

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; Maria I. Martinez, Assistant Finance Director, 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 Francisco Padilla.

ADOPTION OF AGENDA

Vice-Chairman Fanning made a motion to adopt the agenda, remove Executive Session Items H1 and H2, remove Action Item J1, and deviate from the agenda sequence as necessary; seconded by Supervisor Davis; motion carried unanimously. (Ayes: Davis, Fanning, Molera)

CALL TO THE PUBLIC:

Chairman Molera opened the Call to the Public. The following individuals addressed the Board:

Jay Thompson, a resident from Rio Rico, spoke regarding groundwater protection and alleged antimony exceedances associated with the Aquifer Protection Permit issued by the Arizona Department of Environmental Quality (ADEQ) for the South32 Hermosa Project. He asserted that new data and changed circumstances warrant reopening the permit under ADEQ regulations. He requested independent influent monitoring, full-flow pilot testing, transparent public data review, and a formal regulatory evaluation of exceedances. He further asked which entity would follow up on behalf of the community to ensure enforcement of applicable protections.

Ernie Edwards, a resident of Lake Patagonia, stated that, based on testimony he reviewed, the water treatment plant was not originally designed to treat antimony and that subsequent data demonstrates elevated concerns. He expressed the view that oversight failures allowed the issue to develop and referenced the Draft Environmental Impact Statement's prediction of a long-term antimony plume. He urged the Board to support reopening the Aquifer Protection Permit, to suspend further progress on the Community Protection and Benefits Agreement (CPBA) until risks are clearly understood, and to commission an independent analysis conducted by unbiased professionals approved by the community.

Chris Werkhoven, a resident of Sonoita, referenced prior remediation actions and the U.S. Forest Service Draft Environmental Impact Statement, which discusses potential antimony mobilization following mine closure. He asserted that a proactive approach is necessary and urged the Board to demand the reopening of the ADEQ permit, to establish an independent expert review panel to assess public health and environmental risks, and to require the mining company to reapply for a permit once adequate protections are identified.

Cynthia Colbert, a resident of Rio Rico, addressed concerns regarding potential increased Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) activity in Santa Cruz County. She recommended that the County enhance public communication through its website and social media platforms to keep residents informed and provide reporting options. She further requested that the County develop a preparedness plan outlining safety guidance for residents and adopt policies restricting ICE or Homeland Security detention facilities from operating within County jurisdiction. She referenced actions recently taken by the Pima County Board of Supervisors.

Pam Lemke, a resident of Tubac and a retired clinician, emphasized that environmental protection and public health are inseparable. She referenced toxicological information regarding antimony and stated that public health impacts should be directly addressed. She requested that the County convene an emergency preparedness focus group that includes the County Health Department and recommended formation of a quarterly advisory group consisting of local environmental organizations, citizen scientists, and retired professionals to provide ongoing input throughout the life of the mine. She also stressed the importance of comprehensive water, soil, and traffic studies to inform CPBA negotiations.

Ben Lomeli, a resident of Rio Rico, spoke regarding sustainability and long-term groundwater protection, emphasizing intergenerational responsibility. While acknowledging the economic role of mining, he urged the Board to prioritize long-term environmental stewardship and to rely on local experts and university professionals not affiliated with the mining industry when evaluating water usage, dewatering impacts, and the CPBA.

Sue Lavery, a resident of Tubac, raised questions regarding animal control enforcement authority in private but publicly accessible subdivisions where leash law violations are occurring. She asked whether animal control has enforcement capability in such areas and encouraged improvements to the dog park at Ron Morris Park in order to address concerns frequently cited by dog owners who allow pets off-leash.

Bonnie Titre, a resident of Rio Rico, described repeated leash law violations in her neighborhood, including by short-term rental occupants, and expressed concern for public safety, wildlife interactions, and her ability to safely walk her service dog. She requested County assistance in enforcing existing leash laws and ensuring compliance.

Carolyn Shafer, a resident of Patagonia, discussed the ecological importance of the Madrean Archipelago and the long-term projected lifespan of the Hermosa Project. She urged the Board to include conservation organizations and subject-matter experts in CPBA discussions and expressed concern regarding antimony exceedances and corporate accountability. She emphasized that environmental protection is essential to public health and the region's nature-based economy.

