

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; Christopher Young, Deputy County Manager; Robert May, Civil Bureau Chief; Alma Schultz, 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 Alejandro Paz, County Treasurer.

ADOPTION OF 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:

Pam Lemke, a resident of Rio Rico, submitted her resume to the Board and expressed concerns about 911 emergency services, first responder training, and the need for a groundwater assessment.

Cathy Campana, also a resident of Rio Rico, spoke about the opportunity to utilize two available towers for emergency services.

John Nordstrom, a resident of Patagonia, requested that South32 add rocks to a private road and raised concerns about a drop in well water levels. He also proposed the creation of a program that would allow residents to monitor their own well levels on a quarterly basis.

Chris Werkhoven, a resident of Sonoita, expressed concerns regarding public health and the Community Protection and Benefits Agreement with South32.

Gerard Navarro, a resident of Rio Rico, emphasized the importance of having more than one communication channel for emergency services.

CURRENT EVENTS

1. BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

SUPERVISOR DAVIS: expressed his appreciation for the Government 101 podcasts and thanked everyone who participated. He spoke about the recent Cafecito at Zarape event, noting that the final session will take place next Monday. He also thanked the owners of Zarape Restaurant for their warm hospitality and shared that he plans to continue hosting Cafecitos throughout District 1. Thanked Treasurer Paz, County Manager Valdez and Deputy County Manager Chavez for their participation in the Cafecito.

VICE-CHAIRMAN FANNING: shared that he has been attending Rural Water Working Group meetings and participated in the Teacher of the Year ceremony, congratulating Journee Hayes as the winner, and Anna Coleman as the runner-up. He mentioned CBPA meetings and discussions with the University of Arizona on a Gap Analysis. He also congratulated Tom McLlraith for winning Best of Show at the Tubac Center of the Arts. Announced the birth of his first granddaughter, expressed appreciation for the Steak Out in Sonoita and discussed concerns raised by a health and education group regarding SNAP and WIC funding. He also noted plans to launch District 3 advisory meetings, modeled after Supervisor Davis's Cafecitos, with announcements to come via the county newsletter.

CHAIRMAN MOLERA: participated in the Teacher of the Year ceremony and commended Maya Donnelly on her first event as School Superintendent. He also congratulated Kerri Muñoz on her appointment as Chief Deputy School Superintendent. He praised Supervisor Davis for his Cafecitos and

podcast outreach efforts and announced that he will begin hosting similar Cafecitos in his own district, with an open house planned for September. Chairman Molera shared that he and Supervisor Davis, along with the County Manager, attended a roundtable with Attorney General Kris Mayes and the Port Authority, where they discussed the impact of tariffs on border communities and trade. He also met with Ana and Bob from Nexus, along with Leonard Fontes Jr., Public Works Director, and Jesus Valdez, County Manager to explore potential infrastructure funding opportunities from Washington, D.C., noting that the Ruby Road project is currently underfunded due to rising construction costs.

2. MANAGER

JESUS VALDEZ, COUNTY MANAGER, participated in a public meeting of the U.S. Section of the International Boundary and Water Commission (USIBWC) Southeast Arizona Citizens Forum Board, which focused on border water issues. He presented updates on ongoing projects, and the Arizona Department of Environmental Quality (ADEQ) gave a presentation on Oso Canyon, including an update on the treatment plant.

DEPARTMENT REPORTS AND ACTIVITIES

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

Maria Martinez, Assistant Finance Director, reported \$18,610,206.58 in the General Fund, of which \$16,383,726.00 is invested; \$5,736,359.45 in the Road Fund, of which \$5,067,545.64 is invested; \$2,498,932.84 in the Flood Control District Fund, of which \$305,407.27 is invested; \$5,718,768.88 in the Jail District Fund, of which \$4,352,823.63 is invested; \$54,762,671.08 total for all funds, of which \$28,207,667.00 is invested; \$4,603,318.15 estimated end of month balance, compared to \$11,041,863.34 cash at September 2024, a difference of \$(6,438,545.19).

