DEREK D. RAPIER
County Administrator

BIANCA CASTAÑEDA
Clerk of the Board

Telephone: (928) 865-2072
Facsimile: (928) 865-9332

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
P.O. BOX 908
253 5TH STREET
CLIFTON, AZ 85533

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 Wednesday, May 27, 2026 – 4:00 p.m. The Public will have physical access to the Board Meeting Room be no later than 3:45 p.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 County Attorney, Gary Griffith, Derek Rapier, County Manager and Bianca Castañeda, Clerk of the Board

1. Call to Order

Chairman David Gomez called the meeting to order at 4:05 p.m.

a. Pledge of Allegiance

Supervisor Wearne led those present in the pledge.

b. Call to the Public

Austin Adams, HR Director/Deputy County Administrator discussed updating county policies—some dating back to 1991—to modernize and clarify them, and may follow up soon with questions, especially about leave policies.

Sheriff Ellison reported a large Memorial Day turnout of off-road enthusiasts—about 1,000 people on the Frisco River and significant activity on Lower Eagle—making the area a growing destination. Despite social media concerns about unsafe riding, deputies had positive interactions, educated visitors on OHV safety, and reported a good overall experience.

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 initiate emergency fire restrictions within the unincorporated areas of Greenlee County to follow the Apache-Sitgreaves National Forest implemented Stage 1 fire restrictions on May 19, 2026.**

   Mr. Bolinger proposed emergency fire restrictions due to low humidity, high winds, and minimal precipitation and to follow the Apache-Sitgreaves National Forest that implemented Stage 1 fire restrictions on May 19, 2026.

   Upon motion by Supervisor Wearne, seconded by Supervisor Campbell and carried unanimously, the Board approved to initiate Emergency Fire Restrictions effective immediately.

5. **Eric Ellison, County Sheriff**

a. **Discussion/Action regarding approval for FFY 2025 Operation Stone-garden Grant**

Sheriff Ellison requested the board to approve and accept the Operation Stone garden grant funding, which would allow the sheriff's office to boost enforcement efforts by paying deputies overtime for targeted patrol operations**,** rather than using regular county funds.

Upon motion by Supervisor Campbell, seconded by Supervisor Wearne and carried unanimously, the Board approved the FFY 2025 Operation Stone garden grant.

6. **Tony Hines, Public Works Facilities/Fleet Manager**
   a. **Discussion/Consideration of approval to purchase a mower for the Public Works Department.**

Mr. Hines requested the board to approve purchasing a mower—using an established cooperative contract—to maintain county properties more efficiently. He proposed buying it from Bingham Equipment Company, on a Sourcewell contract. This makes the purchase faster and compliant with procurement rules.

Upon motion by Supervisor Wearne, seconded by Supervisor Campbell and carried unanimously, the Board approved the purchase a mower for the Public Works Department in the amount of $26,475.36 from Bingham Equipment Company.

7. **Derek Rapier, County Administrator**
   a. **Discussion/Information regarding Heap vs. Galvin.**

Erin Miller, County Recorder, raised her concerns and clarified that a legal issue involving Maricopa County does not affect their local election processes, emphasized her office's commitment to transparency and accuracy, and invited questions from the board and public.

Mr. Rapier explained that election issues in Maricopa County (including a lawsuit over responsibilities between officials) do not affect their county, where officials collaborate effectively and elections run smoothly.
He noted that the County Supervisors Association plans to file a legal brief on broader government structure issues tied to the case and may request a small financial contribution (around $15,000 total, split among counties), but no action is required yet.

8. **Derek Rapier, County Administrator**
   a. **Discussion/Action of approval regarding Greenlee County Cooperator Service Agreement with USDA Animal Damage Control and the Work and Financial Plan support the agreement**

   Mr. Rapier discussed the county's support for a USDA Animal Damage Control program that helps manage predators and other nuisance wildlife, it's an annual funding support for a USDA program that benefits both ranchers and the broader community, with a slightly increased annual cost and no change in services.

   Upon motion by Supervisor Campbell, seconded by Supervisor Wearne and carried unanimously, the Board approved the Service Agreement with USDA Animal Damage Control and the Work and Financial Plan support the agreement

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

   Mr. Rapier provided an update on the Arizona legislative session, noting delays and disagreements—especially over tax conformity and the state budget—but expects a deal to be reached in early June. They warned that potential state budget cuts could shift costs to counties, though impacts to their county are expected to be manageable, and emphasized they are closely monitoring the situation

   b. **Calendar and events**

   Calendar and events were discussed

10. **Consent Agenda**
    a. **Clerk of the Board: Consideration of approval of minutes of previous meetings: 4/21/2026; 5/12/2026**
    b. **Clerk of the Board: Consideration of approval of expense warrants in excess of $1,000.00 – Voucher 9029; 9030**
    c. **Public Works Facilities/Fleet Manager: Consideration of approval for transformer purchase and install by DVEC (single source provider) at the Duncan ball fields**

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

11. **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.**

Chairman Gomez reported on a small county forum that had low attendance due to scheduling conflicts but still resulted in productive discussions about budgets and projects. A presentation on the fairgrounds was well received. At the CSA meeting, state land officials discussed staffing shortages and challenges, including issues with illegal dumping on state land that counties struggle to manage.