Kerry Schuartz, a resident of Patagonia, acknowledged efforts by South32 and ADEQ but credited local citizen expert Chris Gardner for identifying concerning data trends. She encouraged proactive water treatment measures similar to those implemented by Tucson Water and the State of Arizona in addressing emerging contaminants and suggested that the mine consider such actions to ensure community protection.

Alex Johnson, a resident of Patagonia, requested that the CPBA be drafted with clear, enforceable, and specific provisions, particularly regarding definitions of profitability and peak operations. He expressed concern about long-term accountability and urged careful, deliberate review to ensure meaningful protections for future generations.

Locha Partida, a resident of Tubac, requested clarification regarding the enforcement process for leash law citations and expressed concern that cases are reportedly dismissed by the court, creating uncertainty regarding compliance. She asked what lawful measures residents may take to protect themselves and their animals when confronted with unleashed dogs and sought improved clarity across the reporting and enforcement process.

Anna Darian, a resident of Patagonia, noted that presentations by South32, ADEQ, and citizen experts have occurred in separate venues, creating confusion for residents attempting to follow complex technical issues. She requested that future discussions occur in a shared forum with all parties present

and include live question-and-answer opportunities. She also expressed concern regarding transparency in CPBA early action documents and requested clarity on how profitability will be defined and how the public will be able to review and comment on draft materials.

Juan Soto, a resident of Patagonia, a fourth-generation property owner near Harshaw Creek, expressed concern regarding potential impacts to his family's wells and property located within three miles of the mine. He requested that County leadership remain mindful of nearby landowners during negotiations and regulatory discussions and continue advocating for monitoring and protections that safeguard water quality and availability for current and future generations.

CURRENT EVENTS

1. BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

SUPERVISOR DAVIS: Reported that Mr. Jordan Toyos, Southern Arizona Outreach Coordinator for Senator Gallegos, visited the County and was given a tour of Arizona@Work facilities. During the visit, Mr. Toyos met with staff and received an overview of workforce development services and operations. The intent of the visit was to establish ongoing communication and strengthen coordination with the Senator's office. Supervisor Davis noted that continued engagement is anticipated, with the objective of arranging an official visit from Senator Gallego to Santa Cruz County, Arizona@Work.

Supervisor Davis further reported traveling to Tucson to tour the American Rehab Campus, a residential substance abuse treatment facility. He observed that the program provides extended treatment options of up to five months, depending on individual needs and insurance coverage, which exceeds the typical 28-day duration offered by many programs. The campus includes structured recovery programming and supportive amenities such as recreational areas, a swimming pool, and a fitness center. Supervisor Davis characterized the facility as comprehensive and supportive of long-term rehabilitation efforts.

In addition, Supervisor Davis participated in a community engagement event at the Rio Rico Community Center, where he served as the caller for bingo consisting of ten games. He noted that the event utilized an electronic and structured calling system requiring precise announcement of letter and number combinations. The event was well attended and provided an opportunity for direct interaction with community members.

Lastly, Supervisor Davis reported that he and staff member Shannon met with representatives of the Global Community Alliance, an organization participating in a Film-Ready Community initiative. Discussions focused on promotional strategies and opportunities to further position the organization as a filming location resource. The facility offers diverse filming environments, including two commercial kitchens and other adaptable spaces. Ongoing coordination efforts are underway, and the organization will be featured on the County's website to enhance visibility and support economic development initiatives.

VICE-CHAIRMAN FANNING: Thanked Sue and reported meeting with Lisa regarding improvements to the County dog park. Discussions focused on identifying potential enhancements, with the goal of implementing positive changes.

Vice-Chairman Fanning expressed condolences on the passing of Mr. Jesus Jerez, his recent election opponent. He extended thoughts and prayers to the Jerez family and acknowledged Mr. Jerez as a good man. He also shared personal condolences following the passing of a family member, extending

condolences to his family.

