

OFFICIAL PROCEEDINGS OF THE APACHE COUNTY
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS' MEETING

June 2, 2026
St. Johns, Arizona

Present were Chairman Alton Joe Shepherd, Vice Chairman Joe Shirley, Jr. Supervisor Nelson Davis, Ryan Patterson, Clerk of the Board/Manager and Chief Deputy County Attorney Chris Resare.

Chairman Shepherd called to order the Board of Supervisors meeting at 8:32 a.m. in the Board of Supervisors' chambers, County Annex Building, 75 West Cleveland Street, St. Johns, Arizona and welcomed all in attendance.

Matt Fish gave the invocation.

Lance Pearce led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Chairman Shepherd called for the agenda items.

Chairman Shepherd called for the Health District item.

Kim Cole, Health Director, requested approval of Intergovernmental Agreement Title V Maternal and Child Health Healthy Arizona Families Contract #CTR076212 Amendment 1, revising the Scope of Work, Price Sheet and adding Exhibit 3 and 4. **Mr. Shirley moved approval, seconded by Mr. Davis.** Vote was unanimous.

Mr. Davis moved to adjourn the Public Health Services District meeting, seconded by Mr. Shirley. Vote was unanimous.

Chairman Shepherd called for the Library District meeting.

Kiersten Neilsen, Library Director, requested approval to close the Round Valley Public Library June 10, 11 and 16 and close the St. Johns Library and Library Administration Office on July 10 and 11 for parking lot improvements. **Mr. Davis moved approval, seconded by Mr. Shirley.** Vote was unanimous.

Kiersten Neilsen, Library Director Discussion and possible approval to close the Round Valley Public Library, the St. Johns Library and the Greer Memorial Library on Saturday, July 4, 2026. **Mr. Davis moved approval, seconded by Mr. Shirley.** Vote was unanimous.

Kiersten Neilsen, Library Director, requested approval of a lease agreement between the Greer Community Facilities Association and the Apache County Library District from July 1, 2026, through June 30, 2027, at the rate of \$1,075.46 per month. **Mr. Shirley moved approval, seconded by. Davis.** Vote was unanimous.

Mr. Shirley moved to adjourn the Public Health Services District, seconded by Mr. Davis. Vote was unanimous.

Chairman Shepherd called for the Jail District item.

Mr. Patterson requested the item for discussion and possible approval of a ten (10) year agreement with Axon Enterprises Inc. for body-worn cameras, TASER equipment and law enforcement related technology services be removed from the agenda. Chairman Shepherd removed the item.

Mr. Shirley moved to adjourn the Jail District meeting, seconded by Mr. Davis. Vote was unanimous.

Chairman Shepherd called for the regular agenda items.

The Board sat as the Board of Directors. Mr. Langkilde, Finance Director, presented the item following a public hearing, discussion, and possible approval of the 2026-2027 Tentative Budgets for the Apache County Library District, Apache County Public Health Services District, Apache County Flood Control District, Apache County Juvenile Jail District, Apache County Jail District, Junior College Tuition and the Post-Secondary Education and a copy of the proposed budgets are available online at www.apachecountyaz.gov or in the County Manager's Office. Mr. Langkilde provided an overview of the proposed budget. Mr. Patterson stated health insurance cost is increasing for the employees but was able to negotiate the increase down from a 19% increase to 8% so that is a significant savings, but will still equate to about a \$10.00 increase to the employees' health insurance. **Mr. Shirley moved to open the public hearing, seconded by Mr. Davis.** Vote was unanimous.

Marleita Begay, County Treasurer stated with the increase to the health insurance there was going to be a COLA to help supplement the increase to the insurance. Mr. Patterson stated that only 1/3 of the cost will be passed on to the employees with the other 2/3rds absorbed by the County. Mr. Patterson stated the final budget at the state becomes final they can look at a 2% increase moving forward. There was no one else wanting to address the board during the public hearing. **Mr. Shirley moved to close the public hearing, seconded by Mr. Davis.** Vote was unanimous. **Mr. Davis moved to approve the tentative budget for the special district budgets, seconded by Mr. Shirley.** Vote was unanimous.

