

Minutes of the Commission Meeting of the Board of Commissioners, Carbon County, State of Utah, held Wednesday, May 1, 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: Christian Bryner, County Attorney
Geni Hawk, Commission Secretary
Kellie Payne, Human Resources
Seth Marsing, Clerk/Auditor
Lori Perez, Chief Deputy Clerk
Soleil Melo, Deputy Clerk
Cletis Steele, Deputy Sheriff

1) **Approval of Minutes**

Commissioner Martines made a motion to approve the April 17, 2024 Commission Meeting minutes. Commissioner Hopes seconded. Motion carried.

2) **Employee of the Month – Kellie Payne**

Kellie said our Department of the Month is the Clerk/Auditor's Office who were nominated by the Clerk/Auditor, Seth Marsing. Kellie said Seth also does a great job and they wanted him to receive a plaque as well. The office consists of Lori Perez, who started in 2013, Soleil Melo started in 2017, Johna Marshall started in 2022, Seth Marsing started in 2018 and Melissa Parker is a new hire who just recently started.

Seth said we have a terrific office and staff. The only two here tonight are Soleil and Lori who are like swiss army knives. They do everything and do it well. We had trouble last year with a busy Board of Equalization and they both did a terrific job. We also had Mileena Clark in the office at that time and she did a great job as well. She has since left the position to take care of family. Melissa Parker is a new hire and she is also fantastic.

He wanted to especially recognize Lori, Soleil and Johna. They take a lot of beating and they do a phenomenal job and he really appreciates them. This is just a small way to thank them for all they do.

Commissioner Jensen said this is well deserved, the office runs seamlessly and they are pleasant to deal with. Commissioner Martines said all of the questions, challenges and things that come to that office are handled professionally. He appreciates Seth to, he is a great leader. Commissioner Hopes said he agrees. There are times in the year where this office is especially busy like election years and they do a phenomenal job.

3) **Super Service Aware – Tina Grange**

Tina said the Super Service Award this month goes to Amanda Paiz with Marketing Elevated. Amanda goes above and beyond for everyone. She is always giving back to the community. She is the first one to help anyone in need. The Office of Tourism has hired her to do one on one, two-hour sessions with our stake holders. She has helped restaurants and hotels with their social media marketing and helped them create things they can use. She is an awesome resource and is one of our #1 ambassadors for tourism. She promotes our brand and educates the public on tourism.

Amanda said she has been given an opportunity to work in many different avenues. Over the last twenty years she has been involved in media and working with small businesses. She only sees the best of the best in our community. It makes it easy to spread the word about the Corridor and all that we have to offer here. She appreciates the opportunity.

4) Open sealed bids for ¾ ton truck for Emergency Management – Justin Needles

Seth said we have seven bids:

Salt Lake Valley Chrysler Dodge Jeep Ram	2024 Dodge 2500	\$71,933
Salt Lake Valley Chrysler Dodge Jeep Ram	2024 Dodge 2500	\$72,685
Price Auto Farm	2024 Ford F250	\$78,975
Price Auto Farm	2024 Ford F250	\$79,475
Price Chrysler Dodge Jeep Ram	2024 Dodge Ram 2500	\$78,954
Price Auto Farm Chrysler Dodge Jeep Ram	2024 Ram 2500	\$77,554
Young Automotive Group	2024 Ram 3500	\$76,870

Commissioner Jensen said this is the first time since Covid that we have had a good representation of bids for vehicles. Commissioner Hopes said the bid requests that all vehicles must be serviceable after the warranty period by dealerships in Carbon County. Justin said he wanted to make sure that in the future vehicles needing maintenance or repairs could be serviced locally instead of going to the Wasatch Front. He is basically looking for either a Chevy, a Dodge or a Ford.

Commissioner Martines made a motion to acknowledge the seven bids and turn them over to Justin and Commissioner Hopes for review and award to the best value. Commissioner Hopes seconded. Motion carried.

5) Consideration and possible approval of Rural Competitive Grant application for Carbon County Ambulance Department – Justin Needles

Justin said this grant is due on May 31st and he is waiting on a quote. For this grant specifically, we had an ambulance that was wrecked and received money back from the insurance. His plan for applying for this grant is depending on how much the rebuild will cost on the vehicle. He is assuming that it will be between \$50,000 and \$70,000 and we will have to make up the difference in order to have a complete vehicle.

