



**YUMA COUNTY COMMISSIONERS**  
**September 29, 2023**  
**Minutes<sup>1</sup>**

On September 29, 2023 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

Nancy Wright presented a County Liquor License Renewal Application for Jo's Liquor in Joes, Colorado. Wright also presented for signature, the County Liquor License for Vernon Liquor LLC, which was approved at the August 14, 2023 BOCC Meeting and the County Special Events Permit for the Vernon Community Center, which was approved at the September 14, 2023 BOCC Meeting. **Commissioner Leerar moved to approve the Liquor License Application for Jo's Liquor, Joes Colorado. Commissioner Gates seconded. The motion was unanimously passed.**  
**Commissioner Leerar moved to approve signature on the County Liquor License for Vernon Liquor LLC. Commissioner Gates seconded. The motion was unanimously passed.**  
**Commissioner Leerar moved to approve signature on the County Special Events Permit Liquor License Applications for Jo's Liquor, Joes Colorado. Commissioner Gates seconded. The motion was unanimously passed.**

Road and Bridge

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

- *Permits* – Andersen presented for approval the following road access permits:  
Y-W Electric to bore under County Road 30, 750ft East of County Road EE to install Electrical Lines. **Commissioner Leerar moved to approve the Underground and Utility permit for Y-W Electric as submitted. Commissioner Gates seconded the motion. It passed by unanimous vote.**
- *Efficiency Report* – Andersen and Lorimer presented their monthly Efficiency Report to the Board. There has been uptick in efficiency throughout the blading team. A couple of blades have been down for maintenance and one area man has been mowing and blading his area. The group also discussed the work week schedule and holidays that occur during the 4-10 work week.
- *Road Report* – Lorimer provided a road report. The blade crew is working on elevating County Road 3, North of Bonnie, working on elevating the road and building a crown to help with drainage. They are expecting to be finished next week. The crew will start working on roads that have damage from harvest. Repairs around Beacher have been made. As soon as the new material gets packed in, work can be done on re-shaping the crown of the roads.
- *Mowing* – The maintenance crew is currently mowing in the Y-8 and Y-14 area. Next, they will move into Y-9,11,12 & 13 areas around Eckley. By the end of next week, everything should be mowed South of Highway 34. Andersen would like to hire for one more maintenance position and move one employee to the mining crew.
- *Budget* – The group also discussed the upcoming budget including future equipment purchases and whether or not Road and Bridge needs to hire more drivers.

---

<sup>1</sup> 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, Child Welfare & Adult Protection Supervisor Hollie Hillman Administrative Assistant Lori Summers and Bookkeeper Melanie Fisher were present. Detailed minutes of the Board of Social Services are maintained separately by the Department of Human Services. The Board of County Commissioners reconvened at 10:30 a.m.

### Yuma County Sheriff

At 10:30 a.m., Yuma County Sheriff Todd Combs and Patrol Deputy Matt Allacher were present.

- Vehicle Requests – Deputy Allacher presented bids for two vehicle replacements. The time frame to order and build patrol vehicles has been extended to 12-18 months for delivery. **Commissioner Gates moved to approve the purchase of two new patrol vehicles for the 2024 budget year not to exceed \$150,000.00. Commissioner Leerar seconded the motion. It passed by unanimous vote.**
- Court Security – After review of Colorado State Statute, Sheriff Combs will still be providing court security.
- Budget – The Sheriff strongly objects to the Commissioners taking funds out of the Sheriff's budget to pay bills without authorization or notification to the sheriff. The Commissioner's Office acknowledged the mistake and did a Journal Adjustment moving the Inmate Transportation charges to the Commissioner's miscellaneous budget line for the remainder of 2023. After discussion, the Commissioner's will adjust the budget accordingly and create a new budget line for Inmate Transportation for 2024. Sheriff Combs is moving forward with the intention of the jail not opening. Commissioner Weaver requested the 2024 jail budget with the numbers reflecting that the jail will not be open.

### Fairgrounds Manager, Carmen Murray

At 11:30 a.m., the Commissioners heard from Yuma County Fairgrounds Manager, Carmen Murray. The group discussed hiring a person to do fairgrounds cleaning. Murray and Ritchey will get in touch with the County insurance company and get their recommendation on hiring contract labor cleaning. Murray also gave updates on getting a fuel tank, and repairs and maintenance on multiple roofs at the Fairgrounds. Donelson Company is coming to look at a freezer to be repaired in one of the food booths. Murray received a request by Circus Monster Mash to rent the concession building. After discussion, Murray is going to contact the owner and see if a bigger space is going to be needed. The group discussed the part time maintenance position. Ritchey is going to advertise the position after final changes are made to the job description.