He reported attending a four-hour retreat with the Port Authority, noting that the session was informative and contributed to his continued understanding of Port operations and strategic planning.

Vice-Chairman Fanning also met with Mr. Dan Erickson in Elgin and recognized him for being named Small School District Superintendent of the Year by the Arizona School Administrators. Vice-Chairman Fanning commended Mr. Erickson for his leadership and encouraged acknowledgment of his accomplishment.

He expressed appreciation to the Friends of the Santa Cruz River for organizing a water quality and river monitoring activity. Vice-Chairman Fanning participated in testing water levels and water conditions in areas behind local travel centers and within the Rio Rico area. He remarked on the beauty of the river and thanked the group for its ongoing conservation efforts.

Vice-Chairman Fanning also attended the Educational Leadership Consortium, noting that all three Board members are former educators. He expressed appreciation to organizers for a well-structured and informative session focused on educational collaboration and leadership. He thanked the County School Superintendent, Maya Donnelly, for organizing the event.

Additionally, Vice-Chairman Fanning, along with Deputy County Manager Chris Young, met with a constituent at the Sonoita landfill to review operations and discuss constituent concerns. He described the visit as informative and stated that discussions are ongoing regarding potential operational improvements.

Vice-Chairman Fanning and staff member Shannon attended a gathering hosted by the Friends of San Rafael and thanked Carol and Linda. The visit included historical insights regarding the filming of McLintock!, starring John Wayne, in the region. He noted that the organization will host an upcoming event on Saturday, April 11th and encouraged community participation, describing the location and surrounding landscape as noteworthy.

He further reported on a community meeting held at the Elgin Club, where approximately 21–22 residents attended to discuss issues primarily affecting the eastern portion of the County. Vice-Chairman Fanning stated that follow-up discussions are already underway to address identified concerns.

In closing, Vice-Chairman Fanning reminded the public of several upcoming community events. He announced his volunteer participation at the Tubac Festival, where he will serve as a booth sitter to assist vendors. He also highlighted the upcoming Santa Cruz Shining community cleanup event scheduled for Saturday and expressed appreciation to event organizers (Jesse) for their coordination efforts.

CHAIRMAN MOLERA: Reported that he, along with fellow Board members, attended the County Supervisors Association legislative reception with state legislators on Wednesday, January 21st. The event provided an opportunity to engage with members of the Arizona Legislature, discuss Santa Cruz County priorities, and strengthen intergovernmental relationships. The following day, Chairman Molera attended the County Supervisors Association of Arizona Board meeting. Later that afternoon, he participated in a Border Counties Zoom call with Pima County and other border jurisdictions. During the discussion, Chairman Molera raised a proposed future agenda item regarding the financial burden placed on counties for housing and supporting federal inmates. He noted that Santa Cruz County is utilizing local resources to manage federal court-related detainees and expressed interest in pursuing

additional federal funding support.

Chairman Molera, Deputy County Manager Mr. Chavez, and County Manager Valdez met with hotel developer Rudy Dabdoub to discuss a proposed hotel development project adjacent to the Central area. He described the discussion as productive and forward-looking with respect to economic development opportunities.

Chairman Molera further reported that he and his colleagues met with Consul General of Mexico, Marcos Baez, who introduced Mexican Senator Karina Ruiz. Senator Ruiz, who resides in Phoenix and has a unique binational perspective, currently serves in the Mexican Senate. Chairman Molera described the meeting as an informative and insightful exchange regarding cross-border issues.

He also attended a Food Handler Certification course hosted by the County Health Department, which was attended by approximately 20 participants. Chairman Molera expressed appreciation to the Health Department for coordinating the training.

Alongside his colleagues, Chairman Molera attended the Educational Leadership Consortium and thanked the organizers for a well-executed and informative event. He noted that a representative from Senator Mark Kelly's office was present and provided insight into visa-related matters impacting the region.

Chairman Molera additionally reported meeting with County School Superintendent Maya and Chief Deputy Kerri and Communications Manager, Shannon Hall to begin organizing two upcoming fishing events—one youth-focused event and a second countywide departmental fishing competition. Planning efforts are currently underway.

