



YUMA COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

November 13, 2025

Minutes¹

On October 16, 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 and Matt Martin joined the meeting at 8:30 a.m. to provide department updates.

- *Fuel* – Andersen and Martin were worried about exceeding their fuel budget, as their fuel expenditure had surpassed the budget by 7%. They suspected that fuel delivery for the landfill was being charged to the Road and Bridge department. Ritchey confirmed that each time the fuel bill is received, it is reviewed, and the landfill is billed for the specific amount of fuel it uses, as detailed on the invoice. Andersen and Martin are going to review the amount of fuel that has been delivered this year and calculate how much they need to increase the fuel budget for the 2026 budget.
- *Area Changes* – There has been a shift in the locations of blade operators. Andersen and Lorimer are relocating operators to areas closer to their homes and base locations, to increase efficiency by reducing travel time to job sites.
- *Salary Authorization* – Andersen reviewed salaries for the 2026 Budget year. He presented two salary authorizations for approval. One for the Fleet Foreman position and one for the Parts Clerk position who hit his 6-month employment mark.
 - **Commissioner Leerar moved to approve the salary authorization for the fleet foreman position in the amount of \$25.01/hour and the Parts Clerk position in the amount of \$19.00/hour. Commissioner Weaver seconded the motion which passed unanimously.**
- *Road Report* – Trucks have been hauling to different areas still repairing road damage from harvest. The maintenance team is making progress mowing and has a few areas left.

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, Adult Protection Supervisor Hollie Hillman, Office Manager Lori Summers, IV-D Administrator Ana Moran and Eligibility Program Specialist Vanessa Cortez were present. The Department of Human Services maintains detailed minutes of the Board of Social Services separately. The Board of County Commissioners reconvened at 11:00 a.m.

Colorado Division of Veteran Affairs

At 11:00 a.m., Eric Winterrowd and Bruce Cowan joined the commissioners to give them an update regarding their finding of VSO reports. The group discussed how to move forward with the states mandates that govern Veteran Service Officers. Winterrowd and Cowan explained the steps that they are taking to try to improve the VSO program. The Commissioners informed the two that the training portion of their program needs significant improvement. They will provide an employee to cover the area until

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



the county finds a VSO to represent Yuma County. Ritchey will bill the State VSO office for the cost of advertising for the vacant position.

Economic Development

At 1:00 p.m., Darlene Carpio, the Director of Economic Development, addressed the commissioners regarding the Enterprise Zone Support Letter she is requesting. The Enterprise Zone Program aims to promote development in economically challenged areas of the state. Taxpayers who contribute to projects within these zones may be eligible for income tax credits. Enterprise zones need to meet at least one of the economic distress criteria: a five-year population growth rate that is less than 25% of the state average, an unemployment rate of 125% or more than the state average, and a per capita income that falls below 75% of the state average.

Emergency Management

At 1:15 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 stated that he had competed and submitted his EMPG 3rd Quarter Reports. The group reviewed the Yuma county Shelter Guide Plan, the OEM Budget proposal and the 2026 EMPG Work Plan Document.

- **Commissioner Leerar moved to approve the EMPG Grant application for the OEM Department. Commissioner Weaver seconded the motion which passed unanimously.**

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 are 3 active deed applications with an additional 10 that will be recorded mid-November. Hammond reported that Yuma County has currently collected 99.63% of 2024 property taxes. There are five active foreclosures, one in bankruptcy and one that has been sold and is pending deed issuance. The treasurer's office has begun working with Harris to start the initial steps for a potential software conversion. Hammond received an amendment to the contract from Harris. The county attorney reviewed the contract and saw no issues.

- **Commissioner Leerar moved to approve Resolution 11-13-2025 A, a resolution opening a Bank account at First Pioneer National Bank for the Department of Human Services. Commissioner Weaver seconded the motion which passed unanimously.**
- **Commissioner Leerar moved to approve Resolution 11-13-2025 B, a resolution opening a Bank account at First Pioneer National Bank for the Department of Human Services. Commissioner Weaver seconded the motion which passed unanimously.**
- **Commissioner Weaver moved to approve Resolution 11-13-2025 C, a resolution opening a bank account at First Pioneer National Bank for a Public Trustee Escrow Funds Account. Commissioner Leerar seconded the motion which passed unanimously.**
- **Commissioner Weaver moved to ratify the approval to move forward with the transition to new tax software with Harris. Commissioner Leerar seconded the motion which passed by unanimous vote.**



Administrator's Report

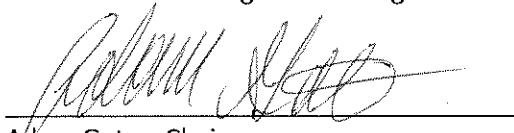
At 2:30 p.m., Administrator Brandi Ritchey reviewed calls, correspondence, and presented the following for discussion and action:

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

- Commissioner Leerar moved to approve the minutes from the October 30, 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 84553-84589 in the amount of \$142,397.20 ran on 10/31/2025, sequence 84590-84640 in the amount of \$381,989.99 ran on 11/6/2025, and payroll check 35338 and EFT in the amount of \$285,725.24 ran on 11/6/2025. 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. Ritchey provided an update regarding the progress with the closing for the sale of the Eckley property and will inform them when she will need a commissioner present for the closing. Additionally, Ritchey provided an update on the Idalia Plat issue and updated them on an ongoing FMLA/ADA matter that she is working through. Maintenance Supervisor, Travis Dinsmore stopped in to present a bid from Wern air to update the boilers in the courthouse. The group would like Wern Air to update their bid to reflect both boilers being replaced rather than just one. No decision was made at this time.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 3:15 p.m. and conducted a budget work session. The next regular meetings of the Board of County Commissioners will be on November 25, 2025.



Adam Gates, Chairman



Brandi Ritchey, Administrator

ATTEST: Haligh D. Studer
Haleigh D. Studer, County Clerk

