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BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
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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, April 7, 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

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In attendance: Board of Supervisors members: Chairman, David Gomez Member Ron Campbell, Member and William Wearne, Member. Also present were Gray Griffith, 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

Tony Hines, Public Works Fleet/Facilities Manager introduced 2 new employees in his office.

Erin Miller County Recorder announced the distribution of 90-day notices to nearly 5,000 voters.

Ron Campbell, Supervisor of District 2, honored the memory of the late Mrs. Josephine Lunt a great member of the community.

Eric Ellsion, Sheriff, reported on the sheriff's office's training and community outreach efforts, noting a high number of sex crimes and suicide rate, prompting metal health training for employees.

Supervisor Campbell gave appreciation for the Sheriff’s efforts in suicide awareness and presentation and mentioned an upcoming large outage in April that will bring about 800 contractors to the community.

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. **Derek Rapier, County Administrator**
   a. **Discussion/Action to adopt a resolution to acknowledge and recognize the month of April 2026 as National County Government Month**

      Mr. Rapier explained that the National Association of Counties designated the month of April as National County Government Month to increase public awareness of the functions and responsibilities of county government. While county government is more visible in this community than in many other jurisdictions, there remains a need to further educate the public regarding the scope of county services.

Upon motion by Supervisor Wearne, seconded by Supervisor Campbell and carried unanimously, the Board approved to adopt the proclamation recognizing April as National County Government Month.

5. **Jeremy Ford, Superior Court Judge**
   a. **Discussion/Action regarding budgetary requests related to security at the Greenlee County Superior Court including hiring of a Chief Security Officer in Fiscal Year 2026/2027**

      Judge Ford presented a detailed plan for the courthouse security. Overview of ongoing efforts to implement courthouse security in Greenland County. While the County is currently the last in the state without a formal courthouse security program, progress has been made toward initiating security operations in the upcoming fiscal year, with full implementation planned for the following year. Feedback indicated from an election officials' meeting for support for screening entry at the courthouse, along with monitoring and response services for both the courthouse and administrative buildings. Recent incidents highlighted existing security gaps, including limited control over individuals removed from courtrooms and ongoing exterior safety concerns around county facilities. While no major incidents have occurred, he noted that current response efforts rely on clerks and elected officials rather than trained security personnel. Also, reported meetings with the Arizona Office of the Courts (AOC), which provides courthouse security expertise and training to counties. Most counties combine screening and monitoring functions to reduce personnel needs. Cost considerations were discussed, including the expense of X-ray screening machines and ongoing maintenance agreements. Grant funding has already been secured for a metal detector through the Arizona Office of the Courts, and additional grant opportunities will continue to be pursued. Judge Ford requested approval to establish a Chief Court Security Officer position to oversee program development, staffing, policy creation, training coordination, and facility security planning. It was recommended that this position begin at the start of the upcoming fiscal year to allow adequate time to design and implement the security program prior to full screening operations. While specific expenditures will be brought to the Board for approval as projects are identified, Judge Ford requested that approximately $300,000 be reserved in the budget to allow flexibility for implementation costs as planning progresses. Concluded by requesting Board approval to proceed with establishing the Chief Court Security Officer position and to set aside capital funds for future courthouse security improvements.

      Chairman Gomez commended Judge Ford for the thoroughness of his research and presentation regarding courthouse security.

Mr. Rapier also commended Judge Ford for the thoroughness and noted that the courthouse security has been discussed for many years. Board gave staff direction to build it into the budget.

Upon motion by Supervisor Campbell, seconded by Supervisor Wearne and carried unanimously, the Board approved to create a position for a Chief Security Officer for fiscal year 26/27 based on the presentation by Judge Ford.