He also reported participating with Supervisor Davis in weekly LPC meetings, which are held on Fridays to review pending legislation and determine positions of support or opposition. Chairman Molera noted that several election-related bills were reviewed and opposed. Additionally, the Board is monitoring proposed property tax exemptions for residents aged 65 and older.

Lastly, Chairman Molera extended belated birthday wishes to Supervisor Davis.

2. MANAGER

JESUS VALDEZ, COUNTY MANAGER, had nothing to report.

DEPARTMENT REPORTS AND ACTIVITIES

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

Maria I. Martinez, Assistant Finance Director, reported \$22,602,158.39 in the General Fund, of which \$16,667,266.93 is invested; \$5,529,448.71 in the Road Fund, of which \$5,155,245.86 is invested; \$3,315,957.34 in the Flood Control District Fund, of which \$310,692.73 is invested; \$7,199,649.84 in the Jail District Fund, of which \$4,428,154.70 is invested; \$63,205,901.96 total for all funds, of which \$28,695,835.40 is invested; \$9,445,724.56 estimated end of month balance, compared to \$12,319,821.00 cash at February 2025, a difference of \$2,874,096.44.

In Addition, Supervisor Davis inquired about potential impacts to County revenues in light of recent national developments and reported fluctuations in border activity. Specifically, he asked whether the Finance Department had observed any changes in consumer purchasing behavior or sales tax

collections.

In response, Deputy County Manager/Chief Financial Officer Mauricio Chavez reported that a recent update from the Port Authority indicated a slight decline in border crossings, including reductions in pedestrian, passenger, and vehicular traffic.

However, Mr. Chavez advised that weekly monitoring of County sales tax revenues does not currently reflect any downturn. On the contrary, sales tax collections are trending higher compared to the same period in the previous fiscal year. He further noted that State of Arizona sales tax reporting is received approximately two months in arrears, which may delay visibility into emerging trends.

Mr. Chavez expressed confidence that sales tax revenues will remain stable.

Supervisor Davis acknowledged the report and thanked the Finance staff for the update.

2. DEPARTMENT(S) UPDATE

Alejandro Paz, County Treasurer, expressed appreciation to District 28 residents whose advocacy prompted further review of a state-provided property tax reduction rate. Through internal research and outreach, the Treasurer's Office identified that an incorrect state reduction rate had been provided due to a miscommunication between the Arizona Department of Revenue Property Tax Oversight Committee and the Treasurer's Office.

Treasurer Paz explained that the classification of Little Red under a unique Type Three property tax class created a distinct circumstance requiring additional review. As a result of collaborative efforts between the Treasurer's Office and representatives of the Property Tax Oversight Committee (PTOC), including Deputy Assistant Director Jolene Christopherson, Associate General Counsel Craig McPike, General Counsel Hsin Pai, and Senior Economist Alexandra Kusen, revised tax bills were examined, and the discrepancy was identified and corrected.

As a result of this corrective action, District 28 residents will receive an increased refund on their 2025 property tax bills. Residents who paid their property taxes in full are expected to receive refund checks between March and April.

Treasurer Paz further reported that the Treasurer's Office and the Property Tax Oversight Committee have committed to enhanced coordination moving forward. This includes submitting proofs of tax bill rebuilds for review and approval prior to finalization and mailing.

Treasurer Paz stated that this strengthened collaboration is intended to prevent similar discrepancies in the future and provide lasting benefits to County taxpayers.

Vice-Chairman Fanning asked Mr. Paz to clarify what PTOC stands for and the role it plays. Treasurer Paz explained that PTOC is the Property Tax Oversight Committee, an entity responsible for reviewing tax rates and special circumstances to ensure compliance with state law. He noted that PTOC's oversight includes unique situations, such as Type Three school districts, where issues like the 1% tax cap must be carefully monitored.