The Board resumed sitting as the Board of Supervisors and Mr. Patterson stated following a public hearing, discussion and possible adoption of the 2026-2027 Tentative Budget for Apache County. A copy of the proposed Tentative Budget is available online at www.apachecountyaz.gov or in the County Manager's Office. **Mr. Shirley moved to open the public hearing, seconded by Mr. Davis.** Vote was unanimous. There was no one wanting to address the board during the public hearing. **Mr. Shirley moved to close the public hearing, seconded by Mr. Davis.** Vote was unanimous. **Mr. Davis moved to approve the tentative budget, seconded by Mr. Shirley.** Vote was unanimous.

Mr. Patterson presented the Consent Agenda item and requested approval of items A-K and recommended approval. **Mr. Shirley moved approval, seconded by Mr. Davis.** County Manager/Clerk of the Board: A. Finance Department: Request approval of demands as distributed to the Apache County Board of Supervisors between May 1, 2026, to May 15, 2026. Demands are payments made, or to be made by the County. Payee Amount BLUE KNIGHT SECURITY LLC \$4325.00 BLUE KNIGHT SECURITY LLC \$3225.00 BLUE KNIGHT SECURITY LLC \$3725.00 APACHE COUNTY HSA \$8043.20 APACHE COUNTY MEDICAL \$215868.96 APACHE COUNTY TAX WITHHOLDING \$176442.69 ASRS LEGACY EORP \$12005.21 AZ STATE RETIREMENTS SYSTEM \$136699.30 COLONIAL LIFE AND ACCIDENT INS \$1010.31 CORRECTIONS OFFICER RET PLAN \$16301.75 EORP LEGACY \$5608.75 NATIONWIDE \$4842.91 NATIONWIDE RETIREMENT SOL EODCRS \$1464.69 NATIONWIDE TRUST FSB \$4586.04 PUBLIC SAFETY PERSONNEL 401 \$12141.04 PUBLIC SAFETY SHERIFF RET \$14258.16 SUPPORT PAYMENT CLEARINGHOUSE \$1076.91 NATIONAL BANK \$59877.04 DOUGLAS LANCE PEARCE \$1590.09 JARED LYNN WINTERS \$1284.20 AARONS & MONTI LLC \$3000.00 ADVANCED CORRECTIONAL HEALTHCARE INC \$50495.69 AMAZON CAPITAL SERVICES INC \$3222.32 AT&T MOBILITY LLC (FIRSTNET) \$5382.77 AXON ENTERPRISE INC \$2188.95 AZ DEPT OF RISK MANAGEMENT \$1990.03 AZ LGEBT \$3875.00 BACKWOODS TEES \$2847.51 BAUMAN HOME AND AUTO INC \$1421.30 COMMNET WIRELESS \$1900.00 CORDANT HEALTH SOLUTIONS \$2556.73 DATAPILOT INC \$5990.00 DELL COMPUTER CORPORATION \$15510.05 DELTA TIRE LLC \$3114.24 DOYLES AUTO BODY INC \$3605.12 EM HALE LAW \$1176.00 FLEET PRIDE \$1625.91 FRONTIER \$1206.86 HIGH DESERT TRAILER SALES OF AZ INC \$2358.60 INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION ASSESSING OFFICER IAAO \$3740.00 JCG TECHNOLOGIES INC \$1650.00 MH CONSULTING & PROJECT MANAGEMENT LLC \$2817.43 MUTUALINK INC \$275000.00 NAPA \$3750.82 NAVAJO COUNTY FAMILY ADVOCACY CENTER \$3000.00 NTUA WIRELESS, LLC \$10440.04 QUILL CORP \$3126.52 R JOHN R JOHN LEE ATTORNEY AT LAW \$10500.00 RHINEHART OIL CO \$7487.35 SECURUS TECHNOLOGIES INC \$3115.79 SONORA QUEST LABORATORIES \$1454.21 STIRLING FENCE INC \$4250.00 TRINITY SERVICES GROUP INC \$25726.50 TYLER TECHNOLOGIES INC \$129666.81 UNITED INFORMATION SERVICES \$19167.54 WHITE MOUNTAIN REGIONAL MEDICAL CENTER \$1467.79 WRIGHT EXPRESS FSC WEX \$7900.51 RYAN N PATTERSON \$1122.69 SAMUEL A WOOD \$1674.78 BERNAL BODY SHOP \$4413.49 NIELSEN WELL DRILLING \$9850.00 AMAZON CAPITAL SERVICES INC \$4274.27 APACHE COUNTY 4-H LEADERS COUNCIL \$1000.00 APACHE COUNTY TAX WITHHOLDING \$1218.10 AZ ASSN OF COUNTIES \$15590.85 AZ COUNTIES INSURANCE POOL \$15334.01 AZ DEPT OF HEALTH SERVICES \$1515.00 BACKWOODS TEES \$1329.20 BRAD HALL & ASSOCIATES INC \$33976.45 BURNHAM – IFP LLC \$1000.00 CAL RANCH STORES LLC \$4389.42 CDW GOVERNMENT LLC \$4464.84 DELTA TIRE LLC \$2392.72 FLAKE LEGAL PLLC \$10500.00 FLEET PRIDE \$8903.11 FRONTIER \$1300.11 HAMBLIN LAW OFFICE PLC \$10500.00 KLINT HEAP \$1600.39 HUCK APPRAISAL OFFICE \$6200.00 INCLUSIONS SOLUTIONS LLC \$8026.00 DENNISE L JONES \$1897.50 KARPEL COMPUTER SYSTEMS INC \$15710.40 MCCOOK BOILER AND PUMP COMPANY \$5831.07 NAVOPACHE ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE \$6859.11 NIELSEN WELL DRILLING \$3242.45 OVERDRIVE INC \$4083.13 MICHAEL PENROD \$3099.40 PERSONNEL SAFETY ENTERPRISES \$1574.57