6. **Reed Larson, County Engineer**
    a. **Discussion/Action request to solicit bids/proposals/quotes for asphaltic concrete paving of two turnouts in ADOT right-of-way; one off St. Route 75 to the Fairgrounds, and one off St. Route 78 to the Public Works Facilities**

Mr. Larson discussed the need to preserve two ADA-related highway turnouts located on State Route 75 into the Fairgrounds and on State Route 78 serving the new Public Works building. While construction is not ready to proceed, Mr. Larson recommended identifying and selecting a contractor in advance to include with the ADA permit applications. Selecting a contractor early would allow permit applications to be processed without delay and avoid the need for resubmittal once a contractor is identified. The goal is to ensure that the turnout on State Route 75 is paved in advance of the next county fair and to avoid last-minute. Described a hybrid construction approach, consistent with prior successful projects, whereby County Public Works would construct the embankment and base, with the selected contractor completing the paving work. The County would provide traffic control support as needed.

Upon motion by Supervisor Campbell, seconded by Supervisor Wearne and carried unanimously, the Board approved to solicit bids/proposal/quotes as presented.

7. **David Manuz, Public Works Roads Manager**
    a. **Discussion/Action for permission to purchase Oil Emulsions from Western Emulsions Inc, for the 2026 Chip Seal Project under the existing Pinal County Contract**

Mr. Manuz explained that, in prior years, the County solicited bids for oil; however, due to current market conditions and elevated oil prices, a different purchasing approach is recommended for this year. He reported that quotes obtained from major oil suppliers indicated significantly higher prices when compared to an existing county contract. By reviewing the Pinal County contract, he identified a substantially lower per-ton cost for oil through Western Emulsions, the contract holder. Based on the pricing comparison, his recommendation is piggybacking on the Pinal County state contract to purchase oil, as it represents the most cost-effective option under current conditions. Mr. Manuz reported that even other vendors recommended using the Pinal County contract price from Western Emulsions as they could not come close that price with current oil prices.

Mr. Rapier stated from a procurement perspective, he explained that Pinal County has already completed a competitive bidding process for asphalt oil through its established and centralized purchasing department. The awarded contract was competitively procured, and the supplier has remaining product available at the contract price negotiated by Pinal County which was negotiated prior to the beginning of the Iran war and resulting higher oil costs. He reported that recent vendor inquiries indicate that issuing a new bid under present conditions would likely result in prices approximately 20–25% higher than the Pinal County contract rate.

Upon motion by Supervisor Wearne, seconded by Supervisor Campbell and carried unanimously, the Board approved to purchase Oil Emulsions from Western Emulsions Inc, for 2026 Chip Seal Project under the existing Pinal County Contract

8. Tony Hines, Public Works Fleet/Facilities Manager

a. Discussion/Action regarding award of bid for construction of softball field and multi-purpose field at the Duncan Fairgrounds Park

Mr. Hines explained that the County followed its normal procurement process by issuing a formal RFP and bid process for improvements to the ballfield and the multi-purpose field for the Duncan Park, however, no contractors submitted bids in response to that solicitation. Mr. Hines stated that he did receive a proposal from Peterson Landscaping.

Mr. Rapier clarified that the project did technically receive one response, but that response did not comply with the County's formal bidding requirements. The response was submitted late (due on Wednesday March 18, received March 23, the following Monday) and it was sent by email rather than the normal physically sealed method. Under the County's normal procurement procedures, bids must be submitted on time and in sealed form. The sealing requirement is primarily intended to protect contractors, ensuring that proprietary pricing and methods are not disclosed to competitors before an award is made. The County is not harmed by an unsealed bid. Additionally, the single bid received, is the only option to plant grass seed in the window available, since beginning the bidding process new would pass the spring planting timeframe and not guarantee any new bidders would respond. Additionally, no other vendors have expressed interest in this project. Mr. Rapier recommend that the Board award the bid to Peterson Landscaping and to formally excuse the lateness of the bid and that it was not sealed when submitted.

Upon motion by Supervisor Wearne, seconded by Supervisor Campbell and carried unanimously, the Board voted to excuse the late, unsealed bid submission and to award the bid to Peterson Landscaping, in an amount not to exceed the amount of $220,00.00.

