

The Board met in a Regular Meeting at the Santa Cruz County Complex, 2150 N. Congress Drive, Room #120, Nogales, AZ. Present: Rudy Molera, Chairman; John Fanning, Vice-Chairman; Luis Carlos Davis, Member; Jesus Valdez, County Manager; Mauricio Chavez, Deputy County Manager; Chris Young, Deputy County Manager; Robert May, Civil Bureau Chief; Nicoelette Brenner, Deputy Clerk of the Board.

CALL TO ORDER/PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Chairman Molera called the meeting to order, and the Pledge of Allegiance was recited, led by Kerri Munoz

ADOPTION OF AGENDA

The County Manager reported that there are no changes to the agenda.

Supervisor Davis made a motion to adopt the Agenda and deviate from the Agenda sequence as necessary; seconded by Vice-Chairman Fanning; motion carried unanimously. (Ayes: Davis, Fanning, Molera)

CALL TO THE PUBLIC:

Brian Vandervoet, a resident of Tubac, addressed the Board of Supervisors regarding an upcoming agenda item concerning the nomination of two members to the City/County Library Board. He introduced Ms. Juanita Havill, a resident of Sonoita, who has served on the Library Board for over 10 years. She is a published children's author and a committed civil servant. He also introduced Ms. Renee Curran, a resident of Rio Rico, and mentioned that Ms. Curran began her educational career in Nogales, later returned to the area, and currently teaches in the Rio Rico school district. Mr. Vandervoet expressed support for the nomination of both individuals, emphasizing their qualifications and dedication to the community. He encouraged the Board to approve their appointments and voiced appreciation for the Board's continued support of the library system.

Michael Burns, a resident of Tumacacori, addressed that the Palo Parado Bridge had been shut down by ADOT, with "No Parking" signs installed. As a result, commuters began using the Richard Williams Trailhead parking lot maintained by the Anza Trail Coalition for commuter parking. This lot was originally intended for trail users only. He expressed concern that the overflow of commuter vehicles has, at times, prevented trail users from finding available parking. Mr. Burns encouraged the Board of Supervisors to investigate the situation and consider a broader review of similar informal parking areas that may be at risk of closure. He emphasized the importance of supporting commuting options for residents who work outside the community and urged the Board to work toward a solution that accommodates both commuters and recreational users. Chairman Molera thanked Mr. Burns for his comments and acknowledged the issue. It was noted that, although the topic was not on the agenda and could not be discussed in detail, the County Manager and the Board would look into the matter further.

Robin Lucky and Jay Thompson, who joined via Zoom and are residents of Rio Rico, addressed the Board by reading Arizona House Resolution 2044, which passed by the Arizona House of Representatives with the concurrence of the Arizona Senate. The resolution focuses on the importance of Arizona's mineral and metal resources and encourages supportive policies. Ms. Lucky expressed concerns about the declining levels of private wells in the town of Patagonia and some areas of Nogales, emphasizing the impact on public health and well-being. She urged the Board to consider these issues seriously in future decision-making related to mining and water use. Board members thanked Ms. Lucky for her comments and for bringing attention to the resolution and the local water concerns.

CURRENT EVENTS

1. BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

SUPERVISOR DAVIS: Shared recent activities, including attending a lunch at Santa Cruz on Aging and a Little League game in Nogales. Alongside the county manager and staff, they participated in the Arizona-Mexico Commission in Phoenix, meeting both governors and attending sessions on tourism and semiconductors. Supervisor Davis also noted the potential for local involvement in the growing semiconductor industry. He also recognized interns Sam and Natalie for their work on a new county podcast, which has recorded ten episodes. Additional meetings included an informal discussion with the Port Authority and Karen Taylor Robson, a tour of the county jail with Mr. Castillo, and ongoing outreach with city officials in Nogales. The board member attended the sentencing of former County Treasurer, Elizabeth Gutfahr, expressing disappointment in the outcome while respecting the court's decision. Supervisor Davis concluded by offering condolences to cousin Marcos Sesteaga and his wife Claudia Mada on the recent passing of their daughter.

