

**PROCEEDINGS OF THE COCHISE COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
REGULAR MEETING HELD ON
TUESDAY, MAY 5, 2026**

A regular board meeting of the Cochise County Board of Supervisors was held on Tuesday, May 5, 2026 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; Kathleen L. Gomez, Supervisor

Staff Present: Sharon Gilman, County Administrator; Joe Casey, Deputy County Administrator; Dylan Hendel, Deputy Civil County Attorney; Lara Loewenheim, Clerk of the Board

Chairman Antenori called the meeting to order at 10:04 a.m.

SUMMARY OF CURRENT EVENTS

Report by District 1 Supervisor, Tom Crosby

Vice-Chairman Crosby reviewed recent budget season discussions and outlined a potential \$75 million bond, noting a 5% interest rate would result in approximately \$45 million in interest over 20 years. He also revisited prior efforts to eliminate the flood control district tax rate, explaining it could reduce taxpayer burden but would remove funding from the district.

Report by District 2 Supervisor, Kathleen L. Gomez

Supervisor Gomez announced the following events occurring in her district.

Mariachi Festival in Douglas on May 9, 2026, 2:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m, taking place outside the Gadsden Hotel as a cultural event for the community.

Justice and Care Collective event will be held in Douglas on May 13, 2026, 1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m., providing assistance with non-felony warrants and access to basic medical services.

Douglas Days will celebrate the city's 125th anniversary alongside America's 250th birthday on May 15-16, 2026, parade at 10:00 a.m., featuring a parade on G Avenue, vendors, and community activities.

Voter registration closes on June 22, 2026, with early voting beginning June 24, 2026 for the upcoming election.

The Rural Assembly Everywhere event will take place on July 29, 2026, 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m., at the Elfrida Community Center, focusing on food sustainability, farmers markets, and community resources.

Supervisor Gomez stated she attended a two-day local leader summit with Sharon Gilman, County Administrator, hosted by the University of Arizona, where participants explored innovations in

sustainable mining, including extracting minerals from plants and reducing environmental harm.

Supervisor Gomez addressed misinformation circulating on social media alleging she was responsible for sewage entering the San Pedro River, firmly stating the claim was false and clarifying that others were responsible for related soil testing. She urged the public to verify facts before sharing information online to avoid unnecessary confusion, division, and reputational harm.

Report by District 3 Supervisor, Frank Antenori

Chairman Antenori recognized a local issue in Pearce involving a tarp and commended Jason Faccio, Public Works Director, for volunteering his own time to repair it.

CALL TO THE PUBLIC

Avery Frantz spoke on various issues.

Allison Morse spoke on various issues.

Cheryl Knott spoke on various issues.

Robert Sowards spoke on various issues.

CONSENT

Board of Supervisors

1. Approve the Minutes of the regular meeting of the Board of Supervisors of April 21, 2026.

Elections

2. Appoint poll workers and early board members for the July 21, 2026, Primary Election and authorize the Elections Director to make additions or substitutions as necessary prior to the election to ensure that all Vote Centers are staffed adequately with trained election poll workers and early board members.

Finance

3. Approve demands and budget amendments for operating transfers.
4. Adopt Resolution 26-11 designating Monica Miranda as Chief Fiscal Officer responsible for submitting the Fiscal Year 2027 Annual Expenditure Limitation Report (AELR).

Supervisor Gomez made a motion to approve Consent items 1 through 4. Vice-Chairman Crosby seconded the motion.

Chairman Antenori called for the vote and it was approved 3-0.

A correction of a clerical or typographical error is necessary to ensure the accuracy and

consistency of the official records of Cochise County and that Resolution 26-11 shall be corrected to reflect the property Resolution number of Resolution 26-13.

ACTION

Board of Supervisors

5. Approve Cochise County's withdrawal from participation in the Cochise County Tourism & Economic Council (CCTEC) in accordance with the termination provisions of the IGA.

Vice-Chairman Crosby made a motion to approve Cochise County's withdrawal from participation in the Cochise County Tourism & Economic Council (CCTEC) in accordance with the termination provisions of the IGA. Supervisor Gomez seconded the motion.

Supervisor Gomez criticized the Cochise County Tourism Board for failing to promote key attractions and events in Douglas, including the county fair and local historic sites. She expressed frustration over the board's lack of communication and engagement, concluding that the county could better utilize the \$34,000 allocation to promote its own communities more effectively.

Vice-Chairman Crosby emphasized that any organization receiving public funds for economic development should be able to demonstrate a measurable return, specifically generating at least as much tax revenue as they are paid. He suggested considering performance-based or contingency agreements and questioned the reliability of feedback from other economic development officials, while reinforcing the principle that compensation should reflect results.

Chairman Antenori cited Arizona Department of Tourism data showing Cochise County experienced a decline in tourism, with visitor numbers down about 22% from pre-pandemic levels and spending dropping from roughly \$79 million to \$64 million in 2024. He attributed the drop to a lack of promotion for recurring events and overemphasis on one-time destinations.

Chairman Antenori called for the vote and it was approved 3-0.

