

DEREK D. RAPIER
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BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
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DAVID GOMEZ
Chairman - District 1

RON CAMPBELL
District 2

WILLIAM WEARNE
District 3

MEETING NOTICE and AGENDA
Pursuant to Arizona Revised Statutes §38-431, et. seq.
and amendments thereto, the
GREENLEE COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
also sitting as Board of Directors for
GREENLEE COUNTY PUBLIC HEALTH SERVICES DISTRICT
and
GREENLEE COUNTY FLOOD CONTROL DISTRICT
hereby gives notice that a
Regular Meeting

will be held on Tuesday, February 3, 2026 – 8:00 a.m. The Public will have physical access to the Board Meeting Room be no later than 7:45 a.m.

Audio/Visual Streaming of this meeting may be found at:

<https://greenlee.az.gov/link/live/>

Board of Supervisors Meeting Room, 2nd floor Courthouse Annex, 253 5th Street,
Clifton, Arizona

AGENDA AND MINUTES

In attendance: Board of Supervisors members: Chairman, David Gomez Member Ron Campbell, Member and William Wearne, Member. Also present were Stephen Lundell, Deputy County Attorney, Derek Rapier, County Manager and Bianca Castañeda, Clerk of the Board

1. Call to Order

Chairman David Gomez called the meeting to order at 8:00 a.m.

a. Pledge of Allegiance

Supervisor Wearne led those present in the pledge.

b. Call to the Public

Akos Kovac, Clifton resident responded to the public and emphasized that the jail is a critical community asset and must be discussed with clarity, not speculation because it directly impacts the community's safety and wellbeing.

Dusti Robbinette, Duncan resident, responded and expressed her thoughts and concerns regarding the jail and would like to see other statistics.

Steve Ahman, Clifton resident, responded and thanked the county supervisors, staff and fellow residents. He supports the county's direction on keeping the jail local and stresses the importance of maintaining local jobs, supporting inmates and their families, and preserving community stability.

Omara Negrete Clifton Police Department Chief responded and noted Greenlee County's limited mental health resources and long wait times for help from Safford. Without a local jail, officers would be pulled off patrol for transports, weakening public safety.

Melissa Loya a retired Department of Child Safety investigator, emphasized the essential role of having a local jail. She stressed that a local jail protects community members, supports DCS and both sheriff and Clifton Police staff.

Erica Carassco a wife of a sergeant in the Sheriff's Office responded and expressed her thoughts and concerns on keeping the county jail.

John Merino, Clifton resident responded and highlighted issues regarding an application for a precinct committee person position.

Sheriff Ellison, highlighted major achievements from 2025, including installing GPS in all patrol vehicles, creating an effective Investigations Division, adding a school resource officer and pursuing one for Duncan and praised his team's hard work.

Jean Schwennesen, part time employee in the Engineer's office provided an update on the Duncan Airport Cienega project, which builds on earlier watershed and sediment-control work. A grant proposal was recently submitted, in partnership with a nonprofit that will manage administrative tasks.

Nancy Jean Walker representing the Real Soil Project, expressed a long-standing personal connection to Greenlee County, having attended local meetings for 20 years. She shared her appreciation for the community, and says Greenlee remains in her thoughts and prayers.

2. PUBLIC HEALTH SERVICES DISTRICT – the Board of Supervisors will convene as the Board of Directors of the Greenlee County Public Health Services District and will reconvene as the Board of Supervisors following consideration of the following items:

a. Consent Agenda

- i. Clerk of the Board: Consideration of approval of Public Health Services District expense warrants in excess of \$1,000.00.**

Upon motion by Supervisor Campbell, seconded by Supervisor Wearne, and carried unanimously, the Board approved the Public Health Services District Consent Agenda as presented.

- 3. FLOOD CONTROL DISTRICT – the Board of Supervisors will convene as the Board of Directors of the Greenlee County Flood Control District and will reconvene as the Board of Supervisors following consideration of the following items:**
 - a. Consent Agenda**
 - i. Clerk of the Board: Consideration of approval of Flood Control District expense warrants in excess of \$1,000.00.**

Upon motion by Supervisor Campbell, seconded by Supervisor Wearne and carried unanimously, the Board approved the Flood Control District Consent Agenda as presented.

- 4. Matt Bolinger, Emergency Manager**
 - a. Discussion/Action regarding consideration to purchase two new dispatch consoles on state contract for dispatching emergency services for a 5-year period in the amount of \$118,201.63**

Mr. Bolinger requested approval to purchase two new dispatch consoles for the 911 dispatch center under a state contract for \$118,201.63. The purchase includes ongoing cost of \$13,207 per year for support and technical services. Discussed the need for the consoles and the funding sources, including the AT&T Tower fund and the capital projects.

Upon motion by Supervisor Campbell, seconded by Supervisor Wearne and carried unanimously, the Board approved the purchase of two new dispatch consoles on state contract for dispatching emergency services for a 5-year period in the amount of \$118,201.63.

- 5. Tony Hines, Fleet/Facilities Manager**
 - a. Discussion/Action regarding request to purchase 2 vehicles for the Sheriff's Office**

Mr. Hines requested authorization to purchase two new sheriff's office vehicles using grant funding. One vehicle would be a pickup truck similar to the sheriff's Trail Boss model, and the other a Tahoe-type SUV. They are working with a state-contract dealer in Phoenix but seek approval to purchase elsewhere if needed.

Upon motion by Supervisor Campbell, seconded by Supervisor Wearne and carried unanimously, the Board approved of the request to obtain proposals for two vehicles for the sheriff's office.