VICE-CHAIRMAN FANNING: expressed support for Mr. Burns' earlier comments regarding parking concerns and noted that discussions are underway to address the issue. He thanked firefighters across the state and beyond for their continued service. He offered thoughts and prayers to the Sesteaga family. Mr. Fanning also thanked Alma Schultz and upcoming poll workers for their service, following his brief attendance at a recent meeting led by Ms. Schultz. He concluded by congratulating Mr. Jaime Chamberlain for being named Hispanic Businessman of the Year by the Southern Arizona Hispanic Chamber of Commerce.

CHAIRMAN MOLERA: offered a personal apology for a recent incident, expressing deep regret and assuring that the matter would be looked into. They acknowledged the dedication of the staff and shared frustration over setbacks, noting that despite progress, unexpected challenges continue to arise.

2. MANAGER

JESUS VALDEZ, COUNTY MANAGER, updated the Board on his current events.

DEPARTMENT REPORTS AND ACTIVITIES

1. FINANCE: CASH & INVESTMENTS, EXPENDITURES & REVENUE REPORTS

Mauricio Chavez, Deputy County Manager, reported \$22,218,893.16 in the General Fund, of which \$6,274,305.18 is invested; \$6,291,293.75 in the Road Fund, of which \$5,031,137.24 is invested; \$3,018,236.78 in the Flood Control District Fund, of which \$303,213.04 is invested; \$5,125,059.10 in the Jail District Fund, of which \$4,318,725.12 is invested; \$56,261,937.94 total for all funds, of which \$18,010,467.66 is invested; \$5,555,948.46 estimated end of month balance, compared to \$15,705,174.76 cash at July 2024, a difference of \$10,149,226.30.

[INGORE_INDENT]

2. DEPARTMENT(S) UPDATE

Alejandro Paz, County Treasurer, provided his department update.

3. AWARDS, RECOGNITIONS & ACCOMPLISHMENTS:

A RECOGNITION AND PRESENTATION OF A PLAQUE TO OUTGOING COUNTY SCHOOL SUPERINTENDENT ALFREDO I. VELÁSQUEZ FOR HIS YEARS OF SERVICE TO THE COUNTY (REQ: COUNTY MANAGER)

Mr. Velasquez began by thanking those who have supported him throughout his 18-year tenure,

including his brother Emilio, Marcia, his family, friends, and the residents of Santa Cruz County, whose trust made his service possible. He reflected on the progress made in providing educational opportunities and emphasized the importance of continuing that work by empowering the next generation of leaders. He spoke highly of Maya, recognizing her decade of service, strong leadership, and recent success in securing over \$400,000 in grants. He highlighted her deep understanding of the office's responsibilities, her respected relationships with educational and community leaders, and her commitment to ensuring compliance and meeting goals. Mr. Velasquez expressed confidence in Maya's ability to serve as the next County School Superintendent and urged the community to consider her accomplishments. A special moment of recognition followed for Bob from the County Attorney's Office, whose legal support ensured consistent compliance with partnership agreements. The meeting culminated with a touching tribute read by Vice-Chairman Fanning, honoring School Superintendent Alfredo I. Velasquez for his service from 2006 to 2025 and a plaque was presented by the Board.

