

## YUMA COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

August 14, 2025

### Minutes<sup>1</sup>

On August 14, 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.

- **New Hires** – Andersen submitted two salary authorizations: one for maintenance in the amount of \$18.00 and another for equipment operation in the amount of \$18.50, along with a third authorization for a part-time mowing position in the amount of \$20.00. The group discussed the option of renting the County owned Idalia house to a new hire.
  - **Commissioner Leerar moved to approve the Equipment Operator Salary Authorization in the amount of \$18.50/hour. Commissioner Weaver seconded the motion which passed unanimously.**
  - **Commissioner Leerar moved to approve the Maintenance Salary Authorization in the amount of \$18.00/hour. Commissioner Weaver seconded the motion which passed unanimously.**
  - **Commissioner Leerar moved to approve the Part-time Mower Salary Authorization in the amount of \$20.00/hour. Commissioner Weaver seconded the motion which passed unanimously.**
- **Operating Costs** - Andersen's team compiled maintenance records detailing the operating costs associated with three graders. They reviewed the expenses related to repairs and maintenance that the graders have incurred. They plan to continue their discussion as they begin preparing the 2026 budget.
- **Budget** - The group reviewed the current budget to date. Martin stated that the current fuel price is \$2.67. Gates asked if they were at a good place with tires and tubes. Martin stated that he is going to need to purchase blade tires.
- **Road Report** - The blading crew has completed repairs on Old Post Road. They have filled holes on County Road JJ. County Road 51 west of Highway 385, and County Road CC between County Road 51 and County Road 54 have had repairs done. Their next focus will be on County Roads K and J, located north of the Arikaree River.

#### Human Services

The Board of County Commissioners convened as the Board of Social Services at 9:30 a.m. Human Services Director Kara Hoover, Income Maintenance Supervisor Dalene Rogers, IV-D Administrator Ana Moran, Adult Protection Supervisor Hollie Hillman, Bookkeeper Kim Langley and Office Manager Lori Summers were present. The entire staff gathered for a virtual presentation from the state for a distinguished service award. The Department of Human Services maintains detailed minutes of the Board of Social Services separately. The Board of County Commissioners reconvened at 11:30 a.m.

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



#### Colorado House District 63 Representative

At 11:30 a.m., the Commissioners welcomed Colorado House District 63 Representative Dusty Johnson, who provided an overview of several topics. The discussion included the upcoming special session focused on a proposed \$1 billion budget cut that may involve increased taxes and fees, raising concerns about potential infringements on the Taxpayer Bill of Rights (TABOR). The group also addressed issues related to SNAP funding, school lunch programs, and the postponement of wolf reintroduction for another year. Additionally, a bill is being introduced to classify EMS and paramedics as essential providers. Another topic was the suit filed from the State of Nebraska regarding the Perkins County Canal, which pertains to the compact agreement and the irrigation season; the state has until September 15th to submit a rebuttal letter on this matter.

#### Emergency Management

At 1:00 p.m., the Commissioners received an update from Yuma County Emergency Manager Jake Rockwell. Key topics included fire safety measures, current weather conditions, and relevant public health information. Rockwell has submitted his Quarter 2 EMPG Narrative and Request for Reimbursement reports. Rockwell is working with local stakeholders to create a list of tornado shelter locations that can be accessed after hours or on weekends, to ensure community safety during emergencies. Additionally, a new grant opportunity may be opening to support the establishment of 24/7 tornado shelters. The group further discussed the criteria required for FEMA to provide disaster funding.

#### Engie Consulting

At 3:15, the Commissioners joined a virtual meeting with Engie Consulting. Present from Engie were John Joyle and Daniel Timmer. Engie is a renewable developer that has over 6.5 GW of wind and solar operations in North America and Canada. Doyle is seeking clarification on the application fee and Permit fee timing. If approved, Engie will provide 450-500 temporary part time jobs and 20-25 full time permanent jobs in Yuma and Kit Carson County. Doyle suggested having the landowners and neighbors submit a collective letter of support rather than appearing individually regarding the setback requirements for wind towers.

#### Treasurer

At 2:00 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. Hammond stated that there were not a lot of investment changes at this time. There is a significant number of redemptions coming over the next month that will be reinvested into termed investments. Hammond reported that Yuma County has currently collected 98.03% of 2024 property taxes. There are two active foreclosures. The treasurer's office has begun working with Harris to start the initial steps for a potential software conversion. Harris is drawing up a contract for the county attorney to review with the goal of converting as soon as the budget is approved in late December. Hammond is working with Finance Officer Sarah Carwin to update banking signature cards as well.

### Landuse

County Land Use Administrator, Jodi Brady was heard at 2:30 p.m. for the final reading of Ordinance 2025-2. There was no one from the public present for the final reading.

- **Commissioner Weaver moved to suspend the full reading of Ordinance 2025-2. Commissioner Leerar seconded the motion which passed by unanimous vote.**

The public hearing closed at 2:35p.m.

- **Commissioner Weaver moved to approve Ordinance 2025-02. Commissioner Leerar seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.**

Jodi presented a Master Service Agreement with Solas Energy and a Mutual Non-Disclosure Agreement with Solas Energy Consulting.

- **Commissioner Leerar moved to approve Resolution 8-14-2025 A Master Services Agreement and Mutual Non-Disclosure Agreement with Solas Energy Consulting. Commissioner Weaver seconded the motion which passed unanimously.**

The group also had a discussion regarding the water requirements outlined in the land use code. They explored the potential for amending the Activity Notice to incorporate a water verification requirement. Additionally, the group addressed setback regulations and considered distributing a survey to landowners to gather input on setback requirements for wind towers.

### 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 July 29, 2025, regular meeting of the Board of County Commissioners. Commissioner Weaver seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.**
- **Commissioner Weaver moved to approve the Yuma County accounts payable check sequence 84007-84051 in the amount of \$255,761.51 ran on 8/1/2025, sequence 84052-84054 in the amount of \$3,125.00 ran on 8/1/2025, sequence 84055-84114 in the amount of \$360,588.58 ran on 8/6/2025 and payroll check 35335 and EFT in the amount of \$283,952.56 ran on 8/6/2025. Commissioner Leerar seconded the motion which passed unanimously.**

*Resolutions/Ordinances/Signatures* –

- **Commissioner Leerar moved to ratify the approval to join the Child Care Facility Development Cohort with the City of Wray. Commissioner Weaver seconded the motion which passed by unanimous vote.**
- **Commissioner Weaver moved to approve the SIPA contract for Remediation Services not to exceed \$3,000.00. Commissioner Leerar seconded the motion which passed by unanimous vote.**


*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. Ritchey stated that no letters of interest were submitted to her for the RRWCD board. Ritchey will run another ad in the paper for RRWCD and the Fair boards open positions. The group signed a letter regarding the transparency and governance of the RRWCD Board.



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 August 28, 2025.

  
Adam Gates, Chairman

  
Brandi Ritchey, Administrator

ATTEST:   
Beverly Wenger, County Clerk

