



YUMA COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

July 15, 2025

Minutes¹

On July 15, 2025 at 8:00 a.m., the Yuma County Board of Commissioners met in regular session. Chairman Adam Gates, Commissioner Scott Weaver, Commissioner Mike Leerar, 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, Matt Martin and Justin Lorimer joined the meeting at 8:30 a.m. to provide department updates.

- *Forklift* – Andersen reported that the Road and Bridge department is experiencing issues with the 1964 forklift. He has identified a used forklift in Denver as a potential replacement for the current equipment.
 - **Commissioner Weaver moved to approve the purchase of the Hyster forklift in the amount of \$19,947 to be purchased out of 02-702-8941. Commissioner Leerar seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.**
- *Sale of Assets* – Andersen expressed concerns regarding the challenges in recruiting CDL drivers to fill vacant positions. Currently, six trucks are not in use. Andersen suggested selling three of the semis at Road and Bridge and increasing the hiring of lease drivers next year. The Commissioners requested detailed figures on employee costs and the expenses associated with operating semis before making any decisions.
- *Budget/Efficiencies* – The group reviewed the budget and reviewed specific line items. Andersen pointed out that the leased trucks have 580 hours remaining. The team discussed current staffing levels and plans for future hiring, including an active advertisement for a trucking position. Andersen and Lorimer expressed interest in advertising for a blading position as well.
- *Road Report* – Crews have finished working on a section of road on County Road J from County Road 46 to County Road 51. Crews have also been bringing material to muddy areas where rain has washed out roads or left holes.

Landuse

County Land Use Administrator, Jodi Brady was heard at 9:30 a.m. to review Land Use business and conduct the first reading of Ordinance 2025-2. At 9:37 a.m. Chairman Gates opened the public hearing. Jody also presented two extensions for Minor Land Use Permits DEV0124-03 and 0124-02 to extend the Met Tower operation until January 1st, 2028. The hearing closed at 9:51a.m.

Commissioner Weaver moved to approve signature on Resolution 07-15-2025A, approving the extension for the Minor Land Use Permit DEV0124-03 to allow the Met Tower to continue to operate until January 1, 2028. Commissioner Leerar seconded the motion which passed by unanimous vote.

Commissioner Weaver moved to approve signature on Resolution 07-15-2025B, approving the extension for the Minor Land Use Permit DEV0124-02 to allow the Met Tower to continue to operate until January 1, 2028. Commissioner Leerar seconded the motion which passed by unanimous vote.

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



Childcare Discussion

At 10:00 a.m., the Commissioners participated in a conference call with Jennifer Kramer, Levi Kramer, Claudia Strait, James DePue, and Kara Hoover to discuss challenges related to employment and childcare shortages within the county. Claudia Strait provided statistics on childcare in Yuma County and outlined licensing requirements for home-based childcare providers. The ongoing issue of insufficient childcare options is primarily due to a decline in homecare providers, lack of space in daycare centers and funding. The group engaged in a brainstorming session to identify potential solutions.

Executive Session

At 11:15 a.m., the Commissioners conducted an executive session. At 11:15 a.m., **Commissioner Weaver moved to enter an executive session under CRS 24-6-402(4)(b) for legal advice on specific legal matters. Commissioner Leerar seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.** Present for executive session were Chairman Adam Gates, Commissioner Mike Leerar, Commissioner Scott Weaver, Administrator Brandi Ritchey, County Attorney Wilson Scarbeary, and Undersheriff Larry Gilliland. Commissioner Weaver made a motion to exit executive session at 11:46 a.m., Commissioner Leerar seconded the motion which passed unanimously. No action was taken following the executive session.

Emergency Management

At 1:00 p.m., the Commissioners received an update from Yuma County Emergency Manager Jake Rockwell. Key topics of discussion were fire safety, weather conditions, and public health information. Rockwell presented the MOU for a Threat Assessment Group with other agencies. The group also discussed the Yuma County Fair Emergency Action Plan. The group had the final reading of Ordinance 2025-1. There was one member of the public present expressing his concerns about regulation.