9. **Austin Adams, Deputy County Administrator and Derek Rapier, County Administrator**
    a. **Discussion/Action regarding request to establish the position of IT Direction/Chief Information Officer (CIO) and permission to fill the position in the current fiscal year or as soon thereafter as possible**

Austin Adams explained the rationale for creating or presenting an IT Director / Chief Information Officer (CIO) position for the County. He noted that a meeting was held the previous week with elected officials, during which feedback and recent operational issues highlighted an increasing need for a dedicated leadership role in information technology. While the issues encountered so far have been relatively minor, they demonstrate gaps in coordination, planning, and technical oversight that warrant a higher-level IT position. The proposed position is intentionally structured with flexibility: It is written so the role can interface effectively with an external IT provider (BITS), and is also written so the position can operate independently, providing internal leadership and expertise. He explained the new position would bring someone with the technical background necessary to understand and manage the County's IT framework more efficiently, proactively handle issues, and oversee systems before they become problems. Finally, he referenced a salary comparison conducted with other counties. Based on that review, the proposed salary range for the IT Director/CIO position—approximately $93,000 to $137,000—aligns with comparable roles in similar jurisdictions and supports attracting a qualified candidate.

Mr. Rapier added a key function of the role would be maintaining complete, accurate documentation related to IT systems, cybersecurity practices, and controls—materials that are critical for audits, compliance reviews, and security assessments. While BITS currently performs much of this technical work, the County has found that relying solely on an external vendor can create challenges. Those challenges are not constant—at times the interface has worked very well. The proposed new position is intended to address both internal interface with offices and departments, as well external interfaces with auditors, and other agencies and perhaps outside vendors. Mr. Rapier reassured the board that there is sufficient unspent IT budget to fund the proposed position through the end of the fiscal year.

Upon motion by Supervisor Campbell, seconded by Supervisor Wearne and carried unanimously, the Board approved to establish the position of IT Director/Chief Information Officer as presented and direct staff to begin to fill the position as soon as practicable.

10. Derek Rapier, County Administrator and Bianca Castañeda, Clerk of the Board

a. County and State budget and legislative issues

Mr. Rapier presented legislative update noting that the state legislative session is in its post-crossover phase, where failed bills may reappear through "strike-everything" amendments, often with fiscal implications. County staff, along with statewide associations, are monitoring late-stage legislation that could affect county budgets. State budget negotiations were reported to be stalled. While the Governor has released budget and tax conformity proposals, these have not advanced, and legislative leaders are working on alternative plans. Uncertainty remains regarding the timing and outcome of the state budget, increasing the likelihood of late-session funding impacts on counties. Mr. Rapier also discussed broader economic factors influencing budget development, including rising energy prices, inflationary pressures, and interest rate volatility. To accommodate ongoing uncertainty, Mr. Rapier recommended maintaining flexibility in the County's budget assumptions and proposed holding additional budget work sessions in late April and May to refine projections as more information becomes available.

b. Calendar and events

Calendar and events were discussed. May Board of Supervisor meetings were changed to May 12th and May 27th.

11. Consent Agenda

a. Clerk of the Board: Consideration of approval of minutes of previous meetings: 3/17/2026

b. Clerk of the Board: Consideration of approval of expense warrants in excess of $1,000.00 – Voucher 9024; 9025

c. Chief Financial Officer: Consideration of approval of General Fund loans in the amount of $ 18,232.16 to be reimbursed upon receipt of funds: Fund 261 – $4,729.48, Fund 310 - $7,398.16, Fund 313 - $6,104.52

d. Chief Probation Officer: Consideration of approval of Fiscal Year 2027 Arizona Supreme Court, Juvenile Justice Services Division, Family Counseling Program Resolution in the amount of $1,414.00 required matching funds

e. Elections Director: Consideration of approval of Intergovernmental Agreement between the County of Greenlee, County Recorder and the Town of Clifton for the Provision of Election Services

f. Sheriff: Consideration of approval regarding employee transaction form: R. Carrasco, Deputy

g. Superior Court Judge: Consideration of approval of the appointment of Judge Pro Tempore for Honorable Travis W. Ragland, Honorable Garrett Whiting and C. Allan Perkins effective July 1, 2026 and ending June 30, 2027

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

12. **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 Wearne, expressed appreciation to County staff, particularly Tony Hines and his team, for their assistance with the Little League baseball field in the Duncan area. It was reported that the season is progressing well, the facilities and equipment are meeting program needs, and participation continues to increase, with additional joining teams. The project was described as a success, and continued County support was encouraged.