6. Approve an agreement with Granicus for the purchase, implementation, and ongoing service of a video integration and broadcast system to support livestreaming, archiving, and automated closed captioning of County meetings, in the amount of \$85,380.14, with annual costs as outlined in the agreement, for the term of 60 months.

Supervisor Gomez made a motion to approve an agreement with Granicus for the purchase, implementation, and ongoing service of a video integration and broadcast system to support livestreaming, archiving, and automated closed captioning of County meetings, in the amount of \$85,380.14, with annual costs as outlined in the agreement, for the term of 60 months. Vice-Chairman Crosby seconded the motion.

Chairman Antenori explained that the new system is designed to enhance public access and transparency by enabling searchable, AI-generated transcripts of board meetings, allowing users to locate specific keywords with exact timestamps instead of reviewing entire recordings. He added that the upgrade will include improved camera functionality for clearer visuals of speakers and is expected to reduce public records requests while making meeting information more accessible and efficient for the public.

In response to the Board, Jeffrey Johnson, Granicus representative, explained that the system will integrate audio with the camera equipment so that when a speaker is shown on screen, their

audio will automatically align with the selected camera view. He noted the installation team will handle setup on-site to ensure synchronized audio and video during meetings.

The Board and staff discussed expanding the new system to potentially support other boards, such as Planning and Zoning, and explored how it could display remote participants. Ms. Loewenheim explained that while video feeds from presenters can be integrated into the system for viewing, currently public call-in participants are not currently permitted to use cameras.

Chairman Antenori called for the vote and it was approved 3-0.

Elections

7. Adopt Resolution 26-12 canceling the election of certain Precinct Committeemen, for the 2026 Primary Election on July 21, 2026, and appointing all candidates that filed to run for Precinct Committeemen for those precincts in which no election is required.

Vice-Chairman Crosby made a motion to adopt Resolution 26-12 canceling the election of certain Precinct Committeemen, for the 2026 Primary Election on July 21, 2026, and appointing all candidates that filed to run for Precinct Committeemen for those precincts in which no election is required. Supervisor Gomez seconded the motion.

Melissa Avant, Elections Director, explained that the item is a resolution to cancel elections and appoint precinct committeemen across parties, noting there are no contested races for Democratic or Libertarian positions. She stated that only two Republican precincts, St. David (Precinct 24) and Soldier Creek (Precinct 39), have contested committeemen positions.

Chairman Antenori explained that precinct committeemen are elected positions, but when the number of candidates does not exceed the available slots, the election is canceled and those candidates are deemed elected by affirmation. He explained this process reduces costs and simplifies ballots, with elections proceeding only in precincts where contests exist.

Chairman Antenori called for the vote and it was approved 3-0.

County Recorder

8. Approve an Intergovernmental Agreement (IGA) between Cochise County and Mohave County to transfer any interest Cochise County may have in approximately 20,000 pounds of ballot paper purchased under a State of Arizona Election Security Grant to Mohave County, at no cost to either party.

Supervisor Gomez made a motion to approve an Intergovernmental Agreement (IGA) between Cochise County and Mohave County to transfer any interest Cochise County may have in approximately 20,000 pounds of ballot paper purchased under a State of Arizona Election Security Grant to Mohave County, at no cost to either party. Vice-Chairman Crosby seconded the motion.

Mr. Hendel explained that Cochise County previously purchased specialized ballot paper through a state grant, but it is incompatible with the county's current election equipment and remains unused. He noted that Mohave County, which can utilize this type of paper, has expressed interest in acquiring it through an intergovernmental agreement.

Bill Cloud, County Recorder, explained that the ballot paper was originally purchased through a

state-funded pilot program to test enhanced security features, which Cochise County successfully evaluated but ultimately did not adopt for ongoing use. He stated the unused paper, stored in a Phoenix warehouse, will be transferred to Mohave County through an intergovernmental agreement so it can be put to practical use rather than remain unused.

Allison Morse spoke in support of the IGA and discussed the reasons

Chairman Antenori called for the vote and it was approved 3-0.

STATE & FEDERAL LEGISLATION

9. Discussion and possible action regarding state and federal legislative matters listed or described in the attached County Supervisors Association Legislative Policy Committee Agenda, the Arizona Association of Counties (AACo) Legislative Policy Committee Agenda, and the proposed State budget, and other matters related thereto.

Chairman Antenori reported that, after speaking with Senator Gowan and Representative Diaz, there is no available legislative fix this session for the constable issue, meaning the Board will need another work session to discuss limited local options. He also summarized state budget developments, noting the Governor is expected to veto the legislative budget, with remaining negotiations focused on a small portion of disputed items, including tax conformity, possible impacts to county funding through state agency cuts, and continued monitoring of transportation-related gas tax language.

REPORT BY SHARON GILMAN, COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR -- RECENT AND PENDING COUNTY MATTERS

Ms. Gilman reported that the opportunity zones meeting with the Arizona Commerce Authority was productive, and staff are compiling data to present findings and recommendations to the Board in an upcoming work session. She also noted that firewatch operations at the jail have ended following repairs to the alarm system, concluding the need for contracted security services.

Chairman Antenori adjourned the meeting at 11:03 a.m.

APPROVED:

Frank Antenori, Chairman

ATTEST:

Lara Loewenheim, Clerk of the Board