- **Commissioner Leerar moved to approve the Threat Assessment MOU. Commissioner Weaver seconded the motion which passed by unanimous vote.**
- **Commissioner Weaver moved to approve the 2025 Yuma County Fair Emergency Plan. Commissioner Leerar seconded the motion which passed by unanimous vote.**
- **Commissioner Weaver moved to adopt Ordinance 2025-1 Commissioner Leerar seconded the motion which passed unanimously.**

Human Services

The Board of County Commissioners convened as the Board of Social Services at 1:30 p.m. Human Services Director Kara Hoover, Income Maintenance Supervisor Dalene Rogers, IV-D Administrator Ana Moran, and Office Manager Lori Summers were present. The Department of Human Services maintains detailed minutes of the Board of Social Services separately. The Board of County Commissioners reconvened at 2:30 p.m.



Treasurer

At 2:30 p.m., the Commissioners were joined by Yuma County Treasurer Chrystal Hammond for her monthly update. Hammond provided insights on several topics, including investments, tax collection, tax liens, the public trustee report, and office information. She presented a July investment report for the Commissioners to review. Hammond reported that Yuma County has currently collected 96.46% of 2024 property taxes. There are two active foreclosures and one file with a pending overbid payment. She also presented the second quarter Public Trustee report for approval and the semi-annual report to be published in local newspapers. Chrystal completed software demonstrations with Harris Collectware, Tyler Technologies, GSA, and OpenGov. The group discussed her views on these software companies, focusing on cost-effectiveness and potential improvements to the current software used by the Treasurer's Office. The group is leaning towards Harris Collectware which can work in conjunction with the Assessor's Office.

- **Commissioner Weaver moved to approve the 2nd Quarter Public Trustee report. Commissioner Leerar seconded the motion which passed unanimously.**
- **Commissioner Weaver moved to approve the Semi-Annual Report. Commissioner Leerar seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.**

Fairground Manager

At 3:15, the Commissioners convened with Fairgrounds Manager Carmen Murray. She reported an issue regarding the electrical wiring for the 10-ton cooling unit at the Fairgrounds Concessions building. The Commissioners requested that the electrical wiring be routed to the south side of the building to optimize the unit's efficiency.

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 June 30, 2025 regular meeting of the Board of County Commissioners. Commissioner Weaver seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.**
- **Commissioner Leerar moved to approve the Yuma County Accounts payable check sequence 88754-83782 in the amount of \$127,296.55 ran on 6/27/2025, sequence 83783-83844 in the amount of \$688,065.60 ran on 6/30/2025, check 83845 in the amount of \$420.95 ran on 6/30/2025, sequence 83846-83899 in the amount of \$413,654.29 ran on 6/30/2025 and payroll in the amount of \$277,692.16 ran on 7/07/2025. Commissioner Weaver seconded the motion which passed unanimously.**

Resolutions/Ordinances/Signatures –

- **Commissioner Leerar moved to sign the vehicle transportation permits for Centennial Mental Health Commissioner Weaver seconded the motion which passed by unanimous vote.**
- **Commissioner Weaver moved to sign the seven Vehicle Transportation Permits for Centennial Mental Health. Commissioner Leerar seconded the motion which passed unanimously.**

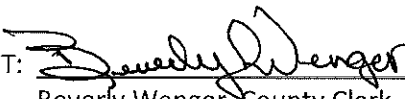


Department Reports – The Commissioners reviewed several departmental reports, which included an update on the administration of the Eastern Transportation Planning Region and a discussion regarding the activities of the 911 Authority Board. They also considered a request from an oversized load company to park at the leased gravel pit. After reviewing the lease agreement and discussing liability concerns, the BOCC decided that the company should not park on the property. Ritchey received concerns and complaints raised by former employees and presented the issues to the BOCC, noting that no additional actions were undertaken by the Commissioners. Ritchey will conduct research into the location of county owned signs.

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 29, 2025.


Adam Gates, Chairman


Brandi Ritchey, Administrator

ATTEST: 
Beverly Wenger, County Clerk