County Administrator Derek Rapier noted that their county has a more positive and cooperative relationship with the State Land Department than many others, helping them manage issues more effectively. He highlighted informative discussions at recent meetings, including updates on legislation and ongoing land applications, and emphasized strong communication with state officials.

12. Budget Work Session

The first part of the work session focused on budgeting for the sheriff's office, discussing the sheriff’s request for new positions, funding of the positions, and the impact of grants to help offset the increased payroll expense. The sheriff requested two administrative assistants, one for the sheriff's office and one for the jail, to manage increased workloads and grants. The board debated the necessity of these positions, considering the current staffing levels and the potential for attrition. The sheriff also proposed a new patrol deputy position, funded partially by a grant, to replace a school resource officer position. Additionally, the Sheriff requested the board consider purchasing new rifles and a digital shooting range simulator to improve training and efficiency. The meeting discussed the implementation of AI for officer reports, which reduced a 2.5-hour report to 3 seconds, and the potential use of a $12,000 annual amount for a tool for investigating cell phone for a three year contract term.

Sheriff’s Office Fleet Vehicle Budgeting Discussion:
The original proposal was to budget three vehicles in the general fund fleet budget, consistent with the county’s normal replacement cycle. The Sheriff’s Office has proactively identified external funding sources (grants) to help cover costs. Because fleet purchases come from the general fund (not directly from the Sheriff’s budget), any grant funding reduces the county’s overall general fund cost.

Grant Funding Status:
Regarding grants that would support several of the budget increases in the Sheriff’s budget proposal, some grants are already in place and the sheriff is confident about two grants being secured to support vehicle purchases. A third grant for a vehicle (Law Enforcement Equipment / Homeland Security) is still pending. As a result, the county will only budget for a single sheriff’s office vehicle from the general fund in the coming fiscal year. Some grant funding sources are expected to be ongoing, but it’s slightly too early to fully rely on them.

Probation Officer Raises:
Mr. Rapier explained that probation officers are state employees, but counties help fund their raises upfront with the expectation that the state will reimburse them the following year. However, that backfill procedure is no longer guaranteed, creating a growing financial risk for the county if raises continue without state reimbursement. The Board took a wait and see approach to funding the raises until the state budget is set.

Mr. Rapier proposed centralizing all department IT budgets into one unified IT budget instead of splitting them across departments. This would allow the new IT director/CIO to manage equipment and needs directly, making purchasing more efficient and consistent—similar to how it was handled when IT was managed in-house.

Mr. Rapier explained that the county's phone stipend hasn't been updated since 2009 and no longer reflects current phone costs. He proposed increasing the annual stipend from $100 to $225 to better cover modern device costs, while keeping monthly stipends the same since they still reasonably match usage levels and current costs.

Proposal to set the property tax rate at the Truth in Taxation (TNT) limit to maximize allowable revenue without requiring a hearing. Because property values decreased, the tax rate will increase slightly, resulting in about $200,000 in additional property tax revenue than last year. The recommendation also considers uncertainty around potential state limits on future tax increases.

Proposed using maximum allowable tax rates for public health and flood control without extra hearings, generating about $1.1M and $145K respectively, for a combined tax rate of 1.3391, pending board approval.

Mr. Rapier explained that the county's budget is heavily affected by unpredictable swings in assessed value due to its reliance on a single-industry economy, which they are accustomed to managing. He noted that the flood control district has a much smaller tax base since it only applies to real property, and overall the draft budget is currently slightly in surplus but will need adjustments to account for new positions and department requests before finalizing.

Proposed FY2026 Budget Adjustments:
Mr. Rapier explained that higher-than-expected pay raises and market fluctuations caused a growing pension funding gap—now about $700,000—and proposed using available funds to pay it down and keep Greenlee's account financially stable. He further proposed using available funds to pre-purchase equipment (like a road department truck) and cover future needs now using available cash on hand, saving money in future budgets.

He also suggested moving about $975K in leftover COVID-related general funds into a capital improvement fund, where it will continue to be used for projects but be tracked more appropriately, without changing how the money is spent

Mr. Rapier asked the Board if they were in favor of reimbursing his NM Annual License fees and was directed to submit it. He also discussed the process of scheduling his annual review and suggested meeting on June 10th to finalize the budget.

13. Adjournment

There being no further business to come before the Board of Supervisors, the meeting was adjourned at 8:05 p.m.

APPROVED: /s/ David Gomez, Chairman

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