



YUMA COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

July 15, 2024

Minutes¹

On July 15, 2024 at 8:00 a.m., the Yuma County Board of Commissioners met in regular session. Chairman Mike Leerar, Commissioner Scott Weaver, 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.

Liquor License

County Clerk, Bev Wenger joined the Commissioners at 8:15 a.m. to present a Special Liquor Permit for the Vernon Volunteer Fire department on August 17, 2024.

Commissioner Gates moved to approve the Special Liquor Permit for the Vernon Volunteer fire department. Commissioner Weaver seconded the motion which passed by unanimous vote.

Road and Bridge

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

- *New Hire* – Andersen addressed the interest of a former employee in rejoining the Yuma County Road and Bridge Department. The group discussed a fair wage for the role the employee would assume if he returns. Andersen will communicate with the former employee to extend a job offer.
- *Hail Damage*– The group discussed the damage that the semi's sustained during the hailstorm in May. The group discussed whether or not to repair the hoods. Andersen is going to reach out to a body shop in the front range that can handle multiple semis and get a quote.
- *Crack Sealing*– Andersen asked the board about charging for crack sealing in Idalia. Andersen is going to reach out to the school to see if they have employees that can take care of the crack sealing and just borrow the equipment.
- *Road Report* – The blading crew is working on County Road 34 West of County Road N and will be moving to County Road 42. Material is being pulled out of the Brand Pit due to excessive amounts of water in the Smith Pit.

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 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 10:50 a.m.

Yuma County Assessor

At 11:00 a.m., Yuma County Assessor, Cindy Taylor joined the Commissioners to give the board a report on Appeal Value Changes, Assessed Values as well as discussion of an Early Abstract Information Report. The Assessor's office is predicting that revenue will decrease this year compared to last year. The value of oil and

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



gas has decreased significantly. Taylor also reported that she had a tax abatement that needed approved due to equipment value being reported incorrectly.

- **Commission Gates moved to approve the Tax Abatement in the amount of \$31,690.00. Commissioner Weaver seconded the motion which passed by unanimous vote.**

Yuma County Clerk

At 11:30 a.m., Yuma County Clerk, Bev Wenger joined the Commissioners to provide the board with office updates. Wenger successfully applied for a \$10,000 in kind grant designated for security remodeling purposes and security camera upgrades for the Election Center. The Board expressed unanimous support for the in-kind match and encouraged Wenger to continue with the grant process. Additionally, the group discussed precinct changes, with Wenger examining the current precincts in Yuma County and considering a reduction in the number of precincts.

Office of Emergency Management

At 1:00 p.m. the Commissioners heard a department update from Yuma County Emergency Manager Jake Rockwell. Among topics discussed were fire, weather and the Yuma County Fair Emergency Action Plan. On July 30th Rockwell and his intern will be hosting a table top exercise to practice the Emergency Action Plan at the fair. The group lightly discussed Avian Flu. There are currently no cases in Yuma County.

- **Commissioner Gates moved to approve the Yuma County Fair Emergency Action Plan. Commissioner Weaver seconded the motion which passed by unanimous vote.**

Fairgrounds

At 1:30 p.m. the Commissioners met with Carmen Murray to discuss Fairground Updates. Murray received a cleaning bid that she will be presenting to the Fair Board for approval. The new air conditioner was installed on the Concession building roof. Due to electrical issues, the BOCC would like the swamp coolers hooked back up to get through the fair. The Commissioners have not made a final decision on what to do regarding the electricity issue in the concession building.

Yuma County Treasurer

At 2:00 p.m., Yuma County Treasurer, Chrystal Hammond joined the Commissioners to give the board a report on investments, tax collection, tax Liens and present the 2nd Quarter public trustee report. Hammond received the investment report from 3+1 and is happy with the score Yuma County received, and the advice provided. 3+1 had some recommendations for investments and is looking at possible changes. Tax revenue is 96% collected so far. The treasurer's office has 5 real estate parcels that will be eligible for deed in November. Hammond also is holding 2 open foreclosure files.

- **Commissioner Weaver moved to approve the Semi-Annual Treasurers report as presented by Hammond. Commissioner Gates seconded the motion which passed by unanimous vote.**
- **Commissioner Weaver moved to approve the 2nd Quarter Public Trustee Payment in the amount of \$1,715.00. Commissioner Gates seconded the motion which passed by unanimous vote.**

Aflac

At 2:30 p.m., Aflac Representative Josie Murray joined the Commissioners to introduce herself. Murray is servicing Aflac accounts in our area. She expressed her willingness to assist Yuma County employees who have existing Aflac accounts. Murray mentioned that she will prepare pricing information on various Aflac packages for the Commissioners to consider, in case they are interested in offering new Aflac benefit packages to Yuma County employees in the future.



Administrator's Report

At 3:00 p.m. 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 June 27, 2024 regular meeting of the Board of County Commissioners. Commissioner Weaver seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.**

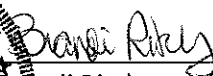
- *Signatures and Ratifications* –
 - Resolutions/Ordinances/Signatures:
 - **Commissioner Weaver moved to approve the Pay Agreement for the two deputies that attended POST Training in 2024. Commissioner Gates seconded the motion, which passed by unanimous vote.**
 - **Commissioner Gates moved to approve the budgeted reimbursement request from Yuma Ambulance. Commissioner Weaver seconded the motion which passed by unanimous vote.**

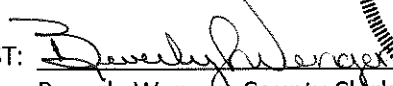
- *Department Reports* – The Commissioners received various department reports including an update on the administration of the Eastern Transportation Planning Region, discussion of business undertaken by the 911 Authority Board and Washington Yuma Combined Communications Board. Due to lack of interest, the BOCC decided to end the quarterly Task Force meetings.

- *Correspondence* – Ritchey presented correspondence received since the last meeting including an FLSA update, and an update on the county owned Idalia house that is open for bid. There also have been no CBOE protests as of July 15, 2024. Commissioner Gates expressed that he would like the BOCC to send a letter of support to Wray Area Foundation Inc. (WAFI). WAFI is trying to get financial assistance to the Yuma County area to assist citizens with repairs from the hail storm in May.
 - **Commissioner Gates moved to approve Commissioner Leerar's signature on the letter of support for WAFI. Commissioner Weaver seconded the motion which passed by unanimous vote.**
 - **Commissioner Gates moved to approve the application with NEO Connect to evaluate the fabric data and begin preparations for potential BEAD Grant finding applications. Commissioner Weaver seconded the motion which passed by unanimous vote.**

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 5:00 p.m. The next regular meetings of the Board of County Commissioners will be on July 30, 2024.


 Mike Leerar, Chairman


 Brandi Ritchey, Administrator

ATTEST: 
 Beverly Wenger, County Clerk