2. DEPARTMENT(S) UPDATE

Alejandro Paz, County Treasurer, provided an update on tax corrections. He also shared that he is involved with the Boys & Girls Club and noted that an event will be held in October.

Maya Donnelly, School Superintendent, gave an update on grant programs and congratulated Kerri Muñoz on her appointment as Chief Deputy School Superintendent. Vice-Chairman Fanning inquired about the programs.

3. AWARDS, RECOGNITIONS & ACCOMPLISHMENTS:

A JOSHUA VILLALOBOS, WIOA ADULT PROGRAM SUCCESS STORY: OVERCOMING BARRIERS TO EMPLOYMENT

STUDY SESSION

1. AN UPDATE ON PFAS IN SANTA CRUZ COUNTY BY THE ARIZONA DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY (REQ: VICE-CHAIRMAN FANNING)

Presentation by Mathew Narter, R.G., Senior Hydrogeologist, Arizona Department of Environmental Quality

Mr. Narter provided an overview of PFAS (per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances), emphasizing their persistence in the environment and potential health risks. He shared statewide and local testing results, noting that 11% of sampled systems exceeded the new EPA Maximum Contaminant Levels (MCLs). While public water systems are regulated, ADEQ highlighted the need to improve communication with private well users in Santa Cruz County. The agency is seeking partnerships with local officials to raise awareness and provide resources, including an interactive map and health guidance.

The Board inquired about potential sources of PFAS in the county and requested that related information be shared with the public. Mr. Narter noted that the State may have additional funding available to investigate further sources. The Board thanked Mr. Narter for the presentation.

2. UPDATE ON THE HERMOSA PROJECT BY PAT RISNER, PRESIDENT OF SOUTH32 HERMOSA INC. (REQ: COUNTY MANAGER)

Presentation by Pat Risner, President, South32 Hermosa Inc.

Mr. Risner reported significant progress on the Hermosa Project, emphasizing its use of 90% less water than other Arizona mines and proactive environmental initiatives, including well protection and air quality monitoring. Workforce development efforts continue, with over 245 employees and the launch of a fully funded electrician training program for local students. Construction is advancing, with major milestones expected through 2027 and nearly 1,000 construction jobs at peak. Remote operations at the Centro site in Nogales are designed to keep jobs local and promote inclusivity. The federal permitting process is ongoing, with final decisions anticipated in 2026. Community investment includes \$115,000 in grants and new local programs supporting vendor readiness and recycling.

The Board engaged in a brief exchange with Mr. Risner and expressed appreciation for the update.

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

ACTION ITEMS

1. DISCUSSION/POSSIBLE ACTION TO ADOPT AMENDED FY 2025-2026 TAX RATES FOR SANTA CRUZ COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICTS (REQ: SCHOOL SUPERINTENDENT)

County Manager Valdez noted that the Board had previously adopted the rates, and that the current action is to amend them. Mr. Paz added that the corrections to the rates were addressed during the Department Update.

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 the Jail District Board, seconded by Vice-Chairman Fanning; the motion carried unanimously. (Ayes: Davis, Fanning, Molera)

JAIL DISTRICT

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

A DETENTION BOOKING CLERK POSITION

B DETENTION OFFICER POSITION

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

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

CONSENT AGENDA

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

1. DISCUSSION/POSSIBLE ACTION FOR AUTHORIZATION TO RECLASSIFY AND FILL PROPERTY/COLLECTION SPECIALIST POSITION WITH DISCLOSURE AND REDACTION SPECIALIST IN THE COUNTY ATTORNEY'S OFFICE (REQ: HUMAN RESOURCES)

**2. DISCUSSION/POSSIBLE ACTION FOR AUTHORIZATION TO FILL VACANT:
A ANIMAL CARE AND CONTROL SUPERVISOR POSITION (REQ: ANIMAL CONTROL)**

B DEPUTY CORPORAL POSITION (REQ: SHERIFF)

C PROGRAM COORDINATOR POSITION (REQ: SCHOOL SUPERINTENDENT)