Commissioner Jensen said we will be putting the box off of the wrecked ambulance onto a new chassis. Justin said the ambulance that was wrecked was pretty new and the box on it was in good shape and did not receive any damage in the accident. They were told it could be put on another chassis. We will need to pay for a new chassis, the shipping of both parts of the truck to the rebuild location and the cost of mounting the box and getting it ready. His hope is the grant will cover the rest of those costs for that process.

Commissioner Martines said Covid delayed the process of getting the ambulances. He asked about a time frame for getting this retrofit. Justin said once we get the chassis and the box to them, it won't be as long a process as an entire new vehicle would be. Once they get it, it will take six to eight weeks to redo it. It does take 2 ½ years to get a new ambulance.

Commissioner Hopes made a motion to approve the Rural Competitive Grant application for the Ambulance Department. Commissioner Martines seconded. Motion carried.

6) Consideration and possible approval to apply for the following grants: Hazardous Materials Emergency Preparedness Grant (HMEP), Emergency Management Preparedness Grant (EMPG) and State Homeland Security Program (SHSP) – Justin Needles

Justin said the Hazardous Materials Emergency Preparedness (HMEP) grant is applied for every year. It is an 80/20 split grant. The total amount we can receive is \$3,200. Which is \$2,560 of grant dollars matched with \$640 of our dollars. We use this money to send our hazardous materials team to the Public Safety Summit which is being held in St. George this year. This will help cover those travel costs.

The Emergency Management Preparedness Grant (EMPG) is a 50/50 grant. We do not have the official dollar amount yet and it may be less than last year. Last year we received \$34,700 and we matched it with \$34,700. This is used to cover Justin's wages along with the match.

The last grant is the State Homeland Security Program (SHSP) grant. It is a 100% grant and is used to sustain the Hazmat Team. We have used it for cyber security, community preparedness, election security, and to combat domestic violence extremism. This year the funding went down from the federal government. We plan on applying for \$122,174.84 which would be Carbon County's portion.

Commissioner Martines made a motion to approve that Justin apply for the following grants: the Hazardous Material Emergency Preparedness grant, the Emergency Management Preparedness grant and the State Homeland Security Program grant. Commissioner Hopes seconded. Motion carried.

7) **Consideration and possible approval of the Carbon County Republican Party Central Committee's recommendation to appoint Tara Madsen as interim Carbon County Treasurer**

Commissioner Jensen said Treasurer, Kay Colosimo is retiring as of May 3, 2024. Her term will end as of December 31, 2024. By submitting her resignation now, by statute, the Republican Party met as a central committee and has submitted a name to consider appointing to fill Kay's position. Currently Tara Madsen is the chief deputy in the Treasurer's Office and has filed to run for the Treasurer position. It is the recommendation of the central committee to appoint Tara Madsen to fill this vacancy.

Commissioner Hopes said Tara is the only candidate on the ballot so this appointment makes sense.

Commissioner Martines said he would like to acknowledge Kay's 34 years of being in the Treasurer's Office. Kay has worked and served with fourteen different commissioners. She has seen a lot of different changes. He wishes her well and that she will enjoy her retirement. He has no problem with Tara, she does a great job.

Commissioner Hopes made a motion to approve the Carbon County Republican Party Central Committee's recommendation to appoint Tara Madsen as the interim Carbon County Treasurer. Commissioner Martines seconded. Motion carried.

8) **Consideration and possible approval of County Fire Warden Agreement between the Utah Division of Forestry, Fire and State Lands and Carbon County**

Justin said he reviewed the agreement and it is the same as in previous years. Talking with Rudy Sandoval, they are looking at two things. The first is to make the assistant fire warden a full-time position which would give Jeremy more options through the winter months for training and projects. They are asking for \$36,000 to cover those costs. Right now, we pay into the wildland suppression fund and they give us a budget to spend for fuels reduction and bolstering the equipment in Carbon County. This increase would come out of that money and would be a good use of the money. It would leave \$57,000 to spend on fuels mitigation and equipment.