Vice-Chairman Fanning made a motion to deviate to item F.2 under Study Session, recess regular session and move into Study Session seconded by Supervisor Davis; the motion carried unanimously. (Ayes: Davis, Fanning, Molera)

B RECOGNITION TO MARK FROWNELTER, A RIO RICO RESIDENT, AND PERRYDISE LANDSCAPE DESIGN FOR THEIR OUTSTANDING DEDICATION TO KEEPING SANTA CRUZ COUNTY CLEAN AND BEAUTIFUL THROUGH THEIR INSPIRING COMMUNITY CLEAN-UP EFFORTS (REQ: VICE-CHAIRMAN FANNING)

The Board recognized Mark Frownfelter, a Rio Rico resident, and Perrydise Landscape & Design, owned by **Jim and Leticia Perry**, for their outstanding dedication to keeping the county clean and beautiful through cleanup initiatives. The Board presented two certificates of appreciation and challenge coins to Mr. Frownfelter and Perrydise Landscape & Design in recognition of their inspiring leadership and continued efforts to promote a litter-free county.

Vice-Chairman Fanning expressed appreciation for the efforts of concerned citizens and youth involved in recent anti-littering and community cleanup initiatives. He specifically thanked the interns and local residents who contributed to beautifying Santa Cruz County. Vice-Chairman Fanning then issued a public plea regarding the condition of Interstate 19 (I-19). He highlighted the growing issue of discarded tires and debris along the roadside and emphasized the need for immediate attention and coordinated action.

Vice-Chairman Fanning made a motion to recess the Regular Meeting and move into study session seconded by Supervisor Davis; the motion carried unanimously. (Ayes: Davis, Fanning, Molera)

STUDY SESSION

1. UPDATE BY THE PATAGONIA AREA RESOURCE ALLIANCE (PARA) BY CAROLYN SHAFFER, PARA BOARD MEMBER ON UPDATE ON PARA'S WORK TO PROTECT OUR NATURAL RESOURCES (REQ: VICE-CHAIRMAN FANNING)

Presented by Carolyn Shafer on behalf of Patagonia Area Resource Alliance (PARA). Ms. Shafer introduced Anna Dian, as the new Executive Director of PARA.

Vice-Chairman Fanning made a motion to recess the Regular Meeting and move into the Flood Control District Board, seconded by Supervisor Davis; the motion carried unanimously. (Ayes: Davis, Fanning, Molera)

2. PRESENTATION OF ANTI-LITTERING CAMPAIGN BY SANTA CRUZ COUNTY LEADERS IN TRAINING (REQ: SCHOOL SUPERINTENDENT)

The Santa Cruz County Leaders-in-Training (LIT) internship program, guided by the Office of the County School Superintendent and Gear Up staff, presented an in-depth report on their anti-littering campaign to the Board of Supervisors. Kerri Munoz introduced the presentation, explaining that the campaign was developed by the student interns as part of their summer internship experience. Manny Gonzalez, commended the interns for their professionalism and leadership, highlighting their work on media content (videos, posters, social media) and a successful community cleanup on June 28, where participants collected trash around city hall and surrounding public areas. Multiple groups of interns shared personal reflections and experiences from the campaign. They emphasized the beauty and value of Santa Cruz County's natural environment and voiced concern over growing litter issues in public parks, trails, and highways. Interns spoke about the health, environmental, and economic consequences of littering, urging the public to join the effort to keep the county clean. They also promoted their Instagram account "Santa Cruz Against Litter" as part of their outreach. Interns expressed sincere gratitude to their supervisors, Gear Up staff, and especially Mr. Velasquez, for the opportunity to participate in the program. Several students shared how the internship helped them grow professionally and personally, giving them a strong sense of purpose, leadership, and civic responsibility. County officials, including the Board of Supervisors and County Manager Jesus Valdez, praised the students for their passion and dedication. The Board concluded by thanking the interns for their leadership.

Vice-Chairman Fanning made a motion to recess the Study Session and move into regular session seconded by Supervisor Davis; the motion carried unanimously. (Ayes: Davis, Fanning, Molera)

FLOOD CONTROL

1. DIRECTOR'S/PROJECT REPORT

Allan Sanchez, Floodplain Coordinator, presented the report.

2. MONTHLY REPORT FROM CITY OF NOGALES

Report not submitted.