D ADULT EDUCATION PROGRAM MANAGER POSITION (REQ: WIOA)

E **LEGAL ASSISTANT POSITION (REQ: COUNTY ATTORNEY)**

3. DISCUSSION/POSSIBLE ACTION TO APPROVE THE APPOINTMENT OF RICHARD GORTAREZ AS TUBAC HISTORIC ZONE ADVISORY BOARD MEMBER (REQ: VICE-CHAIRMAN FANNING)

4. DISCUSSION/POSSIBLE ACTION TO APPROVE THE APPOINTMENT OF MICHAEL VOHLAND AS A PAID PART-TIME PRO TEMPORE JUDGE TO SERVE IN JUSTICE OF THE PEACE FROM AUGUST 20, 2025 THROUGH JUNE 30, 2026 (REQ: SUPERIOR COURT)

5. DISCUSSION/POSSIBLE ACTION TO APPROVE RESOLUTION NO. 2025-15 DESIGNATING THE CHIEF FISCAL OFFICER FOR OFFICIALLY SUBMITTING THE FISCAL YEAR 2026 EXPENDITURE LIMITATION REPORT TO THE ARIZONA AUDITOR GENERAL (REQ: ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES)

6. DISCUSSION/POSSIBLE ACTION TO APPROVE PUBLIC SAFETY PERSONNEL RETIREMENT SYSTEM (PSPRS) PENSION FUNDING POLICY IN ACCORDANCE WITH ARIZONA REVISED STATUTE § 38-893.01 (REQ: ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES)

7. DISCUSSION/POSSIBLE ACTION TO APPROVE CONTRACT WITH JAMES E. MIZE TO SERVE AS ARIZONA@WORK COMPREHENSIVE ONE-STOP OPERATOR FROM AUGUST 21, 2025, THROUGH AUGUST 20, 2027, IN AN AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED \$15,000 PER YEAR, WITH A TWO-YEAR RENEWAL OPTION (REQ: WIOA)

8. DISCUSSION/POSSIBLE ACTION TO APPROVE WIOA TITLE I FUNDING ALLOCATIONS FROM THE ARIZONA DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC SECURITY, DIVISION OF EMPLOYMENT AND REHABILITATION SERVICES FOR ADULT, DISLOCATED WORKER, YOUTH AND RAPID RESPONSE PROGRAMS FOR PROGRAM YEAR 2025/FISCAL YEAR 2026 IN THE AMOUNT OF \$1,261,512 (REQ: WIOA)

9. DISCUSSION/POSSIBLE ACTION APPROVE PROFESSIONAL SERVICES AGREEMENT WITH WEHEALTH SOLUTIONS PBC UNDER THE PUBLIC HEALTH COMMUNICATION EXPANSION PROJECT TO ENHANCE PUBLIC HEALTH COMMUNICATIONS, EXPAND PHAPP'S REACH, AND IMPROVE COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT, EFFECTIVE THROUGH DECEMBER 31, 2025, IN THE AMOUNT OF \$20,000 (REQ: HEALTH SERVICES)

10. DISCUSSION/POSSIBLE ACTION TO APPROVE PARTIAL SUBSTITUTION ASSURANCE AGREEMENT WITH TUBACULA LLC AND FIDELITY NATIONAL TITLE AGENCY, INC FOR SUBDIVISION IMPROVEMENTS IN A PORTION OF TUBAC GOLF RESORT DEVELOPMENT UNIT 2 (REQ: SPECIAL PROJECTS)

11. DISCUSSION/POSSIBLE ACTION TO APPROVE FY2026 VICTIMS' RIGHTS PROGRAM AWARD AGREEMENT A.G. NO. 2026-013 FROM THE OFFICE OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL FOR COSTS AND SUPPORT OF THE DIRECT PROVISION OF STATUTORILY MANDATED VICTIMS' RIGHTS, EFFECTIVE THROUGH JUNE 30, 2026, IN THE AMOUNT OF \$24,500 (REQ: COUNTY ATTORNEY)