Treasurer Paz discussed the recent property tax issue affecting District 28, where the 1% cap had been exceeded due to miscommunication and incorrect state aid reduction rates. Corrected tax bills will reflect the adjusted rates, providing refunds and relief for impacted residents. He emphasized that this resolution was achieved through careful collaboration with PTOC, legal counsel, and related staff, and he affirmed that similar issues will not reoccur. Treasurer Paz also highlighted that the Treasurer's

Office does not set tax rates or levy amounts; it generates tax bills based on information provided by school districts, fire districts, the County, and state aid adjustments.

Superintendent Maya Donnelly provided further clarification regarding Type Three school districts. She explained that Little Red is the County's only Type Three district, serving grades K–8. Because it does not operate a high school, state aid is provided to cover transportation costs for students attending high schools in neighboring districts. The Board acknowledged this explanation as helpful in understanding the unique nature of the classification.

Treasurer Paz then provided details on the upcoming tax lien sale, scheduled for Tuesday, February 10th. The auction consists of nine sections, each containing approximately 600 parcels, for a total of 6,867 delinquent parcels valued at \$14,968,218. All bidders must register through RealAuction.com; registration is no longer accepted at the Treasurer's Office, though staff remain available to assist and guide participants. This year's auction attracted 75 new bidders, including participants from across the state, the country, and internationally. The delinquent parcel list was published in the Nogales International and is also available online. Mr. Paz expressed support and optimism that the County could surpass last year's collections, which totaled just under \$1 million.

Lastly, Treasurer Paz provided an update on the County's banking transition. The final phase involves transferring warrants to PNC Bank, with a scheduled training session for bank staff, the school superintendent's office, and NUSD to ensure proper fraud prevention procedures, including check verification and positive pay features. Full operations are expected to transition to PNC on Monday, February 9th, while J.P. Morgan accounts will remain open only to clear outstanding warrants.

The Board thanked Treasurer Paz for his transparency, thorough explanation, and continued commitment to operational improvements and constituent service.

Maya Donnelly, County School Superintendent, provided an update on the upcoming County Spelling Bee, scheduled for Friday, February 13th. This year, the event will be held at a district campus rather than the previously used VFW venue. The first location will be Rio Rico High School, where the cafeteria setup allows the spellers to perform on stage. While the event is closed to the general public, families, school officials, teachers, and spelling bee coordinators will be in attendance. The event will begin at 2:00 p.m. and will be livestreamed on We Love Nogales for public viewing. Superintendent Donnelly noted that Rio Rico High School culinary students will provide refreshments following the event, and she encouraged Board members and County management to participate as judges in future years. This year's competition will feature 28 spellers from across the County.

Superintendent Donnelly also discussed Read Across America, scheduled for March 2nd through March 6th, which commemorates the birthday of Dr. Seuss. The initiative seeks to place community volunteers in kindergarten through fifth-grade classrooms across all county schools, with an anticipated need for over 100 volunteers. Volunteers may select their school, day, and time preference, bring their own book, or use books provided by the program. Costumes are optional to engage students in a creative and fun way. Literacy facilitator Paloma Barraza is coordinating the event and distributing flyers to solicit community participation.

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

FLOOD CONTROL

1. DIRECTOR'S/PROJECT REPORT

Allan Sanchez, Floodplain Coordinator, presented the January flood control report, highlighting significant rainfall throughout the County. Most gauges received at least 1.5 inches, with many exceeding 2 inches. Specifically, the Nogales gauge measured 2.17 inches, above the city average of 0.98 inches. This precipitation has contributed to improving drought conditions, with western Santa Cruz County now classified as D1 (moderate drought) and the eastern side as D0 (abnormally dry).

In January, the Flood Control District received 153 flood hazard information sheet requests, including 121 from unincorporated areas, 31 from Nogales, and one from Patagonia. Eight floodplain use permits were issued, seven in unincorporated areas and one in the City of Nogales. The department also addressed several drainage complaints.

Mr. Sanchez shared that a new satellite office has opened in Sonoita, operating Tuesdays and Thursdays from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., while the main Nogales office remains open Monday, Wednesday, and Friday during the same hours.