    Chairman Gomez gave his appreciation for the progress and activity going on at the Loma Linda Park.

13. **BUDGET WORK SESSION – Information and Discussion regarding FY 27 Greenlee County budget and establishing tentative additional budget work session dates**

    Mr. Rapier presented an overview of projected revenues for Fiscal Year 2027. Focusing on state shared sales tax, county half-cent sales tax, and property tax. He noted that the state shared sales tax revenue has been above projections in recent months, suggesting a conservative projection of $500,000 per month.

    He also discussed the impact of inflation on wages, with Supervisors Campbell suggesting a 3.5% to 4% wage increase. Mr. Rapier agreed to build the budget on a 4% inflation rate to account for potential inflationary increases and other costs.

    Mr. Rapier provided an update on various capital improvement projects, with emphasis on Tier One projects at the County Fairgrounds, several elements are complete or nearing completion, including field designs, the agricultural area, kitchen facilities, and secondary infrastructure improvements. Design work for the fourth quadrant of the Fairgrounds—planned to include a splash pad, playground, shade structures, and picnic areas—is proceeding, with amenity placement to be finalized in the coming months. Arena redesign work is substantially complete, including minor gate realignments to improve livestock handling based on recent event feedback. Parking and roadway improvements are intentionally deferred to allow for installation of underground sewer infrastructure connecting park and ballfield areas to the municipal sewer system, avoiding rework. Chip sealing of parking areas is planned for a future phase following completion of utility work. Completion of grass seed planting and ball field fencing is expected within four to six weeks.

At the Loma Linda Ball Fields, grass installation, irrigation, and fencing are underway, with remaining work including installation of a new backstop after determining that reuse of existing materials was not feasible. Discussed broader use patterns at Loma Linda Park, including plans to deploy cameras to better understand park utilization, address vandalism, and guide future investment decisions. Potential repurposing of existing facilities, such as tennis courts for pickleball, was noted for further evaluation.

An update was also provided on the Public Works Engineering Facility, where exterior construction is largely complete, including the use of millings for site surfacing. Interior build-out planning is ongoing, with refined specifications being developed to support contractor bidding and technology decisions.

Staff further reported on routine maintenance and repairs at Loma Linda Park, including lighting timer replacement, fan repairs, playground equipment replacement, and upgrades to picnic pavilion areas. Future improvements under consideration include splash pad development, informed by lessons learned from existing facilities.

Mr. Rapier also reported that the landfill expansion project is complete. The County has acquired the additional land and received the deed from State Land in December. This project will be removed from the active capital project list.

An update was provided on the Soapbox Bridge project, noting that the County has secured a grant and that engineering design work is progressing, currently estimated at approximately 60% completion. Construction funding will be pursued through Congressionally designated spending requests or other grants.

Reviewed Tier Two capital items and identified two projects that do not meet capital improvement criteria due to their lower cost and limited scope. Indicated that placement of future stalls would consider site efficiency, infrastructure protection, and parking needs.

Staff recommend adjustments to the Capital Improvement Program, including the elevation of courthouse utility delivery systems from Tier Two to Tier One in recognition of their priority, scope and potential for significant infrastructure damage. Also presented a proposed remodel of Fairgrounds buildings, including replacement of siding on the east side of the exhibit building to align with a planned new 4-H kitchen facility which will be supported by a significant grant from the United Way.

Mr. Rapier's recommendation is to continue planning efforts for remaining Tier Two projects, noting the substantial workload already underway within Tier One priorities. The Board was advised that the Capital Improvement Program remains a Board-driven document, and staff requested feedback on project prioritization, reordering, or additions. Mr. Rapier gave his appreciation to the board for their direction.

14. Adjournment

There being no further business to come before the Board of Supervisors, the meeting was adjourned at 10:42 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.