POLARIS PHARMACY SERVICES OF WARRINGTON LLC \$6064.55 RHINEHART OIL CO \$31165.92 SECURUS TECHNOLOGIES INC \$1678.70 ST JOHNS EMERGENCY SERVICES \$1541.36 THOMSON REUTERS WEST \$3922.56 TOWN OF EAGAR \$2741.61 WAGNER EQUIPMENT CO \$1055.95 WHITE MOUNTAIN REGIONAL MEDICAL CENTER \$1914.23 Specific details of the demands may be requested through the County public record request process. B. Request approval of minutes dated May 5, 2026, and May 18, 2026. C Request approval of the waiver of tax exemption for Mary Ann Gunnels, Parcel 104- 25-065 pursuant to ARS §42-11153. The widow's exemption was filed late due to an oversight. Treasurer's Office: D. Request approval of a "Certificate of Removal and Abatement of Taxes" pursuant to A.R.S. §42-18351(1). Total taxes, penalties and interest to be abated in the amount of \$36,744.09 for property account R0053443 (parcel 211-43-004), R0050274 (parcel 209-15-007) and R0050270 (parcel 209-15-006A). Election Department: E. Request possible approval to cancel the election for the Republican Precinct Committeeperson and appoint the candidates who filed nomination petitions to fill the positions for the upcoming July 21, 2026, Primary Election. F. Request approval to cancel the election for the Democratic Precinct Committeeperson and appoint the candidates who filed nomination petitions to fill the positions for the upcoming July 21, 2026, Primary Election. Emergency Management: G. Emergency Management: Discussion and possible approval to transfer a 2015 Dodge Ram Vin# 3C6UR5DL6FG646342 to St. Johns Emergency Services for the amount of \$1.00. Finance Department: H. Request approval to allocate a percentage of the Secure Rural Schools (SRS) payment of \$540,320.07 for FY2024, received in FY2026 with 25% to public roads and 75% to public schools. I. Request approval to allocate a percentage of the Secure Rural Schools (SRS) payment of \$622,242.19 for FY2025, received in FY2026 with 25% to public roads and 75% to public schools. J. Request approval to amend the FY2026 budgeted expenditure increase to Fund 225 – Forest Fees for \$650,000 and a corresponding expenditure decrease to Fund 220 Misc. Grant for \$650,000 for a net budget impact of zero. Human Resources: K. Request approval to adjust the salary of the St. Johns Constable to \$27,000 pursuant to A.R.S. §11-424.01(2) commencing on January 1, 2027. Vote was unanimous for Consent items A-K.

