

YUMA COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
January 15, 2026
Minutes¹

On January 15, 2026 at 8:00 a.m., the Yuma County Board of Commissioners met in regular session. Chairman Scott Weaver, Commissioner Mike Leerar, Commissioner 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.

Public Comment

At 8:15 a.m. Larry Hilbert and Rick Vanvickle joined the Commissioners to offer a prayer for their guidance and for a prosperous year for Yuma County.

Road and Bridge

Road & Bridge Supervisor Blade Supervisor Justin Lorimer and Fleet Forman Matt Martin joined the meeting at 8:30 a.m. to provide department updates.

- *2026 Capital Equipment* – Lorimer reported that the new blades are expected to arrive between late March and early April. Once they are delivered, he will visit 4Rivers Equipment to show where he would like specific attachments mounted. The budgeted fleet pickup has also been delivered.
- *Road Report* – Crews have been transporting materials to County Road 9, County Road KK, and County Road FF near the Wauneta Shop. They also have been working on the removal of rock shelves on County Road AA while delivering new material to that road as well.
- *Fleet Programming* – Martin stated that Pubworks will be transitioning to G-Works, a software program that the Road and Bridge department uses to monitor fuel consumption, equipment repairs, inventory and various other functions. He mentioned that Pubworks would credit Yuma County for the remaining balance and apply it towards the amount due for G-Works in 2026. Ritchey recommended researching other fleet management programs to ensure that Yuma County is receiving fair value for the services provided by G-Works.

Human Services

The Board of County Commissioners convened as the Board of Social Services at 9:30 a.m. Human Services Director Kara Hoover, Adult Protection Supervisor Hollie Hillman, Office Manager Lori Summers and Legal Tech I Andrea Valenzuela 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.

CEBT

At 11:00 a.m., Terry Rook, Director at CEBT (Colorado Employee Benefit Trust), joined the commissioners to discuss various options available to entities partnering with CEBT. He explained the differences between Fully Insured, Self-Funded, and Pooling insurance models, noting the advantages of pooling over shopping the insurance market. The group reviewed the 2025 utilization chart, where Rook stated that maintaining a utilization rate of around 91.5% is important to avoid significant premium increases. Rook plans to meet with Ritchey quarterly in 2026 to review the utilization.

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



Office of Emergency Management

At 1:00 p.m., the Commissioners received an update from Yuma County Emergency Manager Jake Rockwell. Key topics included fire safety, weather conditions, and public health information. The group discussed YW Electric's plan to operate with enhanced powerline safety settings in response to the heightened fire danger from anticipated high wind speeds. Rockwell shared information from Tanya Fell from NRCS, Yuma Conservation District who informed him about a grant opportunity that can assist individuals with burnt tree rows. Rockwell is pursuing a grant to help provide generators for communities who would benefit from them, including the Town of Eckley.

County Treasurer, Chrystal Hammond

At 1:30 PM, Yuma County Treasurer Chrystal Hammond met with the Commissioners to provide departmental updates. Hammond met with 3+1 in December, noting that Yuma County's Cashvest Score is 91, up from 89 in September. The Treasurer's office is finalizing 2025 tax statements. Yuma County is 99.86% collected for the 2024 taxes. She reported that there are currently 10 active deed applications and 4 ongoing foreclosures, including one in bankruptcy, with a new case opened this week. Additionally, she noted that the conversion to Harris software is going well. Staff from Harris recently visited the Treasurer's Office to help with balancing the tax roll from the Assessor's Office. Hammond presented various reports for the Commissioners to review including the Uncollectible Tax Resolution, the Public Trustee Report, the Annual Banking Resolution and the Annual Investment Resolution.

