

Minutes of the Commission Meeting of the Board of Commissioners, Carbon County, State of Utah, held Wednesday, September 6, 2023 in the Commission Room of the Administration Building, Price, Utah, commencing at 4:30 p.m.

Those present: Casey Hopes, Commission Chair
Larry Jensen, Commissioner
Tony Martines, Commissioner

Also present: Lyn Hanson, Deputy County Attorney
Seth Marsing, Clerk/Auditor
Geni Hawk, Commission Secretary
Kourtney Cox, Assistant HR Director
Lori Perez, Chief Deputy Clerk
Jeff Wood, Sheriff

1) Approval of Minutes

Commissioner Martines made a motion to approve the minutes from the August 16, 2023 Commission Meeting. Commissioner Jensen seconded. Motion carried.

2) Presentation of Employee of the Month – Kellie Payne

Kellie said the Employees of the Month are from the Ambulance Department. They are Dave Varner, Travis Frame and Bethany Paria. Dave and Travis have worked for the county since April 2022, and Bethany since May of this year.

Justin said on July 25th, these ambulance employees transported a patient to a hospital in Utah Valley. On the return trip home, they ended up right behind a fatal vehicle crash in Spanish Fork Canyon and were immediately on the scene. They made the decision, that even though they were in Spanish Fork's response area, they could transport a critical patient back to Utah Valley Hospital. Because of their response they saved this lady's life. This crew did not worry about getting back to Price for anything else, they made the decision based on what was best for that patient. We appreciate these three ambulance drivers and their dedication to the Ambulance Department. They and the other response teams are amazing for what they do and deserve the recognition.

Travis thanked the commissioner, everyone involved and whoever nominated them. This award means so much to him and his partners and everyone in the Ambulance Department. He is honored to serve with Dave and Bethany and in being a part of an amazing and elite group of emergency responders especially the Ambulance Department. He thanked all of the other agencies who also respond to emergencies including the Price Fire and Police Departments, Helper Fire and Police Departments, the Carbon County Sheriff's officer and the other agencies involved including Dispatch. We can't do these calls without these other agencies. Travis joined the Carbon County Ambulance Department because they are the best. These guys are elite and good and deserve this recognition. Anyone in this department would have done the same thing. He thanked the support they receive from their own spouses and families at home.

Dave thanked everyone and appreciates the award. This event is one of those things you don't want to have to do but he is glad it worked out and they were able to help. They have received training from very knowledgeable and elite people who are very good at what they do. He echoes what Travis said they are products of decades of service.

Bethany said Travis and Dave have said everything. She wanted to give a shout out to Marty and Justin for being the supportive group that they are to all of the employees. She also thanked the commissioners and the rest of the staff. They would not have made the decision they did without the support of the team. They are appreciated.

The commissioners thanked them and the rest of the ambulance and emergency crews.

3) **Presentation of Super Service Award – Tina Grange**

Tina said the Super Service Award this month goes to Smith's Food and Drug grocery store. Tina read the nomination. Customers are always greeted with a friendly smile and customer service is the best in Price. Tina presented the award to store manager, Buck Vasquez.

Buck thanked the commission and said the nomination caught him by surprise. He didn't find out about it until this morning. He echoed what Tina said, their checkers are the friendliest and they strive to provide good customer service.

4) **Discussion for opioid dollars for social detox – Melissa Huntington, Director Four Corners Community Behavioral Health**

Commissioner Hopes said there has been a request to table this item. This was going to be a discussion for opioid dollars for a social detox program at Four Corners.

Commissioner Jensen made a motion to table Agenda Item 4. Commissioner Martines seconded. Motion carried.

Commissioner Jensen said we have been receiving money from the opioid settlements and the lawsuit continues to unfold. The pharmacies are now part of that lawsuit and we have been notified that we will receive additional funds for a shorter period of time. As these extra funds become available, we are reaching out to Four Corners and the Health Department to see how to spend this money. Four Corners would like to put money towards a social detox program. We need more time to touch base with other agencies to prioritize the funding. This will be on a future agenda to make that decision.

5) **Ratification of Certification Regarding Lobbying August 2023**

Commissioner Hopes said we recently approved a VOCA grant application for the Children's Justice Center and the Sheriff's office for the Victims of Crime Advocates. As part of the requirement in the agreement, we need to have a certification regarding lobbying. This identifies how we could lobby if we did so.

Commissioner Martines made a motion to approve the ratification of the Certification Regarding Lobbying. Commissioner Jensen seconded. Motion carried.

6) **Ratification of water purchase agreement between Carbon County and Roy D. Campbell and Peggy Campbell**

Commissioner Jensen said the County approached Mr. & Mrs. Campbell about purchasing a large part of their property and water shares. They have agreed to sell these to the county. We went to Congressman Curtis's office for an appropriations grant and this grant has been approved. This would be step one in purchasing this property. The County will add money received from Covid appropriations in order to purchase the property. The Campbell's would like to sell the water at this point and when we receive the funding later this year, we would purchase the property.

Commissioner Jensen continued stating that the County received money from Covid appropriations from the Federal Government. One of the approved uses of that money can be for water. The County set aside 1.4 million dollars from this money to be used for water and land purchases.

Commissioner Hopes said this property is along the rail spur by Savage and can be used for industrial development. Commissioner Jensen said we have a large business that would like to locate on this property which is why we have made this effort to purchase it.

Commissioner Martines said Economic Development is working on this project in this targeted area for improvement and growth. This is phase one of the process for development.

Commissioner Jensen said we were trying to have the water purchase agreement signed prior to this meeting but the agreement is not fully executed yet. The agreement is needing approval instead of a ratification.

