

Minutes of the Commission Meeting of the Board of Commissioners, Carbon County, State of Utah, held Wednesday, January 3, 2024 in the Commission Room of the Administration Building, Price, Utah, commencing at 4:30 p.m.

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

Commissioner Hopes made a motion to approve the December 20, 2023 Commission Meeting minutes. Commissioner Martines seconded. Motion carried.

2) Employee of the Month – Kellie Payne

Kellie said our January 2024 Employee of the Month is Bryan Anderson who is our TV specialist. Bryan has been an employee since February 2007. Bryan was nominated by a member of our community. Kellie read the nomination. Bryan is quick to respond when there is a problem with the local TV channel transmission. He appears to work 24/7, as needed, and in extreme adverse condition due to weather, equipment failures or when there are other technical issues. Bryan meets each challenge without complaining and always remains positive. He is a very valuable asset to our community. Kellie thanked Bryan and said we appreciate all that he does.

Bryan thanked everyone. Commissioner Jensen thanked Bryan for all he does that is unseen. When things don't work everyone gets upset and Bryan responds quickly. Commissioner Hopes said Carbon County is the transmission backbone that feeds TV service from the Wasatch Front to San Juan and Daggett counties. When there are problems in our area, it affects a larger area. A lot of times remote restarts can be used and the best technology that we can afford. There are situations and instances where it takes someone going to the towers in snow cats and in inclement weather and at all times of the day to fix them for not only Carbon County but the other counties in Eastern Utah. Commissioner Martines agreed and said it is great to have a good IT workforce. This department does a lot of things in the heat of the moment and under pressure.

3) Super Service Award – Tina Grange

Tina said this person provides amazing customer service and is willing to give the best service and is always very kind. This award is being presented to Ryan Madsen who owns Coyote's Well. This is a new business which opened in June. Ryan has also worked at Balance Rock and Happiness Within in Helper. She had a dream to start her own coffee shop along with her boyfriend. She currently operates her new shop by herself with help from him along with her family. She has a permanent location in Wellington but travels around the county to different events and private parties.

Ryan thanked everyone. Commissioner Jensen said Ryan is the face of tourism and represents our county well.

4) Review and possible adoption of Ordinance 574, A Change to the Carbon County Zoning District Map from M&G to C-1 located on a portion of parcel 2A-1656-0000

Commissioner Jensen said the Planning Commission has recommended the approval of this zone change. This 13-acre parcel is located east of Wellington next to the Savage Truck yard. This parcel was purchased by Aaron Sabon on behalf of BX Properties who would like to build a Travel America Truck Stop. It fits the county plan and goals in keeping this type of business next to a highway and away from residential homes.

Commissioner Martines said this will be a start of the development on the east side of Wellington. This company has big plans to do additional things that may include a hotel. It sounds like a great opportunity for our area to grow and capitalize on the traffic that comes through the area.

Commissioner Hopes made a motion to approve Ordinance #574 to change the Carbon County Zoning District from Mining & Grazing to C-1 located on parcel 2A-1656-0000. Commissioner Martines seconded. Motion carried.

5) **Consideration and possible approval of the adjustments to the 2023 Tax Roll**

Commissioner Martines made a motion to adjourn as the Carbon County Commission and convene as the Board of Equalization. Commissioner Hopes seconded. Motion carried.

Commissioner Jensen said we have a few tax roll changes since our last meeting for 2023. These three changes are from December 19, December 28, and January 3.

Commissioner Martines said there are various reasons for these adjustments. Commissioner Jensen said they include primary residential exemptions and land issues that were not taken care of prior to the Board of Equalization hearings.

Commissioner Martines made a motion to approve the adjustments to the 2023 Tax Roll as presented. Commissioner Hopes seconded. Motion carried.

Commissioner Martines made a motion to adjourn as the Board of Equalization and convene as the Carbon County Commission. Commissioner Hopes seconded. Motion carried.

Commissioner Jensen said they would like to do a quick update or report of accomplishments made in 2023 since we are starting into a new year. He turned the time over to Commissioner Martines.

Commissioner Martines said these are some of the bigger items that he thought of: last year we signed an access agreement with the Utah Department of Transportation to study the road between Martin and Carbonville. That started a conversation about roundabouts, dividers between the highways, stop lights, or overpasses. We are talking about solutions, what would be the best and how to move forward. Another item was the sale of county owned land and surplus equipment. We have sold some old heavy duty equipment that is no value to the county. The land sales have included 15 acres in the Industrial Park to Intermark Steel to build a new facility which will bring employment and more opportunity to the community. We sold lots in Wellington to the Association of Local Governments for the self-help home building program. This will give more opportunity for younger families to build houses and start their lives moving forward. Along with this is the development of the new AOG building out at the Fairgrounds. The services they provide include winterization, the food bank and a business startup loan program. It is a great new facility for them. The Tourism Board helped with the new kiosks around the community at gas stations, in Helper, and at the shooting range. They have also installed wayfinding signs out at the Fairgrounds and at North Springs. Little things to beautify and make things nicer. Utah State University Eastern has tied in with the airport and offer a flight program and more is to come with a mechanic program. Last month we passed a resolution supporting energy development in the area. We do not want to close any coal opportunities but we are saying that we could support nuclear energy. We always want to be known as an energy corridor. To have nuclear in our back pocket is great.