The second item they are asking for is a four-wheel drive truck for Jeremy during the winter months. What vehicle we give them is something that will need to be worked out. In the discussions with Rudy, he said they would like the county to split these costs. We would cover the insurance and maintenance on that vehicle. The State would also insure it, so it would have double coverage. At the end of the year they would compile all of the fuel costs. The State would cover 50%, we would cover 30% and Emery County would cover 20%. If we are splitting only the fuel cost with Emery County but not the vehicle, insurance or maintenance, there could be ways to offset those costs like having Emery County pay for all the fuel costs.

Christian asked Justin to identify Rudy and Jeremy for the record. Justin said Rudy Sandoval is the current Fire Management Officer for the State of Utah. Our County Fire Warden is Jeremy Jorgensen who is employed full time. They do not have a current Assistant Fire Warden, they are taking applications now.

Commissioner Jensen asked Justin to explain our obligation to the State of Utah each year concerning the costs of fire on private and State lands. Justin explained that we are responsible for all fires that happen on unincorporated parts of the county including private lands. We have large landowners and the costs of wildfires can get expensive. The County participates in the wildfire agreement which pays for a fire warden. The State take a ten-year average of the costs to suppress fires, removing the highest year and lowest years to come up with the average spent. Right now, that average is \$86,000. We used to pay this money back to the State. Studies have shown that for every dollar spent in wildfire prevention comes back 3x in money saved. So, the State said instead of paying the money back to the State they want us to use that money for prevention type activities, fuels mitigation and radio ads to help prevent wildfires. The theory is by preventing wildfires it will keep the cost low. Justin said 50% of these funds are used for fuel reductions along roads and in areas of high fuels.

Commissioner Jensen said it sounds like we need to do more work before we decide. Commissioner Hopes said this agreement is the same as in the past. We are already providing a truck and can amend it if we want to add a full-time assistant fire warden later. Commissioner Martines asked about the agreement with Emery County. Justin said the State has provided a field fire truck for many years during the summer months. In the winter months they provide a secondary pickup truck to use so no damage is done to the fire truck. They are trying to offset the cost of the second vehicle by having us provide one.

Christian asked if this agreement specifically says we will provide a truck. Commissioner Hopes said yes, it is in Section B, Item 5. It has always been there but the State has provided the vehicle. This year they are saying that they will not provide a winter vehicle. There is nothing in the agreement stating that we are required to have an assistant fire warden, it is a suggestion. Jeremy Jorgensen is full time.

Commissioner Jensen said if we need an amendment to this contract, we can work with Emery County on the details. Justin said the State is asking Emery County for similar things All parties would have to approve the new agreement. Commissioner Hopes asked how does the State figure the percentages when Emery County has a greater fire risk and more public land. Justin said he doesn't know where they got the 30/20 percentages. It could be based on population or how many fires there has been.

Commissioner Martines made a motion to approve the County Fire Warden Agreement between the Utah Division of Forestry, Fire and State Lands and Carbon County. Commissioner Hopes seconded. Motion carried.

9) **Consideration and possible approval of the Interlocal Agreement with Carbon Metro Drug Task Force**

Commissioner Hopes said this is the same agreement that we have been working on with Price City's Drug Task Force grant. The Task Force works with all of the cities and the two entities that provide drug task force agents are Carbon County and Price City. Changes were made in Section 2 and 3-C where it talks about the board members and how the board will be made up. It says each entity is a voting member as well as any full-time person on the drug task force. The next paragraph was changed as well concerning voting members. Section 14-E was changed to say if any agency withdraws they immediately lose their voting power on the board.

Christian said the structure of the agreement has not changed other than how agencies participate, contribute man power, assistance, working with each other and that the more manpower they contribute the more voice they have on the board.

Commissioner Hopes said he doesn't see any problem with it and Sheriff Wood agrees with the changes.

Commissioner Hopes made a motion to approve the interlocal agreement with the Carbon Metro Drug Task Force. Commissioner Martines seconded. Motion carried.

10) Review and approval of departmental reports

Commissioner Hopes made a motion to adjourn the meeting.

The meeting adjourned at 5:07 p.m.



Larry Jensen, Chairman

ATTEST:



Seth Marsing, County Clerk/Auditor

