



YUMA COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

September 16, 2024

Minutes¹

On September 16, 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 Administrator, Brandi Ritchey joined the Commissioners at 8:15 a.m. to present for signature the Application for Renewal for Vernon Liquor, LLC and get signature on the County Special Events Permit for the Vernon Community Center that was approved during the August 29, 2024 BOCC Meeting.

- **Commissioner Gates moved to approve signature on Vernon Liquor, LLC liquor license renewal. Commissioner Weaver seconded the motion which passed by unanimous vote.**
- **Commissioner Gates moved to approve the Special Events Permit for the Vernon Community Center. Commissioner Weaver seconded the motion which passed by unanimous vote.**

Road and Bridge

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

- **Fuel Contract** – The Commissioners reviewed a fuel contract for the outlying shops.
 - **Commissioner Gates moved to approve the contract for 30,000 gallons of fuel for the outlying Road and Bridge Shops at \$2.72 per gallon.**
- **Equipment Bids**– The Commissioners reviewed a bid from Wagner Cat for a Motor Grader and Walk N Roll Packer. The Commissioners will be making a decision after budget presentations.
- **Permit** – Andersen presented an Underground and Utility Permit for Sunrise Infrastructure LLC to install a 6" steel gas pipeline line under and along County Road RR and County Road PP.
 - **Commissioner Gates moved to approve the Underground and Utility Permit for Sunrise Infrastructure LLC as presented. Commissioner Weaver seconded the motion which passed by unanimous vote.**
- **Budget** – The group reviewed the current Road and Bridge Budget. Andersen presented a quote for a F-450 pickup to pull heavier loads to different job sites. Andersen will be getting more quotes from other dealers to present during his budget presentation.
- **Road Report** – Lorimer provided the BOCC with a road report. The blading crew has been working on patching roads North of Highway 34 on County Road Z. Patching has been done on County Road L South of Highway 34 and patching on County Road 39.5. The crew will start relaying material East on County Road 39 to repair damage from corn and silage harvest.

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



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 11:00 a.m.

Yuma County Economic Development

The Commissioners were joined by Darlene Carpio at 11:00 a.m. Carpio brought up that there is \$28,000 available for grant writing assistance. The Commissioners discussed the possibility of applying for technical assistance grant to secure a county-wide grant writer. The group reviewed the upcoming budget and discussed the rollout of the Economic Development Department's new marketing tool, "Return to Rural." The ongoing housing issues was also a topic of discussion.

One Digital

At 11:30 a.m., the Commissioners were joined by Jeff McNeilly from One Digital to discuss health insurance quotes for Yuma County Employees. The group reviewed multiple plan option, and discussed the potential benefits and implications for both the county and its employees. Further discussions are needed to determine the most beneficial plan for the county for the year 2025.

Office of Emergency Management

At 1:15 p.m. the Commissioners heard a department update from Yuma County Emergency Manager Jake Rockwell. Among other topics discussed were fire, weather, public health and safety. The group went and viewed the new command post trailer that Rockwell has put together. Rockwell would like to see a Rural Evacuation plan and map put together and would like to work with the WY Communications office to see that map put together.

Tourism Update

At 1:30 p.m. Shelby Clark and Yuma County Economic Development board member Mike Fecht joined the commissioners. Clark proposed to take the lead on the tourism project with the responsibilities including, promotional materials, strategic planning, stakeholder engagement, event coordination and intern management. The group discussed funding sources for this project, considering whether this position should be funded by Yuma County, Yuma County Economic Development or both entities. Additionally, the group discussed the viability of adding a lodging tax as a ballot question to Yuma County citizens and its likelihood of passing.

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 her public trustee report. Hammond received a second investment report from 3+1. Hammond has 3 termed investments that she will be rolling into higher interest investments. Tax revenue is 98.36% collected so far. The treasurer's office had 1 foreclosure and one pending sale this month along with one deed application that is active. Hammond will be reaching out to the DA's office regarding Omimex and Revive Resources delinquent taxes with the potential of the state tax investigator looking into this problem.



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 August 29, 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 budgeted reimbursement request for Idalia Ambulance Service for \$4,337.82 to be paid out of 01-403. Commissioner Gates seconded the motion which passed by unanimous vote.**
 - **Commissioner Gates moved to approve signature on the letter of support for Muse Artist Management. 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.

- *HR Updates* – The group discussed updates to the employee handbook pertaining to exempt employees and healthcare coverage for Yuma County employees for the year 2025. Additionally, the Waiver of Healthcare Coverage form was reviewed and approved. The group also reviewed salary authorizations for two new hires at the Yuma County Landfill. More discussion was had about health insurance for 2025. The group would like to review the plan options more before making a final decision.
 - Commissioner Weaver moved to approve the Handbook update regarding the definition of Exempt Employees. Commissioner Gates seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.
 - Commissioner Gates moved to approve the Waiver of Health Coverage Form. Commissioner Weaver seconded the motion which passed unanimously.
 - Commissioner Gates moved to approve the Salary Authorization for the Landfill Scale House Operator position. Commissioner Weaver seconded the motion which passed by unanimous vote.
 - Commissioner Gates moved to approve the Salary Authorization for the Landfill Manager position. Commissioner Weaver seconded the motion which passed by unanimous vote.



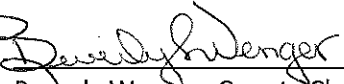
There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 5:15 p.m. The next regular meetings of the Board of County Commissioners will be on September 26, 2024.



Mike Leerar, Chairman



Brandi Ritchey, Administrator

ATTEST: 

Beverly Wenger, County Clerk

