

**YUMA COUNTY COMMISSIONERS**  
**August 31, 2023**  
**Minutes<sup>1</sup>**

On August 31, 2023 at 8:00 a.m., the Yuma County Board of Commissioners met in regular session. Chairman Scott Weaver, Commissioner Mike Leerar, Commissioner Adam Gates, and Administrator Brandi Ritchey were present throughout the day.

The Commissioners reviewed and signed accounts payable and discussed various meetings attended throughout the prior month.

Road and Bridge

Road & Bridge Supervisor Tom Andersen joined the meeting at 8:30 a.m. to provide department updates.

- *Salary Authorization* – Andersen presented a Salary Authorization for signature for a new hire joining the Maintenance crew. **Commissioner Gates moved to approve the Salary Authorization for a Maintenance Position at \$17.50 per hour. Commissioner Leerar seconded the motion which passed by unanimous vote.**
- *Mowing* – The maintenance crew is covering about 50 miles per day with mowing. They have moved on to the Y1 area. Andersen would like to hire for one more maintenance position and move one employee to the mining crew.
- *Efficiency Report* – Andersen presented his monthly Efficiency Report to the Board. There have been two blades down recently effecting the report as the employees had to use back up blades.
- *Road Report* – Andersen provided a road report including an update on the conclusion of repairs made on County Road 58. The Road and Bridge crew is starting repairs in the Beacher Island area. With the inflation of gas increases, Andersen and the Board raising the contracted drivers hauling rate to \$120.00 per hour.
- *Propane Contract* - Andersen presented the 2023-2024 Winter Propane Contract. Andersen is going to reach out to Ison Oil for a Summer Fill price before moving forward with a Winter Fill Contract.

Human Services

The Board of County Commissioners convened as the Board of Social Services at 9:30 a.m. Human Services Director Kara Hoover, Administrative Assistant Lori Summers and Bookkeeper Melanie Fisher were present. Detailed minutes of the Board of Social Services are maintained separately by the Department of Human Services. The Board of County Commissioners reconvened at 10:30 a.m.

Yuma County Sheriff

At 10:30 a.m., Yuma County Sheriff Todd Combs, Office Manager Stacy Zink, and Kris Jones. The group discussed the salary increase request for Jail Deputies. The Commissioners would like updated Job Descriptions and Salary Authorizations to review before moving forward. The group also discussed bench warrants that were not getting served in Eckley. Officer Combs stated that the Town Manager needs to have the Town Attorney get in contact with the Sheriff's office when there are bench warrants to be served. Court Security was also a topic of discussion. As we approach the 2024 budget, Officer Combs will evaluate his staffing model and decide whether or not to keep deputies available to run Court Security. Sheriff Combs did mention "Let's face it guys the jail will not reopen." County Administrator, Brandi

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<sup>1</sup> Minutes prepared by Brandi Ritchey are a summary of discussions, not a verbatim account.



discussion of creating and MOU (Memorandum of Understanding) between the Municipalities and the County for jail transportation.

#### NCRETAC

At 11:00 a.m. the Commissioners heard from Jeff Schannals and Keriann Josh from Northeast Colorado Regional EMS/Trauma Advisory Council. There is going to be a staffing change coming June, 2024. Yuma County processes the payroll for NCRETAC. With the staffing change there will be another position added and NCRETAC want to know if Yuma County will still be interested in processing the payroll. After payroll is processed each month, NCRETAC is invoiced and reimburses the county for the incurred payroll expenses. The BOCC does not see any issues with the continuation of processing NCRETAC's payroll.

#### Mekelburg Family

At 1:30 p.m. the Commissioners met with Todd and Roger Mekelburg to discuss the Mek 1 Gravel Pit. Todd went over the lease that was originally drawn up between the Mekelburg Family and Yuma County. The Board and Mekelburg Family overviewed the history of the Mek. 1 Gravel pit. The Mekelburg family would like to update the lease between the County and the Mekelburg Family with a firm end date for mining and also an agreement allowing the Mekelburg family to use the Northern area of CRP land where the County is not mining for gravel. Todd Mekelburg is going to work with his attorney to get a new agreement for the County to review. The Commissioners will discuss with the Road and Bridge Supervisor to come up with and agreeable end date for mining.

#### Fairgrounds Manager, Carmen Murray

At 2:00 p.m., the Commissioners heard from Yuma County Fairgrounds Manager, Carmen Murray. The group discussed repairs and maintenance that had been done by Jerry Murray to help alleviate projects that have fallen behind. Murray is going to purchase a new weed eater for the fairgrounds, due to not being able to repair the current one. The group also discussed where to get fuel for fairgrounds equipment and coordinating with Yuma County Weed and Pest to spray for stickers. Murray is going to get with the Road and Bridge Supervisor to coordinate getting gravel to fill holes for the CDL testing site.