Commissioner Jensen made a motion to approve the water purchase agreement between Carbon County and Roy D. Campbell and Peggy Campbell. Commissioner Martines seconded. Motion carried.

7) **Consideration and possible approval of Resolution #2023-04 Authorizing Carbon County to Enter into an Agreement with the Inland Port Authority to create a Project Area in Carbon County near Ridge Road – Shanny Wilson, Economic Development**

Shanny said this is the beginning stages for this project. We started engaging with the Utah Inland Port Authority about a year ago. There are a lot of good things happening with the Utah Inland Port Authority which is under new management. They are very negotiable and flexible. They have engaged with Wellington Microtech. Wellington Microtech believes in Carbon County and wants to be a part of the infrastructure in order to help build more jobs and community.

Commissioner Hopes said the Utah Inland Port is a tool from the State of Utah to help with these projects. We have Community Reinvestment Areas (CRA's) but they have specific rules. This will allow us to have more flexibility and the Utah Inland Port Authority has given us flexibility to dictate some of the terms in order to work with them. This tool will help Wellington Microtech move forward with their project.

Commissioner Jensen said the Inland Port was created by the legislature in efforts to make Salt Lake the hub for the port but because of our close location to rail, Carbon County was identified as a possible area outside of Salt Lake City that could become a distribution area. The legislature has appropriated money for the port authority to begin to build infrastructure. Shanny said this is the beginning stages and we don't know exactly what that is going to look like but we know they will help with utility infrastructure. Which is what we are excited about.

Commissioner Martines said it is exciting to see what is happening with the Utah Inland Port in Cedar City and the State has announced that Spanish Fork will also be an inland port area. We are hopefully going to be announced next. Other companies are looking to move in or expand. He expressed his appreciation for the effort of the commission and Shanny in pushing this forward.

Commissioner Jensen said these types of projects take a long time to happen. There is movement almost weekly and we are getting close. We should soon see something being built.

Commissioner Martines made a motion to approve Resolution 2023-04 Authorizing Carbon County to enter into an agreement with the Utah Inland Port Authority to create a project area in Carbon County near Ridge Road. Commissioner Jensen seconded. Motion carried.

8) **Review and possible approval of the Agreement to Provide Public Defense Representation with Pamela Vickerey, Utah Juvenile Defender Attorney**

Commissioner Hopes said earlier this year we submitted an application to the Indigent Defense Commission to combine all of our defense work with our cities and the county. As part of that process, we needed to hire an additional attorney to help cover the extra case load. This provides representation for individuals who are currently in the system. This agreement will add one more defender to help with the extra case load.

Commissioner Martines made a motion to approve the Agreement to Provide Public Defense Representation with Pamela Vickerey, a Utah Juvenile Defender Attorney. Commissioner Jensen seconded. Motion carried.

Commissioner Hopes said we are at a point in the meeting concerning items 9, 10 and 11. We are not ready to act on those. We are entertaining a motion to table them. He explained further.

Currently the County Assessor, Gillan Bishop, has been meeting with individuals and doing adjustments of either value or errors in their valuation notices. The County has hired a Board of Equalization hearing officer and the hearing officer has not had an opportunity to review those parcels. Currently there are 231 parcels or land owners that he has met with Gillan and a stipulation agreement signed. Based on those stipulations, if everything is approved, those will move forward.

Commissioner Jensen said if there are people in the county who still have questions, they need to come into the Clerk's Office and sign up for the Board of Equalization. No one in the county will be denied that opportunity to appear before the hearing officer and present evidence that will help the hearing officer make a decision on a home's value. The deadline is September 15 and Seth has indicated that there is a little bit of wiggle room where you could gather additional information beyond September 15. Gillan is not taking appointments any longer and the only way properties can be reviewed is through the Board of Equalization (BOE).

Commissioner Hopes asked Seth what people need to bring to the BOE. He is aware that a form needs to be filled out and the property owner needs to provide documentation of why they think their value is wrong or maybe a change in their land description or other possible errors. They need to provide documentation in order to be successful.

Seth said we encourage people to bring as much proof as possible in order to make their case. The assessor makes his case as well and the hearing officer will make a decision depending on what is presented. If it is a value issue you might supply a recent sell, appraisals, comparisons from surrounding properties or anything else to make your case.

Commissioner Martines said to look at other values around you, you can use the County website, under GIS, to look at your house and others in the same area. Obviously, there is a process and any obvious glaring errors like acreage is wrong, designation between residential to agriculture to commercial, can be addressed in the BOE. We are seeing a few errors and that is the reason to bring in a third party.

Commissioner Hopes said there are individuals helping to gather the necessary information including local realtors and appraisers. If you need help, please reach out to the Clerk's office with any questions.

Commissioner Jensen said the last thing we want is for property values to be too high. We will do everything we can to help make sure they are correct. Everyone received their notices in July and if you read the back of those notices, options are listed. There is a week left to appeal.

Commissioner Hopes read agenda Items 9, 10 and 11 into the meeting.

Commissioner Martines made a motion to table items 9, 10 and 11 on the September 6, 2023 Commission Meeting agenda. Commissioner Jensen seconded. Motion carried.

9) **Adjourn as the Carbon County Commission and convene as the Board of Equalization**

10) **Consideration and possible approval of Assessor Initiated Tax Adjustments**

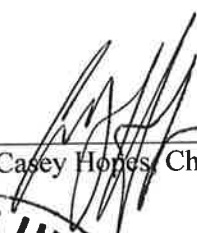
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11) **Adjourn as the Board of Equalization and Convene as the Carbon County Commission**

12) Review and approval of departmental reports

Commissioner Jensen made a motion to adjourn the meeting.

The meeting adjourned at 5:12 p.m.


Casey Hopes, Chairman

ATTEST:


Seth Marsing, County Clerk/Auditor