12. DISCUSSION/POSSIBLE ACTION TO APPROVE FY2026 VICTIMS' RIGHTS PROGRAM AWARD AGREEMENT A.G. NO. 2026-053 FROM THE OFFICE OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL FOR COSTS AND SUPPORT OF THE DIRECT PROVISION OF STATUTORILY MANDATED VICTIMS' RIGHTS, EFFECTIVE THROUGH JUNE 30, 2026, IN THE AMOUNT OF \$8,500 (REQ: SHERIFF)

13. DISCUSSION/POSSIBLE ACTION TO APPROVE INTERGOVERNMENTAL AGREEMENT WITH NOGALES UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 1 FOR PLACEMENT OF SCHOOL RESOURCE OFFICER AT DESERT SHADOWS MIDDLE SCHOOL FOR THE 2025-2026 SCHOOL YEAR EFFECTIVE AUGUST 1, 2025 THROUGH MAY 22, 2026 IN THE AMOUNT OF \$75,000 (REQ: SHERIFF)

14. DISCUSSION/POSSIBLE ACTION TO ACCEPT DONATION FROM RAJEEV KAPUR FOR TECHNOLOGICAL SUPPLIES AND TRAINING SUPPORT FOR THE KAPUR PARADA AI LAB AT THE 1904 COURTHOUSE BUILDING, IN THE APPROXIMATE AMOUNT OF \$32,870 (REQ: SCHOOL SUPERINTENDENT)

15. DISCUSSION/POSSIBLE ACTION TO APPROVE COMMUNITY INVESTMENT AGREEMENTS WITH SOUTH32 HERMOSA INC. TO SUPPORT:

A THE 2025 TEACHER OF THE YEAR EVENT IN THE FUNDING AMOUNT OF \$5,000 (REQ: SCHOOL SUPERINTENDENT)

B THE ELEMENTARY AFTERSCHOOL ROBOTICS PROGRAM, TECHNOLOCHICAS LIFT PROGRAM, SANTA CRUZER LITERACY BUS, SANTA CRUZ CONTINUING EDUCATION PROGRAM, AND LOS PADRES HOME VISITATION PROGRAM FOR THE 2025-2026 SCHOOL YEAR IN THE FUNDING AMOUNT OF \$206,000 (REQ: SCHOOL SUPERINTENDENT)

16. DISCUSSION/POSSIBLE ACTION TO APPROVE INTERGOVERNMENTAL AGREEMENTS FOR THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE IGNITING EARLY LITERACY PROJECT USING FUNDING FROM PROJECT FELT GRANT AWARD NO. CTR077332 EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2025 THROUGH DECEMBER 31, 2025 WITH: (REQ: SCHOOL SUPERINTENDENT)

A NOGALES-SANTA CRUZ PUBLIC LIBRARY IN THE AMOUNT OF \$16,000

B ARIZONA BOARD OF REGENTS, UNIVERSITY OF ARIZONA IN THE AMOUNT OF \$108,573

17. DISCUSSION/POSSIBLE ACTION TO APPROVE INTERGOVERNMENTAL AGREEMENTS FOR THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE ELEMENTARY ROBOTICS AFTERSCHOOL PROGRAM FOR THE 2025-2026 SCHOOL YEAR WITH: (REQ: SCHOOL SUPERINTENDENT)

A NOGALES UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT #1 IN THE AMOUNT OF \$21,852

B PATAGONIA ELEMENTARY SCHOOL DISTRICT #6 IN THE AMOUNT OF \$3,642

C SANTA CRUZ VALLEY UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT #35 IN THE AMOUNT OF \$10,926

18. DISCUSSION/POSSIBLE ACTION TO APPROVE INTERGOVERNMENTAL AGREEMENTS FOR THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE TECHNOLOCHICAS PROGRAM FOR THE 2025-2026 SCHOOL YEAR WITH: (REQ: SCHOOL SUPERINTENDENT)

A NOGALES UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT #1 IN THE AMOUNT OF \$15,400