3. MONTHLY REPORT FROM THE TOWN OF PATAGONIA

Report not submitted.

4. PUBLIC COMMENT

Supervisor Davis followed up with a few questions, which were answered by staff.

The Board adjourned as the Flood Control District Board and convened into the Regular Meeting. (Motion: Vice-Chairman Fanning; second: Supervisor Davis; motion carried unanimously) (Ayes: Davis, Fanning, Molera)

PUBLIC HEARING:

1. ORDINANCE NO. 2025-01 FOR THE ADOPTION AND AUTHORIZATION TO ESTABLISH THE PRIMA FACIE REASONABLE SPEED LIMIT ON HARSHAW ROAD, OUTSIDE PATAGONIA, SANTA CRUZ COUNTY, ARIZONA (REQ: COUNTY MANAGER)

The Board considered Ordinance 2025-01 to reduce the speed limit on Harshaw Road outside Patagonia from 35 mph to 25 mph. The change follows an engineering study that cited road alignment and increased traffic, particularly due to the Cross Creek Connector and recreational use. Board members supported the change for safety reasons. The ordinance will take effect in 30 days, after which Public Works will install new signage. A request was made for increased law enforcement presence once the new limit is in place. A local Patagonia resident also spoke in favor of the change, highlighting the rising traffic from mining, hikers, and cyclists, and encouraged continued collaboration between the county and local residents regarding the Cross Creek Connector area.

The Board adjourned the Public Hearing and moved into Action Items. (Motion: Vice-Chairman

Fanning; second: Supervisor Davis; motion carried unanimously) (Ayes: Davis, Fanning, Molera)

ACTION ITEMS

1. DISCUSSION/POSSIBLE ACTION TO APPROVE ORDINANCE NO. 2025-01 TO ESTABLISH THE PRIMA FACIE REASONABLE SPEED LIMIT ON HARSHAW ROAD, OUTSIDE PATAGONIA, SANTA CRUZ COUNTY, ARIZONA (REQ: COUNTY MANAGER)

Vice-Chairman Fanning made a motion to approve, seconded by Supervisor Davis; the motion carried unanimously. (Ayes: Davis, Fanning, Molera)

2. DISCUSSION/POSSIBLE ACTION TO ACCEPT THE RESIGNATION OF MR. ALFREDO VELÁSQUEZ AS COUNTY SCHOOL SUPERINTENDENT, EFFECTIVE JULY 3, 2025, AND TO APPOINT A TEMPORARY COUNTY SCHOOL SUPERINTENDENT (REQ: COUNTY MANAGER).

Vice-Chairman Fanning made a motion to approve and to appoint County Manager Jesus Valdez as the interim County School Superintendent, seconded by Supervisor Davis; the motion carried unanimously. (Ayes: Davis, Fanning, Molera)

3. DISCUSSION/POSSIBLE ACTION TO APPROVE THE PROCESS FOR THE RECRUITMENT AND APPOINTMENT OF THE COUNTY SCHOOL SUPERINTENDENT (REQ: COUNTY MANAGER)

The Board received a recommendation from the Human Resources Director, Tivo Romero, regarding the process to fill a vacant position. The proposed plan includes issuing a press release to the public, accepting letters of interest, applications, and resumes through July 16th, followed by a vetting period and interviews scheduled for the week of July 21st or the Board may hold interviews the morning of the July 23rd meeting. Board members expressed support for the transparent approach. The County Manager can make adjustments to the timeline or procedures as needed, depending on the number of applicants.