- **Commissioner Leerar moved to approve signature on the 2025 Fourth Quarter Public Trustee report as presented. Commissioner Gates seconded the motions, which passed by unanimous vote.**
- **Commissioner Leerar moved to approve Resolution 01-15-2026 A, a resolution to approve the removal of uncollectible tax from the tax rolls. Commissioner Gates seconded the motion, which passed by unanimous vote.**
- **Commissioner Leerar moved to approve Resolution 01-15-2026 B, a resolution to approve the authorized signers for accounts held at First Pioneer National Bank, Wray State Bank and Bank of Colorado. Commissioner Gates seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.**
- **Commissioner Leerar moved to approve Resolution 01-15-2026 C, a resolution approving the County Treasurer to deposit and invest funds. Commissioner Gates seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.**

Fairgrounds Manager

At 2:00 p.m., Yuma County Fairgrounds Manager, Carmen Murray presented the Mega Music Stage Contract for the 2026 fair.

- **Commissioner Gates moved to approve the Mega Music Stage Contract. Commissioner Leerar seconded the motion which passed unanimously.**

Administrator's Report

At 2:15 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 Gates moved to approve the minutes from the December 30, 2025 regular meeting of the Board of County Commissioners. Commissioner Leerar seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.**



- **Commissioner Gates moved to approve the minutes from the January 9, 2026 special meeting of the Board of County Commissioners. Commissioner Leerar seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.**
- **Commissioner Leerar moved to approve the Yuma County accounts payable check sequence 84822-84842 in the amount of \$35,243.08 ran on 12/19/2025, sequence 84843-84882 in the amount of \$209,223.78 ran on 12/30/2025, sequence 84883-84940 in the amount of \$431,184.58 ran on 1/6/2026, sequence 84941-84946 in the amount of \$5,585.64 ran on 1/13/2026, payroll check 35341 and EFT in the amount of \$285,885.51 ran on 1/6/2026 and payroll checks 35342-35343 in the amount of 7,542.06 ran on 1/13/2026. Commissioner Gates seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.**

Resolutions/Ordinances/Signatures/Ratifications:

- **Commissioner Leerar moved to ratify the signatures on Resolution 01/09/2026 A, a Resolution Updating the 2025 Mill Levies for the 2026 Budget Year. Commissioner Gates seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.**
- **Commissioner Leerar moved to ratify Commissioner Weaver's signature on the Certification of Tax Levies for the budget year of 2026. Commissioner Gates seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.**

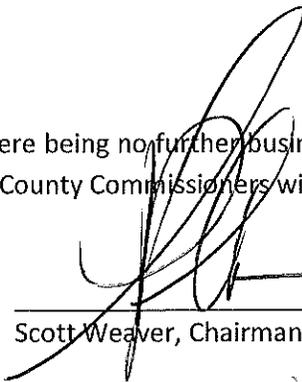
Department Reports – The Commissioners reviewed several departmental reports, which included an update on the administration of the Eastern Transportation Planning Region and a discussion regarding the activities of the 911 Authority Board. Ritchey stated that the 2025-2026 Q2 Court Security Grant was approved in the amount of \$5,123.58. Ritchey presented letters of interest for the East and West Cemetery Districts as well as one for the Washington Yuma Combined Communications and 911 Authority Board. Ritchey also presented a letter for signature to CDOT, requesting an investigation into the alarming number of accidents occurring at County Road M and Highway 34.

- **Commissioner Gates moved to approve the signatures on the letter to CDOT. Commissioner Leerar seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.**
- **Commissioner Gates moved to appoint Charlotte Smith to the East Yuma County Cemetery Board for a term through December 31, 2031 and Robert M. Mueller to the West Yuma County Cemetery Board for a term through December 31, 2031. Commissioner Weaver seconded the motion which passed unanimously.**

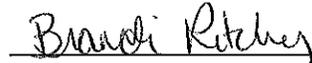
Yuma County Water Authority Public Improvement District

At 2:45 p.m. the Commissioners adjourned and convened as the Yuma County Water Authority Public Improvement District Board. Minutes for the Yuma County Water Authority Public Improvement District are kept separately.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 4:15 p.m. The next regular meeting of the Board of County Commissioners will be on January 29, 2026.



Scott Weaver, Chairman



Brandi Ritchey, Administrator

ATTEST: 

Haleigh D. Studer, County Clerk