6. Derek Rapier, County Administrator and County Staff
a. Information Only: Progress report on Fairgrounds Park

County staff, David Manuz Public Works Roads Department Manager reported strong progress on the ball-field project. Mass grading, leveling, and shaping of the parking area, all-purpose field, and second field are nearly complete. Remaining tasks include fixing drainage issues, smoothing corner slopes, and repairing areas disturbed by utility work. The road department significantly reduced costs by moving and reusing onsite material and creating efficient elevation changes. Most drainage will flow to a designated corner where a culvert will manage runoff. Overall, the project is on track to finish by today or early next week. Tony Hines Public Works Facilities Manager reported strong progress on irrigation, water, and lighting for the county ball fields. Sod is installed, sprinklers are operating, and the 102,000-gallon water tank and pump system are fully calibrated. Infields will use a new clay mix, and fencing, backstops, and dugouts are being installed. Electrical work for field lighting is on schedule: light poles will arrive February 17, wiring and conduit are ready, and temporary power will be available for this season. Overall, the project is moving smoothly and remains on track for opening day in March.

7. Derek Rapier, County Administrator
a. Information, Discussion, and Possible Action – Presentation of updated Jail Cost Analysis

Mr. Rapier explained that the purpose of the meeting is to present an updated jail cost analysis, which has been ongoing for over four years. Mr. Rapier clarified that no final decisions would be made, the analysis included factors such as the cost of running a jail, the impact of inmate population changes and the need for a comprehensive discussion. He outlined four main potential options for jail management: building a new jail at \$30 million, renovating the existing one at \$15 million, outsourcing inmate housing, or blending solutions. Each option was discussed in detail, including the costs, funding sources, and potential challenges. The importance of voter approval and the need for a long-term solution are highlighted. Mr. Rapier proposed reforming a jail committee to explore federal and state grants and consult with experts.

The board gave Mr. Rapier direction to form the committee and move forward.

Sherriff Ellison responded and expressed support for maintaining the jail to support law enforcement and community safety. He also expressed his gratitude for the new direction and emphasized the importance of transparency and cooperation.

Judge Grace Nabor responded and is pleased with the direction the board is considering.

Tyler Attaway, Jail Commander responded and discussed his thoughts and concerns on the presentation of the statistics.

8. Derek Rapier, County Administrator and Bianca Castañeda, Clerk of the Board
a. County and State budget and legislative issues

Mr. Rapier reported that there has been no movement on federal conformity, which is causing concern now that tax season has opened. Most taxpayers aren't aware of the issue and may end up filing twice this year. At the Legislature, the volume of bills is extremely high, as expected for this stage of the session. Many will begin to die off in the next 2–3 weeks as crossover deadlines approach.

Revised state budget projections show an apparent surplus increase—from roughly \$67 million to about \$527 million in FY26. Notably, the Empowerment Scholarship Account (ESA) program is projected to exceed \$1 billion with more than 100,000 participating students.

Local meetings with Representatives Griffin and Diaz were productive, but it remains unclear whether any state funding will ultimately be available for local priorities.

b. Calendar and events

Calendar and events were discussed.

9. Consent Agenda

- a. Clerk of the Board: Consideration of approval of minutes of previous meetings: 1/6/2025; 1/9/2026; 1/14/2026**
- b. Clerk of the Board: Consideration of approval of expense warrants in excess of \$1,000.00 – Voucher 9019; 9020**
- c. Sheriff's Office: Consideration of approval regarding employee transaction form: A. Ballesteros, Detention Officer II**

Upon motion by Supervisor Wearne, seconded by Supervisor Campbell and carried unanimously, the Board approved the consent agenda as presented.

10. Supervisor Reports, pursuant to ARS 38-431.02(K), individual supervisors or the county's chief administrator may present brief summaries of current events, but no discussion may occur, and no action may be taken regarding anything that is presented.

Supervisor Campbell gave a brief, he attended a meeting of the Agriculture and Rural Affairs Steering Committee, which is part of NACo (the National Association of Counties). The purpose of that meeting was to prepare for the upcoming NACo Legislative Conference in Washington, DC. During the steering committee meeting, they reviewed a long list of policy issues affecting rural counties. Because NACo meetings can involve dozens of potential topics, the group worked to narrow down and prioritize the most important issues so their discussions in DC would be focused and manageable—not “talking about 50 of them.” Supervisor Campbell described the meeting as productive and says he is looking forward to going to Washington, DC, participating in the steering committee sessions there, and helping to set legislative priorities on behalf of rural counties.

Supervisor Wearne attended a couple of meetings for committees focused on public lands issues, an important topic for rural counties like Greenlee. The meetings helped him prepare for policy discussions that will take place at the upcoming NACo Legislative Conference in Washington, DC

11. Adjournment

There being no further business to come before the Board of Supervisors, the meeting was adjourned at 10:02 a.m.

APPROVED: /s/ David Gomez, Chairman

ATTEST: /s/ Bianca Castañeda, Clerk of the Board

All agenda items are for discussion and/or action as deemed necessary. The Board reserves the right to consider any matter out of order. The Board may retire into Executive Session for any of the purposes that are allowed by law, including but not limited to legal advice and/or personnel matters; as authorized by A.R.S. §38-431. et. seq. Persons with a disability may request accommodation for special assistance by contacting Bianca Castañeda at 928-865-2072 (TDD 928-865-2632). Requests should be made as soon as possible to allow time for arrangement of the accommodation.