Commissioner Hopes said the Tourism Department has put in a lot of work including an XPS Tour which involves enjoying and taking care of the area. A lot of people came down for that. There was a Geo Tour this year for people who do geo caching. There was a large crowd for that and they want new caches in new areas next year. There were people from all around the country who came to that. The Tourism Department also sponsored a Color Ride Jeep Tour that started in Scofield and drove along Skyline during the fall when the trees were changing colors. This was very successful and people want to sign up for next year. They have also done other social media things and have worked with our ad agency developing more advertisements for our area

including at the Salt Lake Airport. This is working and our tourism dollars has exceeded our budget again. Some of this excess money has funded the Event Center and could help other areas of the county like Nine Mile Canyon to help maintain the roads and at the North Springs gun range. The work they are doing is paying off.

The tourism dollars are specific to transient room and restaurant tax. TRT is the Transient Room Tax and TRCC is the restaurant tax. A percentage of every hotel stay that is purchased in our county is used to pay for beautification projects, better signage, develop trails and maintain public facilities. Both of these taxes have different ways that they can be used but it comes from visitors that come into our community. We invest it back into tourism, related infrastructure and projects to continue to grow that funding.

This year we received a grant at the airport to add to Utah State University Eastern class offerings. We brought in the flight program a few years ago and they are maxed out. They are limited by the number of planes that they can have here. They keep bringing planes and then flying them back to Logan as they have time. The other part of that program is the mechanics program. We received a grant this year to build a facility that will be Phase I of that project. There will be a hangar that will house their mechanics program. In the future, we would like to build more hangers that they could lease to house more of the aircrafts. It is exciting to see the growth that is happening out there. The real goal is to get a Maintenance Repair Operation located at the airport to bring in additional jobs. Once the mechanics get their degree they could start working in that facility.

Commissioner Jensen noted the work being completed along Ridge Road and along the railroad spur that leads to the Savage Coal load out. This is an anticipated area for industrial growth. Two significant things are the new sewer line that runs from Price River south to Ridge Road. It goes through the middle of this property where we anticipate growth in the future. This has been finished and we have entered into a purchase agreement for a large portion of property on the west side of the railroad spur which includes land and 550 shares of water. Along with this we have received approval for an appropriation grant from the federal government through Congressman Curtis's office. This funding should already have been here but we won't see a check until later on. As soon as that happens we should be able to finish that project and purchase the property. One other significant thing is the efforts of Shanny Wilson, with Economic Development, who leads a board that has been set up to accept a grant from the state for \$200,000 to be used to help with business expansion and growth or new startups. In 2023 there were twenty-eight applications for this money. Anyone who applied had to spend their own money up front and then they could turn in their receipts for a 50% grant reimbursement. There was \$210,000 available in 2023 and there were twenty applicants. All of this money was approved and most has been reimbursed. Some of these businesses are still in the process of finishing their expansion. Two things the board requires upon approving a project is that the project will add additional tax money from the expansion of the business and that they hire additional people. Prior to 2023, eighty-five people were hired through the program. We are now pushing around 100 new jobs.

Another thing that happened was the aftermath of the Bear Fire that happened two years ago. There was an extensive project in Spring Canyon, Bear Canyon and in Crandall Canyon that was finished this spring to mitigate the erosion problem that was caused by the fire. The federal government paid for 75% of that work, 25% has to be paid by those who have benefitted by it. The County was responsible for the match in two areas in Spring Canyon and Bear Canyon. PacifiCorp, Rocky Mountain Power helped with the match in Bear Canyon because of the substation located there. In Crandall Canyon, where you see all of the damage along Highway 6, the Utah Department of Transportation was a major contributor to the match along with a private land owner further up the canyon.

The last item is the BLM has a plan for interpretive signs in Nine Mile Canyon and how to move forward. They have met with Daniel Luke, our Road supervisor and the commission, who visited the canyon together and identified three places where they would like to partner with the county as well as the oil company located out there in building three parking lots. One located at the petroglyphs called First Site, at the Owl Panel and at the Big Buffalo site. These will be constructed this year and is the first of three projects. Trails will be developed from each parking lot to the petroglyphs. There will be three more projects in 2025 and possibly three more in 2026. This will be an ongoing effort to get Nine Mile in better shape. The BLM has not made a final decision on the signs that would be at each one of these locations. They are waiting for a response from the First Nation

tribes of what they think should be on the interpretive signs. They will put up temporary signs at each of these parking areas for now.

It has been a busy year. Commissioner Jensen thanked each of the departments. Everyone has done a super job. A lot of good things have happened. The public never really sees what goes on and some of the problems that are brought to the forefront. There is so much more good that goes on than bad. It is good for us to report that things are good and a lot of things are being accomplished.

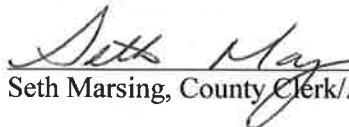
Commissioner Martines said we are really happy with the employees. We have a good staff and team and over the last five years' things have changed and grown. We have a lot of things going on but we can multitask and do a lot of good. He thanked the staff for what they do every day. He appreciates the opportunity to work with the other two commissioners who are outstanding people.

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

Commissioner Hopes made a motion to adjourn the meeting.

The meeting adjourned at 4:59 p.m.

ATTEST:


Seth Marsing, County Clerk/Auditor





Larry Jensen, Chairman