



## YUMA COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

November 25, 2025

Minutes<sup>1</sup>

On November 25, 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 Blade Forman Justin Lorimer joined the meeting at 8:30 a.m. to provide department updates.

- *Salary Authorizations* – Lorimer provided three salary authorizations for approval.
  - **Commissioner Weaver moved to approve the following three salary authorizations: a new Truck Driving position at \$19.51/hour, a new Mining position at \$18.50/hour, and a 6-month increase for a Blade Operator to \$19.00/hour. Commissioner Leerar seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.**
- *Repairs to Railroad Approach* – Yuma County Road and Bridge plans to begin repairs on the north side of the railroad tracks along County Road M in mid-December. BNSF has been notified and will provide flaggers for the project.
- *Efficiencies/Road Report* – The group reviewed Lorimer's efficiency report. The recent rainfall has been helpful for blading roads. Trucks are still actively transporting materials across the county to assist various area blades in repairing the holes and damage caused to the roads during the summer harvest. Andersen and Lorimer are actively reviewing employee placements to optimize travel times to blading locations.
- *Budget* – Andersen is currently waiting on a bid from Bettis Construction to evaluate alongside the bid received from Simon's for repairs on County Road 39, considered for the 2026 budget year. Andersen also had to have repairs done to the well at the county owned Idalia house. Ritchey noted that there have been no interested parties in the Idalia house and intends to list it with a realtor. The group discussed that during winter months, when employees take time off due to bad weather and the roads need snow removal, employees can clear the snow and receive overtime pay for that week instead of earning comp time off, subject to supervisor approval.

### 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 Kim Langley, 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 10:30 a.m.

### Senator Byron Pelton

At 10:30, Colorado State Senator, Byron Pelton joined the Commissioners to give updates on multiple topics going on at the region and state level. Senator Pelton expressed concerns over the Governor's proposals in his FY 2026-27 budget request to centralize call center operations and document management for Medicaid, SNAP, fraud investigations and quality assurance for Medicaid.

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



**Commissioner Leerar moved to approve Resolution 11-25-2025D, a Resolution Establishing Expedited Review Policies for Affordable Housing Projects. Commissioner Weaver seconded the motion which passed by unanimous vote.**

Jodi also gave updates regarding the Land Use code updates and dates she must follow, and discussion was had about the Fire Resilience Code.

**Administrator's Report**

Administrator Brandi Ritchey reviewed calls, correspondence, and presented the following for discussion and action at 2:00 p.m.:

*Minutes* – The Commissioners reviewed the minutes from the previous BOCC meetings.

- **Commissioner Leerar moved to approve the minutes from the November 13, 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 84641-84686 in the amount of \$243,341.22 ran on 11/14/2025. Commissioner Weaver seconded the motion which passed unanimously.**

**Resolutions/Ordinances/Signatures –**

- **Commissioner Weaver moved to ratify Commissioner Gates' signature on the 2026 VOCA Grant Award. Commissioner Leerar seconded the motion which passed unanimously.**
- **Commissioner Weaver moved to sign the Victims Assistant VALE Grant Award Contract in the amount of \$20,000.00. Commissioner Leerar seconded the motion which passed by unanimous vote.**
- **Commissioner Leerar moved to approve the City of Yuma's 2025 budgeted reimbursement request in the amount of \$60,000 to be paid from account 01-403-6352. Commissioner Weaver seconded the motion which passed unanimously.**
- **Commissioner Weaver moved to approve the \$500 bonuses for Full Time Staff, \$250 for Full Time Staff employed 6-months or less, \$250 for Part Time staff and \$50.00 gift certificates for all employees. Commissioner Gates 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. The group also reviewed a letter of support for the Yuma County Economic Development Enterprise Zone Project.

- **Commissioner Weaver moved to approve signature on the Yuma County Economic Development Enterprise Zone Project. Commissioner Leerar seconded the motion which passed unanimously.**



*HR Updates* – Ritchey provided an update on a recent FMLA/ADA claim. She is currently coordinating a schedule for a Veteran Officer to visit Wray twice a month to assist veterans with their benefits. Ritchey announced that a contract is being finalized for the sale of the Eckley property, with the closing set to occur after the first of the year. Ritchey also shared an update from the Colorado Finance Officer Conference, which she attended with Finance Officer Sarah Carwin. She informed the Commissioners that she is currently in a waiting phase with the 2026 budget, anticipating final bids for HVAC systems, fleet vehicles, and CAPP quotes. She expects to have all information entered before the final budget work session on December 9th.

*Fairgrounds*

At 2:30 p.m., Carmen Murray joined the commissioners to discuss the Fairgrounds budget. The group discussed whether to proceed with renovations to the Home-Ec building. The BOCC decided to postpone any renovations for the 2026 budget year, allowing more time for research on grant options as well as creating a plan for the best way to utilize a new building with other departments before making any decisions. The group also discussed the necessity of hiring maintenance work in preparation for the 2026 fair.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 3:15 p.m. to conduct a budget work session. The next regular meetings of the Board of County Commissioners will be on December 15, 2025.



Adam Gates, Chairman



Brandi Ritchey, Administrator

ATTEST: Pamela Zuege, Deputy

Haleigh D. Studer, County Clerk