Vice-Chairman Fanning made a motion to approve the process presented by HR Director Tivo Romero with the caveat that the County Manager can deviate as necessary based on the amount of candidates, seconded by Supervisor Davis; the motion carried unanimously. (Ayes: Davis, Fanning, Molera)

CONSENT AGENDA

Vice-Chairman Fanning made a motion to approve with the exception of item number two, which was removed for separate discussion, seconded by Supervisor Davis; the motion carried unanimously. (Ayes: Davis, Fanning, Molera)

1. DISCUSSION/POSSIBLE ACTION TO APPROVE THE APPOINTMENT OF DAVID GÁMEZ AS PRECINCT COMMITTEEPERSON FOR THE NOGALES 12 PRECINCT, SANTA CRUZ COUNTY DEMOCRATIC PARTY (REQ: FRANCIS GLAD, CHAIRPERSON, SCC DEMOCRATIC PARTY)

2. DISCUSSION/POSSIBLE ACTION TO APPROVE THE REAPPOINTMENT OF JUANITA HAVILL FOR SONOITA AND THE APPOINTMENT OF RENEE CURREN FOR RIO RICO TO THE NOGALES/SANTA CRUZ COUNTY LIBRARY BOARD FOR A TERM OF THREE (3) YEARS (REQ: LIBRARY BOARD)

Vice-Chairman Fanning shared his support for both nominees to the library board and praised Ms. Curren as an incredible teacher who recently retired and expressed full support for both individuals, especially following Mr. Vandervoet's comments during the call to the public.

Vice-Chairman Fanning made a motion to approve Item No. 2, seconded by Supervisor Davis; the motion carried unanimously. (Ayes: Davis, Fanning, Molera)

Vice-Chairman Fanning made a motion to recess the Regular Meeting to convene the Jail District Board seconded by Supervisor Davis; the motion carried unanimously. (Ayes: Davis, Fanning, Molera)
[INGORE_INDENT]

3. DISCUSSION/POSSIBLE ACTION FOR AUTHORIZATION TO FILL VACANT COURT CLERK POSITION (REQ: CLERK OF SUPERIOR COURT)

4. DISCUSSION/POSSIBLE ACTION TO APPROVE THE RENAMING OF BROWN LANE TO TIERRA LANE, A PRIVATE ROAD IN TUBAC (REQ: PUBLIC WORKS)

5. DISCUSSION/POSSIBLE ACTION TO AUTHORIZE THE SUBMISSION OF A GRANT APPLICATION TO THE FEDERAL AVIATION ADMINISTRATION (FAA) FOR THE FUEL FARM REPLACEMENT PROJECT WITH A LOCAL SHARE IN THE AMOUNT OF \$500,000 (REQ: SPECIAL PROJECTS)

6. DISCUSSION/POSSIBLE ACTION TO APPROVE EXHIBIT B TO THE AIRPORT FIXED BASE OPERATOR (FBO) CONTRACT WITH COPPER MOUNTAIN AIR, LLC FOR AIRPORT MANAGER DUTIES AND COMPENSATION IN THE ANNUAL AMOUNT OF \$48,000 (REQ: SPECIAL PROJECTS)

7. DISCUSSION/POSSIBLE ACTION ON THE RECOMMENDATION OF APPROVAL FOR THE BINGO LICENSE APPLICATION FOR THE RIO RICO COMMUNITY CENTER (REQ: CLERK)

8. DISCUSSION/POSSIBLE ACTION TO APPROVE BOND FOR DUPLICATE WARRANT: (REQ: SCHOOL SUPERINTENDENT)

A #6-81803 IN THE AMOUNT OF \$3,861.00 DATED 03/21/2024 PAYABLE TO ASBAIT

B #6-83534 IN THE AMOUNT OF \$239.24 DATED 08/05/2024 PAYABLE TO WEX BANK

9. DISCUSSION/POSSIBLE ACTION TO APPROVE CERTIFICATE OF REMOVAL AND ABATEMENT OF TAXES AND/OR PENALTY FOR: (REQ: TREASURER)

