00009777 8/21/2026 8:48 AM
Yuma County Recorder, HALEIGH STUDER Page 1 of 5
COMMIN R 0.00 S 0.00 ST 0.00 D 0.00

YUMA COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
July 30, 2026
Minutes[1]

On July 30, 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.

Liquor License

County Administrator, Brandi Ritchey joined the Commissioners at 8:15 a.m. to present the Special Events Permit for Vernon Volunteer Fire Department.

- **Commissioner Gates moved to ratify Commissioner Weaver's signature on the State Application for a Special Events Permit for the Vernon Volunteer Fire Department. Commissioner Leerar seconded the motion which passed unanimously.**
- **Commissioner Gates moved to approve the County Special Events Permit for the Vernon Volunteer Fire Department. Commissioner Leerar seconded the motion which passed unanimously.**

Road and Bridge

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

- *Road Report* – Lee and Lorimer discussed blade area coverage with the Commissioners. Because the department is short-staffed, each blade operator covers a larger area, which means roads may take longer to be bladed. The group discussed improving coverage by keeping more spare blades available for problem areas and adding more blade operator positions to the 2027 budget. Crews are also continuing to repair problem areas caused by rainstorms in the southern part of the county. The County Road 39 project is underway. Simon started at County Road G and progressed to County Road A. Lee would like to rent a machine to finish the shoulders to prevent further damage to the newly paved roads. The cost of this equipment rental is $2,800.00. The road and bridge department will stripe the road once work is completed.
- *Department Updates* – Lee reported hiring a mechanic, a parts clerk, two maintenance employees, and an area man. He also reviewed current salaries and presented merit increases for four employees. The lights at the Armel shop have been repaired and are working well. Ritchey drafted a Right of Entry form, which was approved by the Colorado Division of Mining and Reclamation, and sent it to the Dreher Gravel Pit landowners for signature. Once the signed form is returned, Lee and Ritchey will submit it to the state so crews can begin reclaiming and closing the Dreher gravel pit.
  - **Commission Gates moved to approve the Parts Clerk Salary Authorization at $19.50/ hour. Commissioner Leerar seconded the motion which passed unanimously.**
  - **Commission Gates moved to approve the Maintenance Position Salary Authorization at $19.50/ hour. Commissioner Leerar seconded the motion which passed unanimously.**
  - **Commission Gates moved to approve the Blade Operator Salary Authorization at $21.00/ hour. Commissioner Leerar seconded the motion which passed unanimously.**
  - **Commission Gates moved to approve the Blade Operator Salary Authorization at $21.10/ hour. Commissioner Leerar seconded the motion which passed unanimously.**

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

00009777 8/21/2026 8:48 AM
Yuma County Recorder, HALEIGH STUDER Page 2 of 5
COMMIN R 0.00 S 0.00 ST 0.00 D 0.00

- **Commission Gates moved to approve the Blade Operator Salary Authorization at $20.04/ hour. Commissioner Leerar seconded the motion which passed unanimously.**
- **Commission Gates moved to approve the Truck Supervisor Salary Authorization at $25.84/ hour. Commissioner Leerar seconded the motion which passed unanimously.**

- *Budget/Efficiencies* – The group reviewed the efficiency report for blade operators.
- *Permit* – Lee provided an update on an Underground and Utility Permit for Viaero where the location had to be amended to the South side of County Road 38. Lee also stated that the South Spur Solar Project will begin in early 2027 where he will work with the company to ensure that the county roads are repaired back to their original quality after the project is completed.

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, Adult Protection Supervisor Hollie Hillman 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.

Office of Emergency Management

At 10:30 a.m., Yuma County Emergency Manager Jake Rockwell met with the commissioners to have his Homeland Security Narrative Report signed as well as his amended Request for Reimbursement.

- **Commissioner Gates moved to sign the Homeland Security Narrative Report. Commissioner Leerar seconded the motion which passed by unanimous vote.**
- **Commissioner Gates moved to approve the amended Request for Reimbursement form. Commissioner Leerar seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.**

Administrator's Report

Administrator Brandi Ritchey reviewed calls, correspondence, and presented the following for discussion and action at 10:35 a.m.:

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

- **Commissioner Gates moved to approve the minutes from the July 14, 2026 regular 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 86024-86069 in the amount of $129,033.95 ran on 7/17/2026 and sequence 86070-86125 in the amount of $183,535.46 ran on 7/24/2026. Commissioner Gates seconded the motion which passed unanimously.**

CAPP Report Review

- **Commissioner Gates moved to approve Diversified Auto Body to proceed with repairs to the SO pickup that struck a deer. Commissioner Leerar seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.**

Resolutions/Ordinances/Signatures –

- **Commissioner Gates moved to ratify the approval of the Letter of Support for NECALG. Commissioner Leerar seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.**
- **Commissioner Gates moved to ratify the approval of the Letter of Support for Wray Community District Hospital. Commissioner Leerar seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.**
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00009777 8/21/2026 8:48 AM
Yuma County Recorder, HALEIGH STUDER Page 3 of 5
COMMIN R 0.00 S 0.00 ST 0.00 D 0.00

- **Commissioner Leerar moved to approve the Statement of Work for Cobwebs design to rebuild the county website on an ADA accessible platform. Commissioner Gates seconded the motion which passed unanimously.**
- **Commissioner Leerar moved to approve Thompsons Tree Service to clean up dead branches on trees in the county right of way along County Road 35 noting that this expense will be expended from Fund 02. Commissioner Gates seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.**
- **Commissioner Gates moved to approve the amended Title VI Policy. Commissioner Leerar seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.**

Department Reports - The Commissioners received several department reports, including updates on the Eastern Transportation Planning Region and the 911 Authority Board. Ritchey reported that only one letter of interest had been received for the Economic Development Board, the Commissioners agreed to continue advertising the opening. She also reported that surveying had begun on the prospective property in Wauneta. The group then discussed the new VIP seating at the fairgrounds and agreed to have an engineer conduct a routine inspection of all stands, both new and existing, after the fair to confirm they remain safe for public use following years of normal wear and tear.