### County Treasurer

At 1:00 p.m. the Commissioners met with Yuma County Treasurer, Chrystal Hammond. The group looked over and discussed various Treasurer items. Chrystal reported that she has opened a new investment account that will be open until 2028. It was reported that tax collection was 99% collected. The first round of mobile and personal unpaid property taxes has been sent for publication. The tax sale is schedule for November 14<sup>th</sup> online. Chrystal gave some updates regarding changes and potential changes for mobile home taxes and Treasurer Deeds. Chrystal is working with Phillips County on the collections from Omnimex. The Public Trustee currently has 4 active foreclosures. As far as office updates Kim is catching on well and the new hire will start on October 30<sup>th</sup>. Discussion was had on thoughts for salaries in 2024.



### Teryx

At 1:30 p.m. the Commissioners met with Tobias Tonelli and Jessica Kays. Teryx is Yuma County's IT Support. The group looked over and discussed cyber security compliance with our insurance provider. One item we need to work on is offering Multi Factor Authentication in order to stay in compliance with CTSI. Discussion was had on the different options and cost regarding county emails and servers. Teryx made a presentation comparing migrating to Microsoft 365 cloud service verses updating our current server. Migrating to the Microsoft 365 cloud service would have a 1<sup>st</sup> year cost of around \$10,000 and annual cost of \$6,480 for 90 users. By upgrading our current setup, the 1<sup>st</sup> year cost would be around \$25,000 and an annual cost of \$6,120 for 90 users. By upgrading our server in house, we would be looking at a server upgrade every 6 years verses a onetime cost by migrating to the Microsoft 365 cloud service. There was also discussion on how we currently upgrade Microsoft Software Licenses when computers are updated, but that could be moved to an annual process and that could be determined by departments at any time. Teryx talked about timeline and they were projection if the migration to the Microsoft 365 was approved they could potentially be done by the January 2024. **Commissioner Leerar move to approve the Microsoft 365 Migration Proposal. Commissioner Gates seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.**

### Administrator's Report

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 September 14, 2023 regular meeting of the Board of County Commissioners. Commissioner Gates seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.**

### *Signatures and Ratifications* –

- **Commissioner Gates to approve signature on American Fidelity's Yuma County Group critical illness Master Application. Commissioner Leerar seconded the motion, which passed by unanimous vote.**
- **Commissioner Gates moved to approve Signature on American Fidelity's Yuma County Group Disability Master Application. Commissioner Leerar seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.**
- **Commissioner Gates moved to approve signature on Ron Brown's monthly CDMVA Monthly Report. Commissioner Leerar seconded the motion, which passed by unanimous vote.**

### *Department Reports* –

- **ETPR Administration Updates** – No updates for Eastern Transportation Planning Region.
- **911 Authority** – The surcharge application has been turned in. Commissioner Weaver is working on completing some small items still needed to complete the application. Hoping to have it finalized by next week.
- **Planning Commission Board** – Cindy Taylor stopped in to discuss some items regarding solar and wind permitting. She also reported the Planning Commission is working on updating Land Use Rates. She gave some copies of Land Use Rates from another county they are looking at.



*HR Updates –*

- **Commissioner Leerar moved to approve the Salary Authorization for the Full Time Treasurer Office Clerk at \$16.00 per hour starting October 30, 2023. Commissioner Gates seconded the motion. It passed by unanimous vote.**
- **Commissioner Gates moved to approve the Salary Authorization for the Full Time Emergency Preparedness Manager at \$29.80 per hour starting October 1, 2023. Commissioner Leerar seconded the motion. It passed by unanimous vote.**

*Prior Meeting Follow Up –*


- **Ritchey provided project updates on the sale of a county owned property in Wauneta. Commissioner Leerar moved to accept the bid from Gene Kramer for \$201,000 and \$500.00 Per Month shop lease with negotiation on the term of the lease. The motion passed by unanimous vote.**
- **Insurance Selection for 2024 – Commissioner's re-opened up discussion regarding the 2024 Health Insurance options with County Health Pool. Commissioner Leerar moved to approved offering the HDHP 2500 & PPO B2000 plans. Both with an employer contribution of 85% on the monthly premium. Employees that elect the HDHP plan will receive an initial contribution to an HSA. The HSA contribution will vary based on employee selected tier going down from Family tier at \$250.00. Commissioner Gates seconded the motion. It passed by unanimous vote.**
- **Fair Board Appointment – The Fair Board had three open positions that would serve until August 31, 2027. Only one letter of interest was submitted for review. Commissioner Gates moved to appoint Ruben Richardson to the Yuma County Fair Board. Commissioner Leerar seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.**


*Correspondence –*

- The group discussed the request from Idalia Sanitation. The board reached out to Greg Etl with DOLA for advice. Etl suggested that Idalia Sanitation District file the rest of the required documents to become in Good Standing with DOLA before they are eligible to receive funding.
- The group discussed potential for another Budget Work Session. They decided the next Budget Work Session would be October 10<sup>th</sup>.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 4:45 p.m. The next regular meetings of the Board of County Commissioners will be on October 13, 2023.

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Scott Weaver, Chairman

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Brandi Ritchey, Administrator

ATTEST:   
\_\_\_\_\_  
Beverly Wenger, County Clerk