Julius Elwood, on behalf of District II, requested approval of the scope of work and fee estimate with Ardurra for the Round Top and C-420 roads in the amount of \$396,296 utilizing grant funds. **Mr. Shirley moved approved, seconded by Mr. Davis.** Vote was unanimous.

Julius Elwood, on behalf of District II, requested approval of an Intergovernmental Agreement with the Arizona Department of Transportation for a turn lane project on State Route 264. **Mr. Davis moved approval, seconded by Mr. Shirley.** Vote was unanimous.

Mr. Patterson, on behalf of the Sheriff's Office, requested the item for discussion and possible approval of a ten (10) year agreement with Axon Enterprises Inc. for body-worn cameras, TASER equipment and law enforcement related technology services be removed from the agenda. Chairman Shepherd removed the item.

Christy Raban, on behalf of the County Attorney's Office, requested approval to hire the position of Lead Prosecutor (Range 76) within the salary range and is within the FY26-27 budget. **Mr. Davis moved approval, seconded by Mr. Shirley.** Motion passed 2-1 with Mr. Shepherd voting nay.

Heather Lamas on behalf of Emergency Management, requested approval of the Public Health Emergency Preparedness Program Intergovernmental Agreement between Apache County and the Arizona Department of Health Services, Contract No. CTR081044 in the amount of \$212,865 beginning June 30, 2026, and ending July 1, 2031. **Mr. Davis moved approval seconded by Mr. Shirley.** Vote was unanimous.

Steve Kizer, Information Technology Director, requested approval of the Artificial Intelligence Policy. Mr. Kizer stated County users currently using generative artificial intelligence would be permitted to continue to do so while the IT Department is carrying out its review for approved tools provided that such use is reported within a reasonable timeframe after approval of this policy. **Mr. Davis moved approval, seconded by Mr. Shirley.** Vote was unanimous.

Megan Hill, Election Director requested approval of election board members, poll workers and voting locations for the July 21, 2026, Primary Election. **Mr. Shirley moved approval, seconded by Mr. Davis.** Vote was unanimous.

Megan Hill, Election Department: Discussion and possible approval of the 34 Polling Place Agreements for the July 21, 2026, Primary Election. **Mr. Davis moved approval, seconded by Mr. Shirley.** Vote was unanimous.

Chairman Shepherd stated there would be a time limit of two minutes for each member of the public to address the board and there would not be any sharing of time. Chairman Shepherd opened the floor for the call to the public.

Barbara Norton, a resident of Eagar Arizona expressed her opposition to the wind turbine project.

Kristin Spillman, a resident of Springerville, Arizona, provided a secondary packet with signatures as a supplement to the 925 new signatures already collected and submitted against renewable energy projects for a total of 1284 signatures asking for a moratorium on the wind projects.

Brian Burke, a resident of Concho, Arizona expressed his opposition to wind turbine projects.

Mike Lara, a resident of Vernon, Arizona stated he is opposed to the wind energy project.

