

**YUMA COUNTY COMMISSIONERS**  
**February 13, 2025**  
**Minutes<sup>1</sup>**

On February 13, 2025 at 8:00 a.m., the Yuma County Board of Commissioners met in regular session. Commissioner Scott Weaver, Commissioner Mike Leerar, Chairman 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 and Bridge Supervisor Tom Andersen and Blade Foreman Justin Lorimer joined the meeting at 8:00 a.m. to provide department updates.

- *Road Request* – Deb Daniels from RRWCD joined the group at 8:00 AM to discuss a road request. She inquired about the feasibility of Yuma County Road and Bridge constructing roads for RRWCD to connect eight wells, with the potential for an additional seven wells. The group reviewed the presented map and discussed the significant costs and time required for the county to undertake such a large project. Ultimately, the Commissioners and Road and Bridge thoughtfully declined the request, suggesting that RRWCD consider hiring a private contractor capable of managing this project.
- *Heating* – Andersen brought up a conversation regarding the heating system in the Yuma Shop. After reviewing several high bids, he proposed the use of a kerosene heater as needed. The estimated cost for this option is approximately \$4,000. The Commissioners agreed with Andersen's suggestion, and no formal motion was required since the purchase price fell within his approved spending limit.
- *Permit* – Andersen presented a permit for Y-W Electric to bore a line along County Road 42 and J.
  - ***Commissioner Weaver moved to approve the utility permit for Y-W Electric to bore along County Road 42 at County Road J. Commissioner Leerar seconded the motion which passed by unanimous vote.***
- *BNSF Request*– BNSF has recently contacted Andersen about the upcoming Railroad Crossing renewals scheduled for 2025. They are requesting that the County manage traffic control and perform any necessary road surface patchwork on the approaches to facilitate the renewal of the track at the crossings. Following discussions, Yuma County has agreed to handle repairs within the County right of way, while BNSF will take responsibility for repairs within their own right of way, including traffic control.
- *Budget* – The group reviewed the current budget numbers. There has been an increase in tires and tubes. Fleet Foreman Matt Martin obtained a 10% discount coupon, enabling him to acquire tires for 2025 at a competitive price for inventory.
- *Road Report* – Lorimer provided the commissioners with a road report. The cold weather has hindered a lot of blading. The crew has currently been hauling material to County Road Y South of County Road 25.

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<sup>1</sup> 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, Child Welfare & Adult Protection Supervisor Hollie Hillman, Income Maintenance Supervisor Dalene Rogers, Legal Tech Ana Moran 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.

Fairgrounds Manager

At 11:00 a.m., Carmen Murray met with the Commissioners to address the heating and cooling concerns at the Yuma County Fairgrounds buildings. The group reviewed quotes for installing an HVAC unit in the Home-Ec Building. Following their discussion, it was decided that Murray should contact additional vendors to obtain more quotes. Additionally, the group reviewed an invoice from the City of Yuma regarding a transformer installation that had been completed. Gates will reach out to the City of Yuma to clarify the discrepancies between the invoice and the initial estimate provided before the project began.

Yuma County Treasurer

At 11:30 a.m. the Commissioners were joined by Yuma County Treasurer, Chrystal Hammond for her monthly update. Hammond updated the Commissioners on Investments, Tax Collection, Tax Liens, Public Trustee report and Office information. There have been a couple redemptions so Hammond reinvested those funds. She reported that tax statements have been mailed out. There was an issue with the printer delaying the tax statements to be mailed out until February 4<sup>th</sup>. There are currently 7 foreclosures. Hammond is still working on tax payment delinquencies from Omimex. Hammond has done more research on HB 25-1199 a bill proposing to increase certain tax payments to a maximum of four installments instead of two. Hammond will monitor this bill closely as updates arise to gain understanding of the applicable rules if the bill passes.

Yuma County Clerk

At 1:00 p.m., the Commissioners were joined by Yuma County Clerk Beverly Wenger, who presented two salary authorizations for new hires. The group also discussed adjustments to precincts in Yuma County. Wenger has sent the information for the new precincts to Sidwell and is currently awaiting the new maps and legal descriptions. This adjustment in precincts aims to enhance efficiency, reduce costs, and create better manageability. The group also discussed the path to take with Bev's upcoming retirement. Wenger and Ritchey will work together on moving forward with a hiring advertisement.

**Commissioner Weaver moved to approve both salary authorizations for the new hires in the Clerk's office at \$16.41/hour. Commissioner Leerar seconded the motion which passed by unanimous vote.**

Liquor License

County Administrator, Brandi Ritchey joined the Commissioners at 1:30 p.m. to present for signature the Application for Renewal for Jo's Liquor LLC and get signature on the County Special Events Permit for the Idalia After Prom Committee.

- **Commissioner Weaver moved to approve signature on Jo's Liquor, LLC liquor license renewal. Commissioner Leerar seconded the motion which passed by unanimous vote.**
- **Commissioner Leerar moved to approve the Special Events Permit for the Idalia After Prom Committee. Commissioner Weaver seconded the motion which passed by unanimous vote.**



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 January 29, 2025, 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 Ratify signature on the 2025 HUTF Report. Commissioner Leerar seconded the motion which passed by unanimous vote.**
    - **Commissioner Leerar moved to approve signature on the engagement letters for McMahan and MGT consulting for the 2024 audit. 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. Additionally, the Commissioners addressed an invoice from CTSI related to administrative charges on run-out claims, requesting Ritchey to file an appeal on the bill received. The Commissioners discussed a sponsorship with Media-Logic Radio for the Agriculture appreciation campaign.
  - **Commissioner Leerar moved to approve the \$5,000 Media-Logic Radio Agricultural Campaign with the intent that they also highlight Pork, goats, sheep, etc. into the campaign.**
  
- **Correspondence** – Ritchey presented an update on the correspondence received since the previous meeting. The group reviewed a budgeted expense for 2024 from South Y-W Ambulance Service. The Idalia Ambulance Service submitted their annual license for approval. A request from the Sheriff's office to acquire a new metal detector for court security using SCAAP Funds was also reviewed. Additionally, board appointments were made for the Washington-Yuma Combined Communications Center.
  - **Commissioner Weaver moved to approve the budget expense for Sout Y-W ambulance service in the amount of \$31,239.11. Commissioner Leerar seconded the motion which passed by unanimous vote.**
  - **Commissioner Weaver moved to approve the Idalia Ambulance Service License. Commissioner Leerar seconded the motion which passed by unanimous vote.**
  - **Commissioner Weaver moved to approve the purchase of a metal detector with SCAAP funds in the amount of \$7,112.12. Commissioner Leerar seconded the motion which passed by unanimous vote.**
  - **Commissioner Leerar moved to appoint Jerry Thompson and Ron Oestman to the Washington-Yuma Combined Communications and 911-Authority Board with the terms ending 12/2026. Commissioner Weaver seconded the motion. The motion 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 February 27, 2025.

Adam Gates, Chairman

Brandi Ritchey, Administrator

ATTEST:

Beverly Wenger, County Clerk

