

YUMA COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
January 29, 2026
Minutes¹

On January 29, 2026 at 8:00 a.m., the Yuma County Board of Commissioners met in regular session. Chairman Scott Weaver, Commissioner Adam Gates, 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.

Administrator's Report

Administrator Brandi Ritchey reviewed calls, correspondence, and presented the following for discussion and action at 8:30 a.m.:

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

- **Commissioner Gates moved to approve the minutes from the January 15, 2026 regular meeting of the Board of County Commissioners. Commissioner Leerar seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.**
- **Commissioner Gates moved to approve the Yuma County Accounts payable check sequence 84947-85012 in the amount of \$559,819.57 ran on 01/16/2026 and sequence 85013-85055 in the amount of \$628,987.00 ran on 01/23/2026. Commissioner Leerar seconded the motion which passed unanimously.**

Resolutions/Ordinances/Signatures –

- **Commissioner Leerar moved to approve the South YW Ambulance Service License. Commissioner Gates seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.**
- **Commissioner Leerar moved to ratify the approval of two printer contracts between Yuma County and Journal Office Supply for the Road and Bridge and Land Use/OEM Departments. Commissioner Gates seconded the motion which passed unanimously.**
- **Commissioner Leerar moved to ratify the signature on the 2026 Steering Committees Designation of Proxy form for CCI appointing Brandi Ritchey as Proxy. Commissioner Gates seconded the motion which passed unanimously.**

Department Reports - The Commissioners received several department reports, which included an update on the administration of the Eastern Transportation Planning Region and a discussion of activities conducted by the 911 Authority Board. Ritchey presented the 2026 Fair Adventure Zone Contract for approval, along with a salary authorization for a certified appraiser position in the Assessor's Office. The Commissioners also reviewed the City of Wray's 2025 fourth-quarter reimbursement request. Additionally, Ritchey presented bids for the Chiller Pump replacement from Glassman's Corporation and Wern Air for the Commissioners' consideration. She informed the Commissioners about the transition of legal representation; Yuma County will need to contact Brandon Dittman for any attorney-related correspondence. Finally, the board reviewed letters of interest for appointments to the Eckley Cemetery and Washington-Yuma Combined Communications Boards.

- **Commissioner Leerar moved to approve the Adventure Zone Contract for the 2026 Fair. Commissioner Gates seconded the motion which passed unanimously.**

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

- Commissioner Gates moved to approve the Certified Appraiser Salary Authorization for the Assessor's Office. Commissioner Leerar seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.
- Commissioner Gates moved to approve the 2025 4th quarter budgeted reimbursement request in the amount of \$ 20,894.59 for the City of Wray. Commissioner Leerar seconded the motion which passed unanimously.
- Commissioner Gates moved to approve the chiller pump replacement to be completed by Glassman Corporation. Commissioner Leerar seconded the motion which passed unanimously.
- Commissioner Leerar moved to appoint Kaci Scholes to the Eckley Cemetery Board. This term will expire October 31, 2028. Commissioner Gates seconded the motion which passed unanimously.
- Commissioner Leerar moved to appoint Steve Rydquist to the Washington-Yuma Combined Communications Board. This term will expire December 31, 2027. Commissioner Gates seconded the motion which passed unanimously.

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, 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.

County Treasurer, Chrystal Hammond

At 10:30 a.m., Yuma County Treasurer Chrystal Hammond met with the Commissioners to deliver updates on her department's activities. During the meeting, Hammond presented a revised Yuma County Investment Policy for their review. The group also discussed the investment report for the period of July to December 2025. Yuma County will see an overall increase in yield for 2025, due to the high number of low yield investments that matured in 2025. However, projections for 2026 indicate a decline in the rates available on investments. Yuma County's partnership with 3+1 is expected to help keep all county cash in a strategic position for liquidity, safety and interest income.

County Clerk, Haleigh Studer

At 11:00 a.m., Yuma County Clerk Haleigh Studer provided the Commissioners with a brief update on her office's activities. Recently, she attended the Colorado Clerk's Conference. Currently, her office is actively preparing for the upcoming election. Additionally, one of Studer's staff members is set to retire at the end of February. With the planned motor vehicle system upgrade coming down from the state, she has decided to postpone hiring a replacement until after the upgrade is complete.

Economic Development

At 11:30 a.m., Yuma County Economic Development Director Darlene Carpio met with the Commissioners to share important updates, accompanied by Economic Development board members, City of Yuma Manager Eric Duthie and the City of Yuma Mayor Pro-tem Nathan O'Neil. Recently, Carpio wrapped up a leadership event in collaboration with Wray and Yuma High Schools and Ogallala Commons. The group discussed the creation of a YCEDC investor group, which would feature different investment levels. Carpio expressed her desire to initiate a campaign in February 2026 aiming to educate the community and generate interest in the project.

Land Use

County Land Use Administrator, Jodi Brady was heard at 1:00 p.m. to review Land Use business and conduct Land Use Hearings.

At 1:02 p.m. Chairman Weaver opened public hearing EFS1125-01, an Exemption from Definition of Subdivision Permit for Robert Harper looking to split a 20-acre parcel from a 49-acre parcel located at the NW 1/4, Section 25, Township 2N, Range 48W for purpose of resale. The public hearing closed at 1:07 p.m.