- **Commissioner Gates moved to approve the use of the new VIP seating at the fairgrounds with the stipulation that angle iron is added to strengthen the bleachers prior to use. Commissioner Leerar seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.**

Yuma County Treasurer

At 11:30 a.m., Yuma County Treasurer Chrystal Hammond met with the Commissioners and presented the January–June 2026 investment report. She reported that the County's investments are well positioned for the remainder of 2026. Her office will continue coordinating with the Finance Office to ensure funds are available for upcoming budgeted expenses.

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 1:03 p.m. Commissioner Weaver opened the public hearing for EFS0526-13, an Exemption from Definition of Subdivision Permit for Steve Oestman looking to divide a 37.03-acre parcel into a 15.96-acre and a 21.07-acre parcel. The property is located in the SE¼ of Section 18, Township 4N, Range 44W. This exemption is for redefining the boundaries within the family. **The public hearing closed at 1:08 p.m.**

At 1:09 p.m. Commissioner Weaver opened the public hearing for EFS0626-14, an Exemption from Definition of Subdivision Permit for Harper Bros looking to divide a 245.38-acre parcel into a 1.01-acre and a 244.37-acre parcel. The property is located at the SW¼ of Section 22, Township 2N, Range 48W. This exemption is for resale to adjacent property owners. **The public hearing closed at 1:14 p.m.**

At 1:15 p.m. Commissioner Weaver opened the public hearing for EFS0626-15, an Exemption from Definition of Subdivision Permit for Pat Armagost looking to divide a 24.66-acre parcel into a 5.56-acre and a 19.10-acre parcel. The property is located at the NW¼ of Section 22, Township 2N, Range 47W. This exemption is for resale to adjacent property owners. **The public hearing closed at 1:22 p.m.**

There were three members of the public present for these hearings.

00009777 8/21/2026 8:48 AM
Yuma County Recorder, HALEIGH STUDER Page 4 of 5
COMMIN R 0.00 S 0.00 ST 0.00 D 0.00

Commissioner Gates moved to approve Resolution 07-30-2026 A, for an Exemption from Definition of Subdivision Permit for Steve Oestman looking to divide a 37.03-acre parcel into a 15.96-acre and a 21.07-acre parcel. The property is located in the SE¼ of Section 18, Township 4N, Range 44W. This exemption is for redefining the boundaries within the family. Commissioner Leerar seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

Commissioner Gates moved to approve Resolution 07-30-2026 B, for an Exemption from Definition of Subdivision Permit for Harper Bros looking to divide a 245.38-acre parcel into a 1.01-acre and a 244.37-acre parcel. The property is located at the SW¼ of Section 22, Township 2N, Range 48W. This exemption is for resale to adjacent property owners. Commissioner Leerar seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

Commissioner Gates moved to approve Resolution 07-30-2026 C, for an Exemption from Definition of Subdivision Permit for Pat Armagost looking to divide a 24.66-acre parcel into a 5.56-acre and a 19.10-acre parcel. The property is located at the NW¼ of Section 22, Township 2N, Range 47W. This exemption is for resale to adjacent property owners. Commissioner Leerar seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

Jody presented the contract for Ayres and Associates to provide their services for the Comprehensive Plan. She also provided a brief update on the South Spur Solar project which is projected to begin August 2027. Over 120 letters have been received regarding the setbacks for wind towers. The group looked at how many were for and against the setbacks. No decisions were made regarding wind tower setbacks.

- **Commissioner Gates moved to approve the contract between Yuma County and Ayres and Associates for up to $77,000. Commissioner Leerar seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.**

Wray Community Child Care Center

At 2:00 p.m., the Wray Community Learning Center Board as well as representatives from the City of Wray and WAFI including Lance Bohall, Will Helling, Pete Wilson, Miny Centa, Jared Kelley, Lindsey Pletcher and Cole Fletcher joined the commissioners to discuss the operations and needs for the Learning Center. The group discussed rates, salaries, benefits, CCCAP requirements.

Yuma County Clerk

At 2:30 p.m., Haleigh Studer joined the Commissioner's to give a few department updates. Studer has had a transition in staff so she presented three salary authorizations for approval. The group discussed future election ballot questions that are coming down the pipeline.

- **Commission Gates moved to approve the Recording/MV Clerk Salary Authorization at $18.85/ hour. Commissioner Leerar seconded the motion which passed unanimously.**
- **Commission Gates moved to approve the Recording/MV Clerk Salary Authorization at $19.50/ hour. Commissioner Leerar seconded the motion which passed unanimously.**
- **Commission Gates moved to approve the Recording/MV Clerk Salary Authorization at $19.50/ hour. Commissioner Leerar seconded the motion which passed unanimously.**

00009777 8/21/2026 8:48 AM
Yuma County Recorder, HALEIGH STUDER Page 5 of 5
COMMIN R 0.00 S 0.00 ST 0.00 D 0.00

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 3:30 p.m. The next regular meeting of the Board of County Commissioners will be on August 13, 2026.

Scott Weaver, Chairman

Brandi Ritchey

Brandi Ritchey, Administrator

ATTEST: Lacey Beyer
Haleigh D. Studer, County Clerk
Lacey Beyer, Chief Deputy Clerk

YUMA COUNTY SEAL COLORADO