



YUMA COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
December 15, 2023
Minutes¹

On December 15, 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.

- *Borrowing of Water Truck* – Dave Wilson made a request to the Road and Bridge Department to borrow a water truck for a project at the field next to the Wray High School. Wilson will need the water truck for approximately two weeks. The Commissioners would like a waiver stating that the county is not liable for any damages done while using the truck.
- *Broom for skid steer* – There is an opportunity to purchase a new broom for the skid steer at an auction. The Commissioners would like to Andersen to keep his eye out for a good purchase.
- *Financials* – Andersen presented a current financial report to the commissioners. The board reviewed current revenue and expenditures. The Commissioners would like Andersen to get a price to hire a concrete crusher or purchase a crusher to create material for roads.
- *Road Report* – Lorimer provided an update on road repairs. County Road KK has had the final layer of gravel put down and is finished. Patching throughout the County has been constantly going on. There have been problems with large material chunks laying on the roads when patching has been done. With such a broad area to cover with the packer, the road and bridge department is going to have to find an alternative material to patch the roads. The BOCC and Andersen are discussing ideas to clean up the material before it is hauled out of the pit. The Commissioner's requested that the Road and Bridge Department take the packer to County Road 43 and crush as many boulders they can. The Board also stressed that the Blade Operators get out and move any big boulders that they see while working roads.
- *New Hire* – Andersen received an application from an experienced blade operator from Philips County. The Commissioners and Andersen discussed an entry wage and the possibility of renting the County Idalia house.

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, Income Maintenance Supervisor Dalene Rogers and Child Welfare & Adult Protection Supervisor Hollie Hillman 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 Clerk & Recorder, Beverly Wenger

At 11:00 a.m., Yuma County Clerk Beverly Wenger joined the commissioners to give them departmental updates. Wenger discussed concerns with the Election and Clerks Payroll. Wenger is going to move her Election hours all into her Clerks hours moving forward.

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



Yuma County Clerk & Recorder, Beverly Wenger, continued

Wenger asked if the Admin Office would be willing to take over the Liquor Licensing for Yuma County. The Commissioners will discuss this and get back to Wenger with an answer. The Clerk's office will be looking for another employee in the next 4-6 months to fill a position that will be coming open. Wenger is applying for a grant that helps fund her office equipment.

Yuma County Fair Queens.

Michelle Smith, Kaci Porter, Jordlynn Wiltfang Fair Queen and Jalyn Archer Lady in Waiting joined the Commissioners at 11:30 a.m. to provide annual Yuma County Fair Queen updates and make 2024 funding requests. The group presented updates on the 2024 funding needs including the pickup lease and parade blankets/patches. The group also discussed program goals for 2024. The Commissioner's will look over their requests and decide how much funding will be provided after the Yuma County Budget is approved.

Emergency Management, Jake Rockwell

At 1:00 p.m. the Commissioners heard a department update from Yuma County Emergency Manager Jake Rockwell. Among topics discussed were recent and upcoming weather trends, drought trends, COVID/FLU and RSV, Public Safety and Relations, Avian Flu. Rockwell provided updates on warming shelter and when they can be opened and information on software evaluations being conducted through the WY Communications Center for emergency alerts.

Land Use

County Land Use Administrator, Niki Alexander was heard at 1:00 p.m. to continue the Land Use Hearings for EFS 1023-01, EFS 1023-02 and EFS 1023-03. The Commissioners met with Curt and Ryan Fix to discuss their process on applying for the Exemption from Subdivisions and encouraged them to follow the usual procedures moving forward.

Commissioner Gates moved to approve signature on Resolution 11-30-2023 B approving Exemption from Subdivision Application EFS 1023-01 for Curt and Julie Fix, looking to divide a 21.14-acre parcel from a 62.19-acre (+/-) parcel located in Section 11, Township 1 North, Range 44 West with the added stipulation provide an easement to Curt and Julie Fix's property to the West. Commissioner Leerar seconded the motion, which passed by unanimous vote.

Commissioner Gates moved to approve signature on Resolution 11-30-2023 C approving Exemption from Subdivision Application EFS 1023-02 for Ryan and Anne Fix, looking to divide a 12.53-acre parcel from a 62.19-acre (+/-) parcel located in Section 11, Township 1 North, Range 44 West. Commissioner Leerar seconded the motion, which passed by unanimous vote.

Commissioner Gates moved to approve signature on Resolution 11-30-2023 D approving Exemption from Subdivision Application EFS 1023-03 Mason and Corie Chamberlain, looking to divide a 28.52-acre parcel from a 62.19-acre (+/-) parcel located in Section 11, Township 1 North, Range 44 West with the added stipulation to provide a lot line adjustment or an easement to the existing property owned by Corie and Mason Chamberlain. Commissioner Leerar seconded the motion, which passed by unanimous vote.

Yuma County Treasurer, Chrystal Hammond



At 2:00 Yuma County Treasurer, Chrystal Hammond visited the Commissioners to give various departmental updates. Hammond presented an update with current investments that have been rolled over. Among other discussion was current foreclosures, Mill Levies and Tax Collection. Hammond reported that her new hire has started and everything is working out well. Hammond expressed concern about the cap on salary increases for 2024. The Board recommended that Chrystal build promotional increases into her salary line for the 2024 budget so they can review the request.

Public Comment

At 2:45 Naomi Harding joined the Commissioner's to express her concern on Pro-Life Choices and banning abortions. Harding is requesting the Commissioner's to sign a petition for the Colorado Life Initiative. More information can be found on the website www.gotalife.org. The Commissioners declined to sign the petition during a public meeting.

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 November 30, 2023 regular meeting of the Board of County Commissioners. Commissioner Gates seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.**

Signatures and Ratifications –

- **Commissioner Leerar moved to approve signature on the VALE grant for the Victims Assistants department. Commissioner Gates seconded the motion. It 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.

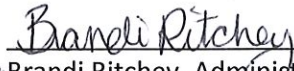
HR Updates –

The group discussed transitioning all employees to direct deposit, discussed correspondence from WYCC, and scheduled future BOCC meeting dates.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 4:45 p.m. The next regular meetings of the Board of County Commissioners will be on December 29, 2023.



Scott Weaver, Chairman



Brandi Ritchey, Administrator

ATTEST: 

Beverly Wenger, County Clerk