A TAX ID NO. 201100123 - U-HAUL CO OF SOUTHERN ARIZONA, IN THE AMOUNT OF \$0.22

B TAX ID NO. 890002901 - JOSE HERNANDEZ AND ENRIQUETA SAAVEDRA, IN THE AMOUNT OF \$7,209.67

C TAX ID NO. 880005001 - MARIA EVANGELINA PINA, IN THE AMOUNT OF \$1,121.55

D TAX ID NO. 002019012 - FRANCISCO R. AGUILERA, IN THE AMOUNT OF \$71.39

E TAX ID NO. 840013901 - ARTURO GAVINO BUSTAMANTE, IN THE AMOUNT OF

\$5,415.32

F TAX ID NO. 010004101 - JAMES KEVIN WORDEN AND/OR OLGA CORELLA, IN THE AMOUNT OF \$1,793

10. APPROVAL OF MINUTES: 06/17/2025

11. APPROVAL OF DEMANDS

were approved in the total amount of \$1,169,481.83, of which \$438,096.82 is from the General Fund for FY2025 and total amount of \$38,410.43, of which \$18,383.54 is from the General Fund for FY2026. Total for all funds \$1,207,892.26, of which \$456,480.36 is from the General Fund Details of these expenditures are available for inspection during working hours and are to be considered as part of these minutes.

JAIL DISTRICT

1. DISCUSSION/POSSIBLE ACTION FOR AUTHORIZATION TO FILL VACANT DETENTION OFFICER POSITION (REQ: SHERIFF)

Supervisor Davis made a motion to approve, seconded by Vice-Chairman Fanning; the motion carried unanimously. (Ayes: Davis, Fanning, Molera)

2. DISCUSSION/POSSIBLE ACTION TO APPROVE AND RATIFY THE LABORATORY SERVICES AGREEMENT WITH SONORA QUEST LABORATORIES, LLC, FOR A ONE (1) YEAR TERM AND SUBJECT TO ANNUAL RENEWAL, TO PROVIDE A LA CARTE LABORATORY TESTING SERVICES FOR INMATES AT THE SANTA CRUZ COUNTY DETENTION CENTER (REQ: SHERIFF)

Vice-Chairman Fanning made a motion to approve, seconded by Supervisor Davis; the motion carried unanimously. (Ayes: Davis, Fanning, Molera)

3. DISCUSSION/POSSIBLE ACTION TO APPROVE FIRST ANNUAL EXTENSION TO PROFESSIONAL SERVICES AGREEMENT WITH ADVANCED CORRECTIONAL HEALTHCARE, INC. RENEWAL OPTION NO. 2 FOR JAIL MEDICAL SERVICES AT AN ANNUAL ESTIMATED AMOUNT OF \$888,580.74 (REQ: SHERIFF)

Vice-Chairman Fanning made a motion to approve, seconded by Supervisor Davis; the motion carried unanimously. (Ayes: Davis, Fanning, Molera)

Supervisor Davis made a motion to recess the Regular Meeting to convene into Executive Session seconded by Vice-Chairman Fanning; the motion carried unanimously. (Ayes: Davis, Fanning, Molera)

EXECUTIVE SESSION

1. PURSUANT TO A.R.S. § 38-431.03(A)(3) & (4), DISCUSSION AND CONSULTATION FOR LEGAL ADVICE AND/OR DIRECTION REGARDING LITIGATION INVOLVING GOVNET, INC. (REQ: COUNTYMANAGER)

2. PURSUANT TO A.R.S. § 38-431.03(A)(3) & (4), DISCUSSION AND CONSULTATION FOR LEGAL ADVICE AND/OR DIRECTION REGARDING VATERE LOTS MATTER (REQ: COUNTY MANAGER)

The Board adjourned the Executive Session and convened into the Regular Session. (Motion: Supervisor Davis; second: Vice-Chairman Fanning; motion carried unanimously) (Ayes: Davis, Fanning, Molera)

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 12:59 p.m. (motion: Vice-Chairman Fanning; second: Supervisor Davis; motion carried unanimously) (Ayes: Davis, Fanning, Molera)