Lastly, Mr. Sanchez provided updates on ongoing projects. The Ephraim Canyon Project is entering the nine-month design phase, with EPA grant applications in progress. The Patagonia Regional Flood Control Project continues efforts to secure funding. The Potrero Creek Letter of Map Revision was approved by FEMA as of January 6 and will become effective June 4, 2026, if no appeals are filed. The Nogales Downtown Redevelopment study, including the Montezuma Hotel, is progressing with a draft technical memorandum submitted and discussions on potential assisted living and grant opportunities underway. The Monte Carlo Project flood model identified several areas exceeding design capacity, and a solutions review meeting with County staff is planned; Supervisor Davis thanked Sanchez for his continued efforts in this area.

2. MONTHLY REPORT FROM CITY OF NOGALES

No report.

3. MONTHLY REPORT FROM THE TOWN OF PATAGONIA

Report included.

4. PUBLIC COMMENT

None.

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

STUDY SESSION

1. PRESENTATION ON ANTIMONY FINDINGS IN WATER DISCHARGE FROM SOUTH32 HERMOSA MINE BY CHRIS GARDNER, HYDROLOGIST, FRIENDS OF SONOITA CREEK

Chris Gardner, Geologist, presented on antimony and other heavy metal contamination risks from mine discharge into Harshaw Creek. He reviewed water quality data, highlighted potential mobilization of existing contamination, and noted limitations in current ADEQ monitoring and permitting. Public questions were raised and addressed during the presentation. Mr. Gardner recommended enhanced monitoring, point-of-compliance wells, and third-party verification under the Community Protections Benefit Agreement (CPBA) to protect drinking water and environmental health.

2. GOVERNMENT 101: ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES OF ANIMAL CONTROL BY

JOSE PEÑA AND STAFF

Jose Peña, Animal Control Manager, and Joanna Wise, Enforcement/Records Officer, presented an overview of the Animal Control key functions, statutory authority, and operating procedures. Questions from the public, Board members, and County management were raised and addressed during the presentation.

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)

EXECUTIVE SESSION

1. PURSUANT TO A.R.S. § 38-431.03 (A)(3) AND (4), DISCUSSION AND CONSULTATION FOR LEGAL ADVICE AND/OR DIRECTION REGARDING THE COMPROMISE OF UNPAID TAXES ON BUENA VISTA RANCH PROPERTIES IN WHICH DEBORAH MILLS AND OTHER MILLS ENTITIES HOLD A VESTED PROPERTY INTEREST (REQ: COUNTY ATTORNEY)

Item was removed from the agenda.

2. PURSUANT TO A.R.S. § 38-431.03(A)(3) AND (4), DISCUSSION AND CONSULTATION FOR LEGAL ADVICE AND/OR DIRECTION REGARDING THE COMMUNITY PROTECTIONS BENEFIT AGREEMENT (CPBA) BEING DRAFTED WITH THE CITY OF NOGALES, TOWN OF PATAGONIA, AND SOUTH32 (REQ: COUNTY MANAGER)

Item was removed from the agenda.

JAIL DISTRICT

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

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

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

ACTION ITEMS

1. DISCUSSION/POSSIBLE ACTION TO APPROVE AGREEMENT WITH DEBORAH MILLS WAHLEN AND OTHER MILLS ENTITIES COMPROMISING PROPERTY TAXES OWED ON PARCELS LOCATED IN SUBDIVISIONS OF SANTA CRUZ COUNTY COMMONLY KNOWN AS THE BUENA VISTA RANCH AREA (REQ: COUNTY ATTORNEY)

No action was taken. The item was removed from the agenda.

2. DISCUSSION/POSSIBLE ACTION TO APPROVE COOPERATIVE PURCHASE AGREEMENT WITH SUNLAND ASPHALT & CONSTRUCTION, LLC FOR REMOVAL AND REPAIR OF ASPHALT PROJECTS THROUGHOUT THE COUNTY FOR 2026 IN THE ESTIMATED AMOUNT OF \$942,793 (REQ: COUNTY MANAGER)

County Manager Jesus Valdez presented four critical pavement improvement projects under a joint agreement with another agency, including Bravo Lane, the Acaponeta and Calle Cristina intersection, the WIOA parking lot, and asphalt areas around the County Complex. He explained that asphalt replacement is necessary for long-term durability compared to previous maintenance methods. Questions from the Board members regarding project details, material durability, and funding were

addressed, with Valdez confirming that the WIOA parking lot will be funded through WIOA funds and all projects will proceed upon Board approval.