Freda Pense, a resident of Vernon, Arizona expressed her opposition to wind energy projects.

Chris Vassel, a resident of Vernon, Arizona, stated she is against wind farms and is worried about her well being depleted. Ms. Vessel also requested the Vernon/McNary Road be paved or dust suppressant be placed on the road to keep the dust down.

Anita Dean, a resident of Vernon, Arizona stated she is against wind and solar energy.

Darcy Deskin, a resident of Concho, expressed her concern with issues with Triple Oaks and the County ordinance and is against the wind project.

Monica Boehning, a resident of Springerville, spoke regarding the jurisdictional authority the Board of Supervisors and their responsibility to protect communications within the county that would be affected by wind turbines.

Gary Osborn, a resident of Vernon, Arizona expressed his opposition to wind turbines and asked when the county will have an engineer on staff.

Susan Maxwell, a resident of Vernon, voiced her opposition to renewable energy projects.

Ron Smead, a resident of Vernon, Arizona expressed his concern with the current alternative energy ordinance.

Joni Smead, a resident of Vernon, Arizona, voiced her opposition to renewable energy projects in Apache county and her concern with the impacts to the area water sources and requested a moratorium on future projects.

John Philo, a resident of Vernon, Arizona stated he is in opposition to wind turbines since it is an obsolete energy source.

Donald Maxwell, a resident of Vernon, Arizona expressed his concern with the current drought and industrial complexes will draw water that will not be replenished.

Mark Odenbach, a resident of Vernon, Arizona expressed his opposition to wind and solar energy projects.

Lorraine Vaught, a resident of Vernon, Arizona urged the Board to review all information regarding wind turbines and stated she was opposed to the proposed projects.

Andy Huyak, a resident of Show Low, Arizona expressed his opposition to wind energy.

Lonnie Randall, a resident of Concho, Arizona, read excerpts from the Declaration of Independence and scriptures.

Kachina Cain, a resident of Concho, Arizona, expressed her issues and opposition to wind energy projects.

Connie Coronado, a resident of Concho, Arizona, stated she is opposed to the wind energy projects.

Loisa Quintana, a resident of Greer, Arizona, stated she is opposed to alternative energy

Charles Bryan, a resident of Concho, Arizona expressed his concern with what will happen to the aquifer in the area if the wind turbines are built and asked for a moratorium on alternative

energy.

Danial Hochstein, a resident of Vernon, Arizona, requested a moratorium on alternative energy projects.

Leslie Welker, a resident of St. Johns, Arizona, stated she is opposed to industrial wind turbines. due to health issues.

Brittney Mineer, a resident of St. Johns, Arizona stated she collected over 400 signatures against the wind energy projects.

Mark Ostermann, a resident of Vernon, Arizona requested a moratorium on alternative energy projects.

Kennis Isaacson, a resident of Concho, Arizona stated her family is opposed to wind turbines.

Mickey Portillo, a resident of St. Johns, Arizona, expressed her opposition to alternative energy projects and stated she collected signatures from residents against these projects.

Tanya Lewis, a resident of Cave Creek, Arizona, stated it is Native American Recognition Day and urged the Board to celebrate and learn about the native cultures.

Doug Fletcher, a resident of Concho, Arizona voiced his opposition to alternative energy Projects and requested a moratorium on the projects.

Daisy Ronsick, a resident of Vernon, Arizona stated she is opposed to wind turbines.

Wayne Ronsick, a resident of Vernon, Arizona stated he does not like wind turbines.

Keith Hanvey, a resident of Vernon, Arizona stated expressed his opposition to alternative energy projects.

There was no one else that wanted to address the Board during call to the public.

Mr. Shirley moved to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Mr. Davis. Vote was unanimous.

Meeting adjourned at 10:04 a.m.

Approved this 7th day of July, 2026.

/s/ Alton Joe Shepherd
Chairman of the Board

/s/ Ryan N. Davis
Clerk of the Board