

Minutes of the Commission Meeting of the Board of Commissioners, Carbon County, State of Utah, held Wednesday, December 20, 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 Hansen, Deputy County Attorney
Seth Marsing, Clerk/Auditor
Lori Perez, Chief Deputy Clerk
Kellie Payne, HR
Jeff Wood, Sheriff

1) **Approval of Minutes**

Commission Hopes made a correction on Page 2, agenda item #4. The second to the last bidder should be Colvita instead of Covida. Lori had already made this correction.

Commissioner Jensen made a motion to approve the December 6, 2023 Commission Meeting minutes. Commissioner Martines seconded. Motion carried.

2) **Consideration and possible approval of Ordinance #573 for the 2024 Carbon County Commission Meeting Schedule**

Commissioner Hopes said this outlines our schedule of commission meetings for next year. This is something we have to do by statute in order to let the public know when and where our meetings are held.

Commissioner Martines made a motion to approve Ordinance #573 for the 2024 Carbon County Commission Meeting Schedule. Commissioner Jensen seconded. Motion carried.

3) **Consideration and possible approval of Resolution #2023-06 Supporting the energy industry, more specifically nuclear power, a branch of economics that produces economic stability for our area**

Commissioner Jensen said there is an effort by the Carbon and Emery County committee to send a message specifically to PacifiCorp/Rocky Mountain Power that as a community we are in favor of the potential of bringing nuclear power plants to the area. This resolution mirrors one that Emery County adopted a few weeks ago. Commissioner Jensen read the resolution. (The resolution will be attached.)

Commissioner Jensen said we do have potential closing dates from Rocky Mountain Power for the power plants in Emery County which will affect the industry. We are trying to position Carbon and Emery counties in a place where we have something to take the place of coal fired power plants. The nuclear power plant possibility is a big option. The commissioners have attended meetings over the last year and listened to experts about the safety of nuclear power plants. As a breakthrough in the community, we need to begin to educate the public about nuclear power and what that would look like. As a commission we are sending a statement that we are in support of it. Specifically, to those companies who are looking to build the next nuclear power plant. Rocky Mountain Power has indicated that they would like to build nuclear power plants in Emery County. This is an effort to start gaining support for this.

Commissioner Martines said this is not condemning coal or anything of that nature. Rocky Mountain Power has an integrated resource plan and it specifies the amount of renewable power sources they are trying to develop. Nuclear is a great way to go with zero emissions. The military has been using nuclear for decades. This will be a good thing for our community and we should embrace it.

Commissioner Hopes agrees with everything that has been said. The San Rafael Energy Research Center has helped put us in the forefront of this option where they are studying nuclear technologies specifically with molten salts. They are also investing money into carbon capture and different ways to burn and utilize coal. This will be a good thing for our region and our economy.

Commissioner Martines made a motion to approve Resolution 2023-06 supporting the energy industry and more specifically nuclear power, a branch of economics that produces economic stability for our area. Commissioner Jensen seconded. Motion carried.

4) **Consideration and adoption of the 2024 Carbon County Budget, Resolution #2023-07**

Seth said at the last commission meeting the tentative budget was presented in detail. State code says we can adjust the tentative budget until it is approved as the final budget. In our previous meeting, the Assessor's office requested that we remove the \$14,000 in their equipment budget and that we increase their travel budget from \$6,000 to \$12,000. Everything else as presented in the previous meeting remains the same.

Commissioner Jensen made a motion to approve the 2024 Carbon County budget, Resolution #2023-07. Commissioner Martines seconded. Motion carried.

5) **Ratification of 20% match of federal funds awarded to Senior Center for buses**

Commissioner Hopes said in 2019-2020 we were awarded funding for new Senior Center buses. Due to delays, that funding did not come through until this year. This letter states that the county will cover the additional cost of the buses due to inflation plus the 20% required match beyond what they will fund. The funding for the first bus will be \$73,000 and \$68,000 for the second bus plus the 20% match from us plus any overage in cost.

Commissioner Martines made a motion to ratify the 20% match of federal funds awarded to the Senior Center for buses. Commissioner Jensen seconded. Motion carried.

6) **Ratification of boundary easement adjustment for the Division of Natural Resources (DNR)**

Commissioner Martines said this land conversation started between the DNR and Mr. Khiatipes who owns the land adjoining the DNR office location. The SW quarter of this property has a fence line and a utility easement. The property line jogs to the north and the DNR has asked the landowner to even up the property line and allow the utility easement to remain in place. They now have an agreement in place. The land that the DNR is on is county land and so they have asked the county to approve and ratify the boundary change. This is a ratification of the small adjustment in the property lines. It has been recorded.

Commissioner Jensen made a motion to approve and ratify the boundary easement adjustment for the Division of Natural Resources. Commissioner Martines seconded. Motion carried.

7) **Ratification of the 2024 Carbon County Predation Management Plan and the USDA Memorandum of Understanding with Predator Damage Management participants**

Commissioner Hopes said this is the plan we sign every year. The amounts have changed slightly. The total contract is for \$8,400 but as is the case every year, the USDA will reimburse the County 50% which totals \$4,200 for predation services in the county.

Commissioner Martines made a motion to ratify the 2024 Carbon County Predation Management Plan and the USDA Memorandum of Understanding with Predator Damage Management participants. Commissioner Jensen seconded. Motion carried.

8) **Consideration and possible approval of 2023 Property Tax Exemption for Lutheran High School of Orange County – Seth Marsing**

Seth said this is a non-profit entity asking for tax exemption approval. We approved the tax exempt list in April 2023 for non-profits and other entities who qualify. This parcel has been tax exempt for several years but this year had a value placed on it and was taxed. This entity is requesting that we put their parcel back as tax exempt. They are a non-profit and the parcel is located in Scofield.

Commissioner Martines made a motion to approve the 2023 property tax exemption for Lutheran High School of Orange County. Commissioner Jensen seconded. Motion carried.

9) **Consideration and possible approval of Utah Association of Counties (UAC) Board of Directors member**

Commissioner Hopes said every county in the state is a part of the Utah Association of Counties. They are directed by a board of directors. Each county is allowed a number of directors based on the size of the county. We have the opportunity to appoint someone to this board to represent us and the needs of our county. For the last couple of years this has been assigned to Seth Marsing and he has done a great job.

Commissioner Jensen made a motion to approve Seth Marsing to continue serving on the UAC Board of Directors. Commissioner Martines seconded. Motion carried.

10) **Consideration and possible approval of Larry Jensen as Carbon County Commission Chair beginning January 1, 2024**

Commissioner Hopes stepped down and made the motion to approve Larry Jensen as the Carbon County Commission Chair beginning on January 1, 2024. Commissioner Martines seconded. Motion carried.

Commissioner Martines thanked all of the employees of Carbon County and appreciates all the work completed. Merry Christmas to everyone in Carbon County. Commissioner Hopes said we are truly blessed to live where we do and despite our struggles and things we are dealing with, as a community we are stronger when we work together. He is grateful and wished everyone a Merry Christmas. Commissioner Jensen echoed the comments made and said this past year has been heartwarming to be able to rub shoulders with all of the departments and see the good work all are doing. We have good employees who are under paid and underappreciated. He thanked all.

11) **Review and approval of departmental reports**

Commissioner Martines made a motion to adjourn the meeting.

The meeting adjourned at 4:53 p.m.

ATTEST:


Seth Marsing, County Clerk/Auditor