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

3. DISCUSSION/POSSIBLE ACTION TO APPROVE AGREEMENT WITH WESTED FOR WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT STRATEGIC PLAN CONSULTING SERVICES FROM JANUARY 7, 2026 THROUGH AUGUST 31, 2026 IN AN AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED \$150,000 (REQ: DEPUTY COUNTY MANAGER)

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

Deputy County Manager Chris Young provided an update on two Requests for Qualifications (RFQs) previously approved in October: the Workforce Development Strategic Plan and the Economic Development Specialist.

Mr. Young explained that the Workforce Development Strategic Plan was developed through an executive committee, including the County School Superintendent Maya Donnelly, Greg Lucero from the community college, and South 32. The committee reviewed seven to eight applications, conducted interviews with the top three candidates, and recommended two finalists: Civic Solutions and WestEd. County leadership, including Mr. Young, Mauricio Chavez, and County Manager Jesus Valdez, subsequently interviewed both firms and selected WestEd as the preferred provider. WestEd, which is based in California but active locally, will implement the strategic plan over six to eight months, engaging stakeholders to ensure county-wide alignment with workforce development objectives and accountability.

Supervisor Davis inquired about the distinction between the Workforce Development Strategic Plan and the Economic Development Specialist. Mr. Young clarified that the workforce plan is a strategic guide for county-wide workforce initiatives, while the Economic Development Specialist is a three-year agreement that will support and guide workforce development implementation. The specialist will operate under a county committee representing multiple agencies and will assist with both attracting new industries and supporting existing local businesses.

4. DISCUSSION/POSSIBLE ACTION FOR BOARD DETERMINATION OF WHETHER AN EMERGENCY CREATING A NEED TO PROTECT PUBLIC HEALTH OR SAFETY EXISTS CONCERNING A CATTLE GUARD CROSSING ON HARSHAW ROAD PURSUANT TO A.R.S. §11-254.01(A) AND, IF SO, AUTHORIZE COUNTY MANAGEMENT TO SECURE EMERGENCY PROCUREMENT TO REPAIR OR REPLACE THE CROSSING AND AFFECTED ROAD SECTION (REQ: COUNTY MANAGER)

Deputy County Manager Chris Young addressed the Board regarding the condition of Harshaw Road leaving Patagonia, which has experienced increased traffic due to mining activity and ongoing construction of the border wall. Mr. Young emphasized that the road requires immediate maintenance to ensure public safety, particularly the aging cattle guard, which has reached the end of its useful life. He noted that extensive maintenance has already been conducted, but the cattle guard requires urgent repair and delaying the project for the usual RFP process is not advisable.

In response to Board inquiries, Mr. Young explained that traffic will be reduced to a single lane during construction, with public works overseeing operations and flaggers or traffic control in place to manage

safety. He also outlined the communication plan, stating that South 32, Fisher, and county staff will coordinate to inform the public of the construction schedule and impacts.

The discussion also addressed funding, with Mr. Young clarifying that initial costs will come from county funds, with potential reimbursement from South 32 under an existing maintenance agreement, pending review by the County Attorney's Office. Mr. Robert May reminded that the memo submitted with the request documented the emergency nature of the project, emphasizing a danger to public health, safety, and welfare, which supports expedited action.

Questions from the Board regarding safety, traffic management, and funding were answered by Mr. Young and County Manager Jesus Valdez, who confirmed that public works staff would oversee the project and serve as the primary point of contact for additional information.

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

5. DISCUSSION/POSSIBLE ACTION FOR DIRECTION TO STAFF FOLLOWING CONSIDERATION OF STAFF UPDATE REGARDING COORDINATION WITH THE CITY OF NOGALES FOR A JOINT MEETING WITH THE CITY COUNCIL (REQ: SUPERVISOR DAVIS)

County Manager Jesus Valdez provided an update on ongoing efforts to arrange a joint meeting between the County and City to discuss shared priorities and address the state of local governance. Valdez mentioned that the City Council is seeking financial support for collaborative projects, and the initial meeting will involve the County Manager and City Manager to develop an agenda and set priorities for future discussions involving elected officials.

