

YUMA COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
April 30, 2024
Minutes¹

On April 30, 2024 at 8:00 a.m., the Yuma County Board of Commissioners met in regular session. Chairman Mike Leerar, Commissioner Scott Weaver, Commissioner Adam Gate, 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 and Blade Foreman Justin Lorimer joined the meeting at 8:30 a.m. to provide department updates.

- *Chip Seal Projects* – Andersen reported that multiple paved roads are in need of new chip seal. Andersen presented figures to chip seal the Beacher Road, Vernon Road and Kirk Road. Commissioner Leerar is going to reach out to Greg Etl with DOLA to see what grants are available for these projects.
- *Mechanic Position*– The outsourced labor budget is increasing rapidly. This has prompted discussion to evaluate potential cost-saving measures. An individual has expressed interest in the mechanic position, sparking discussion on whether hiring this individual could help alleviate the strain on the budget. The group analyzed the salary and outsourced labor budget lines to find a solution that is financially beneficial for the department.
- *Pit Reclamation* – The gravel pits utilized by the county have recently had inspections with nothing bad to report. The Ritchey pit is on the track to being reclaimed. Andersen will have the seed for re-seeding checked by the USDA office.
- *Budget & Efficiency Report* – The group looked over the current revenue and expenditure report. There was discussion about the outsourced repair line. Andersen presented an efficiency report for the blade crew.
- *Road Report* – Lorimer reported that work will begin on County Road 54 soon. This project will take around two weeks to complete. They will be ripping it and relaying material on the road.
- *Salary Authorization* – Andersen presented a salary authorization for an equipment operator. **Commissioner Weaver moved to approve the Salary Authorization for \$19.20/hour. Commissioner Gates seconded the motion which passed by unanimous vote.**

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.

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



Dusty Johnson, House District 63 Candidate

At 10:30 Dusty Johnson joined the Commissioners. Johnson has had recent experience working at the State level as an aide for the Pelton's. Johnson is running for House District 63. The group also discussed SB24-150, property tax bills and other issues on the state and federal levels.

Central Plains Equipment

At 11:00 a.m. the Commissioners were joined by Billy Andersen and Aaron Mosentein from Central Plains Equipment. Billy put together quotes on trading in four tractors with 3 new leases. The lease is a walk away lease after 3 years with the option of buying out the tractors after the lease. No decision was made during this meeting. The Commissioners are still discussing whether or not to lease the tractors. The Commissioners would like to see an expenditure report on the potential trade in tractors.

One Digital

At 11:30 a.m. the Commissioners were joined by Jeff McNeilly with OneDigital. McNeilly and the Commissioners discussed the never-ending health care cost increases and the measures the County can take to keep health insurance affordable. McNeilly would like to take Yuma County Census data to the market and see what other plans are available.

Public Comment

At 2:00 p.m. the Commissioners were joined by Joe Chartier to discuss a Land Use issue in Laird. Chartier expressed concerns about cars building up along the edge of the streets in Laird. The Commissioners thanked Chartier for his time and will take the next steps to notify the landowner of the Land Use violations.

CSU Extension

At 2:30 a.m. the Commissioners were joined by CSU Extension Agents Travis Taylor and Jolynn Midcap, Fairgrounds Manager Carmen Murray, Yuma County Finance Officer Sarah Carwin, BJ Mekelburg and Harold Blackham to discuss the 2% sale account. The 2% account was originally set up to assist livestock members with livestock related expenses and also to make up the difference between the 4-H council general budget and the livestock budget. According to different meeting minutes the use of the account has changed over the years. Moving forward, the 2% account will be used by the Sale Committee. Once the account is moved it will fall under Yuma Counties annual audit.

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 Gates moved to approve the minutes from the April 15, 2024 regular meeting of the Board of County Commissioners. Commissioner Weaver seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.**




- *Signatures and Ratifications* –
 - Resolutions/Ordinances/Signatures:
 - **Commissioner Gates moved to ratify signatures on Resolution 4/30/2024A, A Resolution in opposition of HB 24-1460. Commissioner Weaver seconded the motion. The motion passed by unanimous vote.**
 - **Commissioner Gates moved to approve signature on Ron Brown's monthly CDMVA Monthly report. Commissioner Weaver seconded the motion which passed by unanimous vote.**
 - **Commissioner Gates moved to approve signature on Adam Beauprez monthly CDMVA Monthly report. Commissioner Weaver seconded the motion which passed by unanimous vote.**
 - **Commissioner Weaver moved to ratify Commissioner Leerar's signature on the Docusign Document regarding County & Electronic recording Technology Board Agreement. Commissioner Gates seconded the motion which passed by unanimous vote.**
 - **Commissioner Weaver moved to ratify Commissioner Leerar's signature on the Special Transportation Permit for Star Fleet to transport a mobile home from County Road 42 at US Hwy 385 to 37160 County Road SS, Wray, CO. Commissioner Gates seconded the motion which passed by unanimous vote**
 - **Commissioner Weaver moved to approve signature on the RockIT Event Pros quote, extending the days of service during the Yuma County Fair. Commissioner Gates seconded the motion which passed by unanimous vote.**
 - **Commissioner Gates moved to approve payment on the reimbursement request to South Y-W Ambulance in the amount of \$9091.72. Commissioner Weaver seconded the motion. The motion passed by unanimous vote.**
 - *Department Reports* – The Commissioners discussed departmental updates including ETPR Administration and business undertaken by the 911 Authority Board. The WY Communications Board and the 911 Authority Board have transitioned into one board. Ritchey is working on a Written Plan for Website ADA Compliance and looking into a Micro Grant to help pay for remediation of documents on the County website.
 - **Commissioner Weaver moved to make the following appointments for the 911 Authority/WYCC Board. Kent Vance, Gisele Jefferson, Mike Leerar, Jerry Thompson, Allen Hussey and Ronney Oestman with the terms of December 31, 2024, Steve Rydquist and Bryant McCall with the terms of January 31, 2026 and Adam Gates with a term of December 31, 2026. Commissioner Gates seconded the motion which passed by unanimous vote.**
 - *Correspondence* – Ritchey presented correspondence received since the last meeting including an extra expense incurred during renovations to the Fairgrounds Office Roof and HB 22-1132 A Bill for an Act, Concerning the Provision of Wildfire Mitigation Services, and, In Connection Therewith, Regulating Controlled Burns on Private Property.
 - **Commissioner Weaver moved to approve the additional cost of \$2,000 to repair the fairgrounds office roof. Commissioner Gates seconded the motion. The motion passed by unanimous vote.**



- Commissioner Weaver moved to set fees for not reporting controlled burns in Yuma County. The fees will be the following if a party does not report a fire to the WYCC (Washington Yuma Combined Communications): Any person who commits this offense and upon conviction shall be punished by a warning for the first offense, two hundred and fifty dollars (\$250) for a second offence, five hundred dollars (\$500) for a third offence, and one thousand dollars (\$1,000) for a fourth and any subsequent offense.
- The following offenses shall be enforced by a Yuma County Sheriff's Deputy. Commissioner Gates seconded the motion which passed by a unanimous vote. This motion will be followed by an official resolution.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 4:00 p.m. The next regular meetings of the Board of County Commissioners will be on May 14, 2024.


Mike Leerar, Chairman


Brandi Ritchey, Administrator

ATTEST: 
Beverly Wenger, County Clerk