B PATAGONIA ELEMENTARY SCHOOL DISTRICT #6 IN THE AMOUNT OF \$6,066

C SANTA CRUZ VALLEY UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT #35 IN THE AMOUNT OF \$15,400

19. DISCUSSION/POSSIBLE ACTION TO APPROVE INTERGOVERNMENTAL AGREEMENTS FOR THE IMPLEMENTATION OF PROJECT SHIELD FOR THE 2025-2026 SCHOOL YEAR USING FUNDING UNDER AGREEMENT NO. GR-PC-GOYFF-070125-22 FROM THE GOVERNOR'S OFFICE OF YOUTH, FAITH AND FAMILY IN THE AMOUNT OF \$14,000 WITH: (REQ: SCHOOL SUPERINTENDENT)

A NOGALES UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT #1

B PATAGONIA ELEMENTARY SCHOOL DISTRICT #6

C SANTA CRUZ ELEMENTARY #28

D SANTA CRUZ VALLEY UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT #35

E SONOITA ELEMENTARY #25

20. DISCUSSION/POSSIBLE ACTION TO APPROVE RECOMMENDATION OF APPROVAL FOR SPECIAL EVENT LICENSE APPLICATION FOR BOYS & GIRLS CLUB OF SANTA CRUZ COUNTY, INC. ON 10/24/2025 IN TUBAC (REQ: CLERK)

21. DISCUSSION/POSSIBLE ACTION TO APPROVE BOND FOR DUPLICATE WARRANT: (REQ: CLERK)

A #2-125258 IN THE AMOUNT OF \$57.21 DATED 04/15/2025 PAYABLE TO SATCOM GLOBAL LTD.

B #2-126658 IN THE AMOUNT OF \$1,450.00 DATED 07/02/2025 PAYABLE TO DIAMOND STAR POLYGRAPH SERVICES

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

A TAX ID# 081431201 - SUNDANCE TERRACE INC., IN THE AMOUNT OF \$76.38

B TAX ID# 915000401 - ROBERTS AUTO & TRUCK REPAIR, IN THE AMOUNT OF \$390.15

23. APPROVAL OF TAX VALUATION ADJUSTMENTS: (REQ: ASSESSOR)

A 117-02-229 - OSIEL SALVADOR HURTADO, RESOLUTION NO. 57210

B 117-02-229 - OSIEL SALVADOR HURTADO, RESOLUTION NO. 57212

C 117-02-229 - OSIEL SALVADOR HURTADO, RESOLUTION NO. 57213

D 113-45-354 - IGNACIO ARIEL ARMENTA MURRIETA AND NIDIA IBETT CAMPAS QUIROZ, RESOLUTION NO. 57223

E 113-45-354 - IGNACIO ARIEL ARMENTA MURRIETA AND NIDIA IBETT CAMPAS QUIROZ, RESOLUTION NO. 57224

F 113-01-001C - SPEK - SOPORI LLC, RESOLUTION NO. 57225

G 113-01-001C - SPEK - SOPORI LLC, RESOLUTION NO. 57226

H 113-01-001C - SPEK - SOPORI LLC, RESOLUTION NO. 57227

24. APPROVAL OF MINUTES: 08/06/2025 REGULAR MEETING, 08/06/2025 SPECIAL MEETING

25. APPROVAL OF MONTHLY REPORTS

26. APPROVAL OF DEMANDS were approved in the total amount of \$916,011.70 of which \$344,009.30 is from the General Fund for FY26 and a total amount of \$573,178.74 of which \$198,869.59 is from the General Fund for FY25. The total for all funds is \$1,489,190.44, of which \$542,878.89 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.

27. DISCUSSION/POSSIBLE ACTION TO APPROVE GRANT AGREEMENT WITH THE ARIZONA DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION FOR THE WIOA TITLE II ARIZONA ADULT EDUCATION SERVICES IN THE AMOUNT OF \$507,926 (REQ: WIOA)

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 11:33 a.m. (motion: Vice-Chairman Fanning; second: Supervisor Davis; motion carried unanimously) (Ayes: Davis, Fanning, Molera)