- **Commissioner Gates moved to pay Jerry Murray \$20.00/hour at 15 hours for Fairgrounds Maintenance. Commissioner Leerar seconded the motion, it passed by unanimous vote.**

#### Maintenance

At 1:30 p.m. the Commissioners met with Maintenance Sergeant, Travis Dinsmore. The group looked over and discussed numerous bids for air conditioning units for county buildings. Dinsmore is going to get warranty information for the units that were bid to ensure that the best unit is purchased. The Commissioner's would like Dinsmore to put any major upcoming equipment repairs in his 2024-maintenance budget.

#### Executive Session

At 2:52 p.m., **Commissioner Leerar moved to enter into Executive Session for discussion of specialized details of security arrangements or investigations under C.R.S. Section 24-6-402(4)(d); Commissioner Gates seconded the motion; it passed by unanimous vote.** Present for executive session were Chairman Weaver, Commissioner Leerar, Commissioner Gates, Finance Officer Sarah Carwin and Fairgrounds Manager Carmen Murray. Executive session ended at 3:18 p.m. No action was taken following executive session.



Administrator's Report

Administrator Brandi Ritchey reviewed calls, correspondence, and presented the following for discussion and action:

*Minutes* – The Commissioners reviewed the minutes from the previous BOCC meetings.

- **Commissioner Leerar moved to approve the minutes from the August 14, 2023 regular meeting of the Board of County Commissioners. Commissioner Gates seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.**

*CAPP Report & Claim Review* – The Commissioners heard information on pending CAPP and workers' compensation claims. The group discussed an ongoing Workers Compensation Claim and hail damage from the recent storms.

*Signatures and Ratifications* –

- **Commissioner Leerar moved to Ratify Signatures on Resolution 8-14-2023 A, changing authorized signatures on the First Pioneer, Wray State Bank and Bank of Colorado Accounts. Commissioner Gates seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.**
- **Commissioner Leerar moved to approve signature on Resolution 08-31-2023 B establishing the 2023 Yuma County Junior Round Robin Scholarship account. Commissioner Gates seconded the motion. It passed unanimously.**
- **Commissioner Leerar moved to approve signature on Resolution 08-31-2023 C establishing the 2023 Yuma County Senior Round Robin Scholarship account. Commissioner Gates seconded the motion, which passed by unanimous vote.**
- **Commissioner Gates moved to approve Signature on Resolution 08-31-2023 D Adopting the new Commissioner District Boundaries. Commissioner Leerar seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.**
- **Commissioner Leerar moved to ratify the signature on Yuma County Abstract of Assessment. Commissioner Gates seconded the motion, which passed by unanimous vote.**
- **Commissioner Gates moved to ratify the signature on the Certificate of Cost Allocation Plan and Indirect Cost Rate. Commissioner Leerar seconded the motion, which passed by unanimous vote.**
- **Commissioner Weaver moved to sign the updated Plains Cooperative VOIP quotes. Commissioner Gates seconded the motion, which passed by unanimous vote. Commissioner Leerar abstained from voting.**
- **Commissioner Gates moved to approve signature on Ron Brown's monthly CDMVA Monthly Report. Commissioner Leerar seconded the motion, which passed by unanimous vote.**

*Department Reports* – The Commissioners received various department reports including an update on the administration of the Eastern Transportation Planning Region, discussion of business undertaken by the 911 Authority Board and the review from Mission Critical Partners for equipment upgrades and the Broadband BEAD Program. The group also discussed WYCC and Fair Board Appointments. Letters of interest were due by August 31, 2023.



- Commissioner Leerar moved to re-appoint Scott Weaver to the Washington Yuma Combined Communications Board. Commissioner Gates seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.
- Commissioner Gates moved to re-appoint Mikah Seyler to the Yuma County Fair Board. Commissioner Leerar seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.
- Commissioner Leerar moved to sign on to the BEAD Program. Commissioner Gates seconded the motion. It passed unanimously.

*Prior Meeting Follow Up* – Ritchey provided project updates on the sale of a county owned property in Wauneta. Bids for the house will be reviewed at the September 14, 2024 BOCC meeting.

*HR Updates* – Ritchey gave the Commissioners an update on the County Swag Store that opened up temporarily for employees. There were 38 orders and 57 items sold.

*Correspondence* – Ritchey presented correspondence received since the last meeting. Among discussion was the CCI Legislative Committee Designation. Justin Lorimer reported on a LTAP class that was held at the Yuma County Fairgrounds and Road and Bridge Supervisor gave the Commissioners an update on damage done to Truck 705. Andersen will get an estimate done for repairs.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 4:12 p.m. The next regular meetings of the Board of County Commissioners will be on September 14, 2023.

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Scott Weaver, Chairman

*Brandi Ritchey*  
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Brandi Ritchey, Administrator

ATTEST: *Beverly Wenger*  
Beverly Wenger, County Clerk