At 1:07 p.m. Chairman Weaver opened the public hearing EFS1225-02, Exemption from Definition of Subdivision Permit for Dianna Monk looking to divide a 6.58-acre parcel out of a 160-acre parcel located at the SW ¼ of Section 14, Township 4N, Range 47W for the purpose of separating improvements from farm ground. The public hearing closed at 1:10 p.m.

At 1:10 p.m. Chairman Weaver opened the public hearing EFS1225-04, Exemption from Definition of Subdivision Permit for Craig and Meri Soehner looking to divide a 12.43-acre parcel from a 160.00-acre parcel, for purpose of a property transfer between family. The public hearing closed at 1:13 p.m.

At 1:13 p.m. Chairman Weaver opened the public hearing MIN0725-04A, The 2nd Minor Land Use Permit for Doug Bauer and the Cottages of Laird looking for approval on Phase II of the project. This phase is adding 2 (2bedroom) homes, and 2 (1 bedroom) homes, as well as an addition of a well and will enlarge the septic system already being used in Phase I. This resolution will also allow Doug Bauer and the Cottages of Laird to start building the septic system for Phase III, due to 2 houses in phase II needing to use that septic system. Planning Commission recommends approving Phase II, assuming that the health department is going to sign off on the Phase III septic system. The public hearing closed at 1:24 p.m.

At 1:24 p.m. Chairman Weaver opened the public hearing for the first reading of ORDINANCE NO. 2026-01, The public hearing closed at 1:35 p.m. There was no action taken.

Commissioner Leerar moved to approve resolution 01-29-2026A, for the Exemption from Definition of Subdivision Permit for Robert Harper looking to split a 20-acre parcel from a 49-acre parcel located at the NW 1/4, Section 25, Township 2N, Range 48W for the purpose of resale. Commissioner Gates seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

Commissioner Leerar moved to approve resolution 01-29-2026B, for the Exemption from Definition of Subdivision Permit for Dianna Monk looking to divide a 6.58-acre parcel out of a 160-acre parcel located at the SW ¼ of Section 14, Township 4N, Range 47W for the purpose of separating improvements from farm ground. Commissioner Gates seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

Commissioner Leerar moved to approve resolution 01-29-2026C, for the Exemption from Definition of Subdivision Permit for Craig and Meri Soehner looking to divide a 12.43-acre parcel from a 160.00-acre parcel. The Parcel number of the property is R322068, for the purpose of a property transfer between family. Commissioner Gates seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

Commissioner Leerar moved to approve resolution 01-29-2026 D, for the 2nd Minor Land Use Permit for Doug Bauer and the Cottages of Laird, seeking approval on Phase II of the project. This phase is adding 2 (2bedroom) homes, and 2 (1 bedroom) homes, as well as an addition of a well and will enlarge the septic system already being used in Phase I. This resolution will also allow Doug Bauer and the Cottages of Laird to start building the septic system for Phase III, due to 2 houses in phase II needing to use that septic system. Planning Commission recommends approving Phase II, assuming that the health department is going to sign off on the Phase III septic system. Commissioner Gates seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

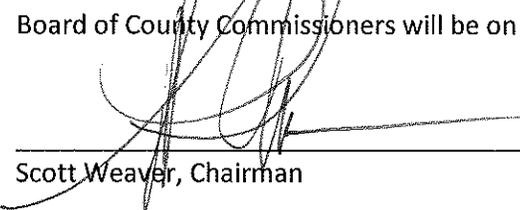
Commissioner Leerar moved to approve a moratorium on DATA Centers in Yuma County. Commissioner Gates seconded the motion which passed unanimously.

Road and Bridge

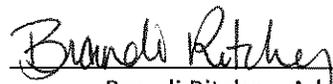
Road & Bridge Supervisor Tom Andersen and Blade Forman Justin Lorimer joined the meeting at 2:00 p.m. to provide department updates.

- *County Road MM* – Andersen plans to talk to landowners about building up the road on MM and 15. Doing so will allow crews to pull dirt up to create ditches then they will top it with material from one of the pits.
- *Pioneer Ditch* - The pioneer ditch rider requested that Yuma County Road and Bridge evaluate the bridge spanning the ditch on Road 35.5. They are considering either redecking the bridge or installing a culvert as potential solutions.
- *Efficiencies/Department Reports* - The group assessed the grader operator's efficiency report. Andersen presented a salary authorization for a truck driving position for approval.
 - **Commissioner Gates moved to approve the Truck Driver salary authorization at \$19.50/hour. Commissioner Leerar seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.**
- *Road Report/Mowing* – Currently crews have recently completed their work on County Road AA. They transported materials to 32.5 East of County Road FF to repair damage. Crews are currently hauling materials to the area of County Road JJ, North of County Road 52, as well as to the Y1 area. They are also evaluating the installation of a culvert on the road near the Mek pit.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 4:00 p.m. The next regular meetings of the Board of County Commissioners will be on February 13, 2026.



Scott Weaver, Chairman



Brandi Ritchey, Administrator

ATTEST: 

Haleigh D. Studer, County Clerk

