



YUMA COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
February 13, 2026
Minutes¹

On February 13, 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.

Liquor License

County Administrator, Brandi Ritchey joined the Commissioners at 8:15 a.m. to present for signature the State Retail Liquor License Renewal Application and the County Retail Liquor License Renewal for Jo's Liquor LLC DBA Jo's Liquor.

- **Commissioner Gates moved to approve signature on the State Retail Liquor License Renewal Application and the County Retail Liquor License Renewal for Jo's Liquor LLC DBA Jo's Liquor. Commissioner Leerar seconded the motion which passed by unanimous vote.**

Road and Bridge

Road & Bridge Supervisor Tom Andersen and Blade Supervisor Justin Lorimer joined the meeting at 8:30 a.m. to provide department updates.

- *Equipment Acquisition/Surplus* – Andersen purchased a 15,000-gallon tank at a sale and plans to use it for fuel storage at the Yuma shop. If the tank will not fit in the bunker, he plans to use it for water storage at the Idalia shop. Andersen and Martin walked through the fleet pickups and have five that can go to auction.
- *Budget* – The group reviewed the status of the budget. Cutting edges were anticipated to increase 25% in 2026, so the budget for cutting edges was increased accordingly. Lorimer stated that the cutting edges went up another 25%. The company supplying these blades sold 18 units to Road and Bridge at the previous price, honoring their price before the second increase. Andersen hired a new employee for the mining position and presented a salary authorization for approval.
 - **Commissioner Leerar moved to approve the Mining Salary Authorization at \$18.50/hour. Commissioner Gates seconded the motion which passed unanimously.**
- *Road Report* – Lorimer delivered an update on road work across multiple areas. Crews have been transporting materials from the Smith Pit to County Roads 23, 24, and 17 in Area Y1, as well as County Roads 33 and 34 in Area Y5. Additionally, Lorimer has been overseeing a culvert project at the entrance of the Mek Pit along County Road E.
- *Scraper* – Andersen was approached by the Yuma County Landfill Supervisor regarding the possibility of borrowing a scraper to move cover dirt, as the landfill's scraper is currently experiencing operational issues. Andersen suggested charging a fair rental rate for the equipment, aiming to cover wear and tear rather than generate profit. The group agreed that a rate of \$125 per hour would be reasonable.

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

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, Income Maintenance Supervisor Dalene Rogers and IV-D Administrator Ana Moran. 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.

Media Logic Radio

At 11:00 a.m., Lindsay Bruntz and Judy Perry presented a proposal to the commissioners for a "Salute to Agriculture" Series. The commissioners emphasized the importance of highlighting smaller businesses within the county. The series will be divided into two campaigns. The first will span four months, starting in March and concluding in June. It will kick off with a "Big on Beef" campaign, followed by a Dairy Campaign and a focus on Women in Agriculture. Once this series wraps up, a Fair Campaign will take place in June and July.

Carmen Murray

At 11:30 p.m., Carmen Murray joined the commissioners to discuss the findings of the inspection report for the Idalia House. Andersen inspected the water heater and it just needed to be lit and was working as it was supposed to.

- **Commissioner Gates moved to take \$2,500 dollars of the purchase price. Commissioner Leerar seconded the motion which passes unanimously.**

County Treasurer

At 1:00 p.m., Yuma County Treasurer Chrystal Hammond joined the commissioners to provide office updates. Hammond met with Ritchey to discuss upcoming projects the county has planned to ensure there is enough liquidity to cover upcoming expenses. Tax statements were sent out January 30th. She stated that postage fees will be higher due to the new format of the statements. There is a Treasure's Deed auction scheduled for February 25th for 3 mineral interests. There is currently 4 active foreclosures with no changes from last month. Hammonds software conversion is moving along well. Harris has begun processing historical data and her staff is becoming more comfortable with the software.

Land Use

At 1:25 p.m., Land Use Administrator Jodi Brady joined the commissioners to provide office updates.

At 1:29 p.m. Chairman Weaver opened the public hearing for the first reading of ORDINANCE NO. 2026-01, updating the Yuma County Land Use Code. The public hearing closed at 1:32 p.m. No members of the public were present.

- **Commissioner Gates moved to approve Ordinance 2026-01. Commissioner Leerar seconded the motion which passed by unanimous vote.**

The group had a discussion regarding the fee structure for transmission line and substation charges. The commissioners reached a consensus to implement a Transmission Line Application Fee in addition to a permit fee. Jodi will do further research and discuss with the Planning Commission Board to refine the permit fee process. Additionally, Jodi shared two more letters from the public that addressed concerns about setback requirements in the land use code. The group discussed the State's unfunded mandates

that require the county to conduct a housing needs assessment in order to apply for future grants. Jodi also gave an update on the Fire Resiliency Code.

- **Commissioner Gates moved to approve Jodi to apply for a Housing Needs Assessment Grant. Commissioner Leerar seconded the motion which passed unanimously.**

Administrator's Report

At 2:00 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 January 29, 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 85056-85087 in the amount of \$567,342.68 ran on 1/30/2026, sequence 85088-85150 in the amount of \$516,696.41 ran on 2/5/2026, check 85151 in the amount of \$5,334.60 ran on 2/6/2026, payroll checks 35344-35345 and EFT in the amount of \$276,080.38 ran on 2/5/2026 and EFT Payroll in the amount of 2,852.48 ran on 2/10/2026. Commissioner Leerar seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.**

Resolutions/Ordinances/Signatures/Ratifications:

- **Commissioner Leerar moved to approve Resolution 02-13-2026 A, transferring \$29,412.50 from the Water Authority Fund (Fund 10) to the General Fund (Fund 1). Commissioner Gates seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.**
- **Commissioner Leerar moved to approve Resolution 02-13-2026 B, transferring \$5,000 from the Landfill Fund to the Landfill Post Closure Fund. Commissioner Gates seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.**
- **Commissioner Leerar moved to approve Resolution 02-13-2026 C, a Resolution Distributing Interest Revenue to multiple funds. Commissioner Gates seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.**
- **Commissioner Leerar moved to approve Resolution 02-13-2026 D, transferring \$111,700 from the General Fund (Fund 1) to the Capital Acquisition Fund (Fund 20). Commissioner Gates seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.**
- **Commissioner Gates moved to ratify the signature on the letter of support to DOLA for the Town of Eckley's grant application for 3 generators.**

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.

- **Commissioner Gates moved to approve the annual Pro-Green Lawn Contract for the Courthouse, Department of Human Services and Fairgrounds Lawns. Commissioner Leerar seconded the motion which passed unanimously.**
- **Commissioner Leerar moved to deduct the General and Personal Liability premiums from the annual Contribution to the Idalia Ambulance Service and South Y-W Ambulance Services.**



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 February 26, 2026.

Scott Weaver, Chairman

Brandi Ritchey, Administrator

ATTEST:

Haleigh D. Studer, County Clerk

