staff described how operators monitor, maintain, and prioritize roads, often responding quickly after rain events, with knowledge guided by rainfall measurements.

Mr. Faccio explained a proposed increase in the county's tipping fees, partially driven by Arizona Department of Environmental Quality (ADEQ) requirements and operational needs. The current \$64-per-ton fee barely keeps the program in the black, and projections show that without adjustments, the budget could fall into the red due to maintenance, heavy fleet replacement, and unexpected equipment failures. He emphasized that recycling adds costs, even though it is required by statute, and the tipping fee increase is meant to cover all operational, regulatory, and equipment expenses.

The Board and staff discussed the county's recycling and transfer station operations, noting that while many materials like steel, aluminum, copper, and cardboard are recycled, much of the waste is not marketable and must go to the landfill. Staff stated trucking costs and remote location make recycling some materials financially unfeasible, and the county subsidizes convenience at transfer stations to encourage proper disposal. Raising the \$7-per-truckload fee would have minimal financial impact but would be noticeable to residents, while the \$64-per-ton tipping fee affects urban waste more substantially.

Mr. Faccio stated that equipment replacement and maintenance costs have risen significantly, requiring more funding to keep operations sustainable. He stated a tipping-fee increase would primarily support those needs, especially for fleet and equipment. He stated that raising the fee to \$68 per ton could keep the budget in the black for several years, reducing the need for frequent adjustments.

Mr. Faccio explained that landfill compaction has steadily improved, now reaching about 1,162 pounds per cubic yard. A compaction level over 900 is considered strong for Arizona, and efforts continue to move toward the long-standing goal of 1,200. He stated

new cell development and a newer compaction have extended landfill life by an estimated 5 to 10 years, maintained with watering and careful monitoring.

Mr. Faccio reported improvements made to the Benson and Sierra Vista transfer stations. He stated repairs included patching and closing areas that had deteriorated over time.

Mr. Faccio explained the request to change operating hours at the Double Adobe transfer station so that the schedule matches the county's other stations.

Mr. Faccio explained that the county is moving forward with a new pre-dump certificate application process. He stated the new system would allow residents to apply online, by phone, or in person at the transfer station during July through September. This approach aims to reduce waste, simplify administration, and ensure certificates reach those who will use them.

Vice-Chairman Crosby expressed appreciation for the charts, noting they help show constituents that a clear plan exists for road maintenance. He acknowledged the county's recycling program often loses money and observed that public willingness to pay for environmental efforts has declined. He clarified that operations and maintenance costs are separate from personnel expenses, and he reminded colleagues that employee-related pension contributions do not reflect the long-term taxpayer obligation. He praised staff for keeping the county's dumping fees low over many years.

In response to the Board, Mr. Faccio suggested Board members meet with him individually to review roads in their areas, discussing which to add or remove from plans. He offered to schedule site visits to evaluate the budget and feasibility. After these reviews, he proposed bringing the findings to a work session for full Board discussion.

Chairman Antenori adjourned the meeting at 2:10 p.m.

APPROVED:

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Frank Antenori, Chairman

ATTEST:

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Lara Loewenheim, Clerk of the Board