Board members supported the initiative, emphasizing the importance of transparency, collaboration, and addressing any perceived conflicts between the County and City. Civil Bureau Chief Mr. May raised concerns about compliance with open meeting laws, noting that all joint meetings must adhere to statutory requirements, including providing public notice and a detailed agenda, to ensure legal participation and avoid decisions made outside of the proper framework.

Supervisor Davis confirmed that outreach efforts, including email and mailed correspondence to the Mayor, Vice Mayor, and City Council, were completed with a proposed timeline and preliminary agenda. The meetings are intended to be collaborative and constructive, with participation by City Council and Board members encouraged but not mandatory.

No formal action was taken. However, the Board provided clear direction for continued efforts to arrange the meeting while ensuring compliance with open meeting laws and fostering collaboration between the County and City.

CONSENT AGENDA

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

1. DISCUSSION/POSSIBLE ACTION TO VOID THE APPOINTMENT OF A PRECINCT COMMITTEE PERSON FOR THE SANTA CRUZ COUNTY REPUBLICAN PARTY: DOUGLAS KUNKEL - LAKE PATAGONIA 24 (REQ: ELECTIONS)

2. DISCUSSION/POSSIBLE ACTION FOR AUTHORIZATION TO FILL VACANT:

A LEGAL ASSISTANT POSITION (REQ: COUNTY ATTORNEY)

B SURVEILLANCE OFFICER POSITION (REQ: PROBATION)

C ADMINISTRATIVE SUPERVISOR POSITION (REQ: TREASURER)

3. DISCUSSION/POSSIBLE ACTION TO AMEND ARTICLE XV (CONFLICT RESOLUTION) OF THE SANTA CRUZ COUNTY WORKFORCE INVESTMENT BOARD BYLAWS TO ENSURE COMPLIANCE WITH ARIZONA CONFLICT OF INTEREST LAW AS SET FORTH IN A.R.S. §§ 38-501 AND 38-447 AND ALL APPLICABLE STATE OF ARIZONA CONFLICT OF INTEREST POLICIES (REQ: WIOA)

4. DISCUSSION/POSSIBLE ACTION TO APPROVE STATE FILL THE GAP (FTG) GRANT APPLICATION FOR FY2026 IN THE AMOUNT OF \$59,721 (REQ: SUPERIOR COURT)

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

A #2-129079 IN THE AMOUNT OF \$250.00 DATED 11/05/2025 PAYABLE TO BROWN/WALKER LIVING TRUST

B #4-050265 IN THE AMOUNT OF \$2,340.00 DATED 04/11/2025 PAYABLE TO ENESTECH SOFTWARE CORPORATION

C #4-052345 IN THE AMOUNT OF \$402.76 DATED 12/19/2025 PAYABLE TO ROXANA RAMOS

6. DISCUSSION/POSSIBLE ACTION TO APPROVE BOND FOR DUPLICATE WARRANT #4-689383 IN THE AMOUNT OF \$33,147.54 DATED 12/18/2025 PAYABLE TO LARRY MILLER TOYOTA PEORIA (REQ: SCHOOL SUPERINTENDENT)

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

A 106-06-063 - THERIN R. KIRKUM JR. AND PAULA VIEUNE KIRKUM, RESOLUTION NO.57360

B 102-13-021B - MARIPOSA COMMUNITY HEALTH CENTER, INC., RESOLUTION NO. 57353

C P202100137 - FARM CREDIT LEASING SERVICES CORP, RESOLUTION NO. 57324

8. APPROVAL OF MINUTES: 01/21/2026

9. APPROVAL OF DEMANDS

were approved in the total amount of \$1,121,455.32, of which \$541,454.62 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.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 1:10 p.m. (motion: Supervisor Davis; second: Vice-Chairman Fanning; motion carried unanimously) (Ayes: Davis, Fanning, Molera)