



YUMA COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
September 26, 2024
Minutes¹

On September 26, 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 County Liquor License for Vernon Liquor LLC that was approved during the September 16, 2024 meeting.

- **Commissioner Gates moved to approve signature on the County License. Commissioner Weaver seconded the motion which passed by unanimous vote.**

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.

- *Sale of Assets* – Andersen reported that the pickup that was sent to Auction in Brush sold for \$7,500.00. Road and Bridge is still looking for a heavy-duty vehicle to transport equipment to various job sites across the county.
- *Stolen Signs* – The group discussed a reported incident involving the theft of a road sign. Andersen notified the sheriff's office regarding the matter. In an effort to deter further thefts, Andersen has installed cameras in discreet locations to monitor potential incidents.
- *Road Report*– Lorimer reported that work is being completed all over the county. Roads that recently have been fixed are County Road L and County Road 54, County Road FF and County Road 37, County Road 46 from County Road E to C and County Road 51.
- *Budget* – The group discussed fuel prices and the 2025 Budget. Andersen will present is preliminary budget during the afternoon budget work session.
- *Snow Removal* – The group discussed snow removal responsibilities at the courthouse and human service buildings. Historically, the road and bridge maintenance crew has handled snow removal. Andersen would like for his maintenance crew to be able to be out on the county roads removing snow. The group discussed moving snow removal to the courthouse maintenance team and will make a plan for this winter.

Human Services

The Board of County Commissioners convened as the Board of Social Services at 9:30 a.m. Human Services Director Kara Hoover, Bookkeeper Melanie Fisher and Administrative Assistant Lori Summers 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.

City of Wray

At 10:30 a.m., the Commissioners were joined by Wray City Manager, James DePue. DePue informed the Commissioners that the City of Wray has been awarded a grant totaling \$110,000 and along with other funding it will be utilized to purchase Wray EMS a new ambulance. The group discussed the issue of old trees along County Road 35, which leads to the school and the risk they pose if a tree were to fall. Ritchey will get bids for tree removal for the Commissioner's to review. DePue provided an update on the housing development by Hillcrest, noting that 20 units are nearing completion. The city is waiting for the final plat on the subdivision at the South end of Grant Street, which will facilitate the construction of more houses.

Yuma County Sheriff's Office

At 11:00 a.m., Deputy Matt Allacher joined the Commissioners to discuss the 2025 budget and the purchase of two new patrol vehicles. Allacher provided the Commissioners with a bid for two Ford F-150 pickups with the police package, totaling \$143,401.10. The group reviewed the vehicles damaged in the recent hail storm and assessed the vehicles that will be replaced or that could be sold. The Commissioners will add this request into the budget and will evaluate the 2025 expenses before making a final decision.

Neo Connect

At 11:30 a.m., the Commissioners were joined by members from Neo Connect. Neo Connect evaluated the fabric data for Yuma County and provided a map illustrating the current internet accessibility for Yuma County residents. The group reviewed the map that showed current service providers and areas with limited coverage to identify gaps and opportunities for improvement.

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 September 16, 2024 regular meeting of the Board of County Commissioners. Commissioner Weaver seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.**


- *Resolutions/Ordinances/Signatures and Ratifications* –
 - **Commissioner Weaver moved to approve signature on Adam Beauprez CDMVA Monthly report. Commissioner Gates seconded the motion which passed by unanimous vote.**
 - **Commissioner Leerar moved to designate Commissioner Weaver to serve on CCI's Legislative Committee on behalf of Yuma County and have Commissioner Gates as an alternate. Commissioner Gates seconded the motion which passed by unanimous vote.**
 - **Commissioner Weaver moved to approve signature on the VALE Grant Application presented by Victims Advocate Angela Witte in the amount of \$36,000.00. Commissioner Gates seconded the motion which passed by unanimous vote.**

- *Department Reports* – The Commissioners discussed departmental updates including ETPR Administration and business undertaken by the 911 Authority Board.

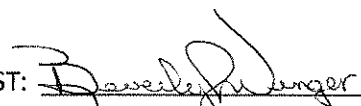


- *HR Updates* – Ritchey presented an insurance proposal from CEBT. The group reviewed their plan options and discussed the benefits. The group had a thorough discussion regarding the advantages and disadvantages of transitioning from CTSI to CEBT for health insurance. After careful consideration, the board has decided to proceed with the switch to CEBT for health insurance coverage.
 - **Commissioner Weaver made the motion to engage with CEBT for health insurance coverage. Commissioner Gates seconded the motion. The motion passed by unanimous vote.**

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 2:00 p.m. and the group conducted a Budget Work Session. The next regular meeting of the Board of County Commissioners will be on October 15, 2024.


Mike Leerar, Chairman


Brandi Ritchey, Administrator

ATTEST: 
Beverly Wenger, County Clerk

