

MINUTES of the public meeting of the Uintah County Commission held **May 14, 2024** in the Commission Chambers of the Uintah County Building at 147 East Main, Vernal, Utah. Meeting commenced at 3:00 p.m.

PARTICIPANTS: Commissioners John Laursen, and Sonja Norton. Brad Horrocks, absent.

ATTENDANCE: Mike Wilkins, JC Brewer, Heidi Lundberg, Troy Slaugh, Lesha Coltharp, Wendi Long, Zeke Atwood, Gennie Bird, Barbara Simper, Steve Labrum, Karina Valencia, Gabby Blackburn, Willis LeFevre, Treysen Colmenares, Rylee Crane, Paityn Christensen, Carter Kynaston, and Ryan Mattson. Minutes recorded by Tai Duncan.

WELCOME: Commissioner Laursen welcomed everyone to the meeting.

PRAYER offered by Mike Wilkins.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE led by Barbara Simper.

1. APPROVAL OF MINUTES of the April 22, 2024 work session, April 23, 2024 meeting, and May 3, 2024 special meeting.

Commissioner Norton moved to approve the minutes for April 22, 2024 work session, April 23, 2024 meeting and May 3, 2024 special meeting. Commissioner Laursen seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

2. REPORT OF WARRANTS – Mike Wilkins, Clerk-Auditor, presented warrants dated April 23, 2024 in the amount of \$509,535.39. Payments of note include contract payments; \$155,192.87 to BHI for the Ice Rink; \$57,845 to Cache Valley Electric for the Ice Rink; and \$84,369.15 to UDOT for the Brush Creek Bridge Replacement. Warrants dated May 3, 2024 in the amount of \$428,153.95. Payments of note include CXT in the amount of \$44,066.00 for restrooms at Moonshine Arch; \$25,000.00 to the Dinosaur Roundup Rodeo; and \$31,864.50 to Jorgensen Inc. for a CanAm. Warrants dated May 9, 2024 in the amount of \$652,923.61. Payments of note include \$216,679.80 to BHI; a partial bond release in the amount of \$39,760.00 for the Hydeaway Subdivision; a partial bond release in the amount of \$125,788.00 to N & E properties; and \$106,563.00 to Norcon Industries for seating at the amphitheater.

3. REVIEW and COUNTER SIGNATURE of CERTIFIED LIST of CLAIMS – None.

4. TAX MATTERS –

a. TAX DEFERRAL – Mike Wilkins, Clerk-Auditor, presented one deferral for approval. This is a home on the May tax sale. The owner has stated it is his primary residence and has requested an additional year to pay the delinquent taxes in the amount of \$6,385.28 on serial number 13:014:0027.

Commissioner Norton moved to approve the tax deferral for serial number 13:014:0027 as presented. Commissioner Laursen seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

b. REQUEST FOR TAX ABATEMENTS – Wendi Long, Treasurer, presented abatements for three centrally assessed properties. The State Tax Commission is no longer placing a value on these properties. They are no longer producing, they have been plugged or abandoned and they have left behind no assets to seize and sale. The County has not been able to collect taxes on these properties. NorthStar, serial number 50:010:1355, in the amount of \$148.05 for tax years 2016-2018. Medallion Exploration, serial number 50:010:1187, in the amount of \$20,756.50 for tax years 2014-2016. Tiger Energy, serial numbers 50:011:4109 and 50:095:9781, in the amount of \$7893.78 for tax years 2015-2022.

Commissioner Norton moved to approve the tax abatements as presented. Commissioner Laursen seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

c. OTHERS

Mike presented an Order of Approval from the State Tax Commission regarding appeal #22-0406 on serial number 50:012:1173. Ramsey Hill Exploration has been awarded a refund in the amount of \$505,856.07 for tax year 2022. The County has until November 15, 2024 to pay without accruing interest.

Commissioner Norton moved to approve the State Appeal tax refund for Ramsey Hill in the amount of \$505,856.07 as presented. Commissioner Laursen seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

5. BID AWARDS: Zeke Atwood, Purchasing and Grants

a. BOMAG BC873RB – LANDFILL COMPACTOR

Zeke noted the County has received CIB, Community Impact Board, funding for a new landfill compactor. Half the funding is a match and the other half a loan. The invitation for bid specifically requested a Bomag and the specifications were outlined. Two bids were received, one was responsive and the other was not because it was not a Bomag. The bids have been reviewed by Zeke and Greg Jensen, Landfill, and they recommend awarding the bid to the responsive bidder: Komatsu in the amount of \$1,077,153.00.

Commissioner Norton moved to award the landfill compactor bid to Komatsu in the amount of \$1,077,153.00 as presented. Commissioner Laursen seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

b. GMC YUKON

Travel and Tourism has been looking for a 2023 or newer Yukon. These are normally purchased via the State contract but the dealers on contract did not have one available; they would be six to eight months out ordering one. A local dealer did have one available so an invitation to bid was done with the necessary specifications. We received one bid from L&L in the amount of \$59,100. This has been reviewed with Lesha Coltharp, Tourism and Events, and it is recommended to award the bid to L&L.

Commissioner Norton moved to award the Yukon bid to L&L in the amount of \$59,100 as presented. Commissioner Laursen seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

6. UTAH DIVISION OF OUTDOOR RECREATION GRANT Ratification - Via Ferrata – Gennie Bird, Grants, noted this was signed May 3rd so it needs ratified. This is a grant in the amount of \$200,000 from Outdoor Recreation for the Vernal Via Ferrata project. The County is acting as the pass-thru and a federal grant in the amount of \$200,000 will be coming in as well. The matching funds in the amount of \$241,000 is coming from Access Utah; a non-profit organization that is managing this project.

Commissioner Norton moved to ratify the Outdoor Recreation Grant in the amount of \$200,000 as presented. Commissioner Laursen seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

7. EMERGENCY OPERATIONS PLAN PROMULGATION – Heidi Lundberg, Emergency Management

The plan was last signed in 2021 and the Emergency Management Performance Grant (EMPG) requires signatures from the new Commissioners. It is likely this will become an annual signing. The signatures state they understand the plan and agree to their responsibilities and requirements as directed in the plan. Nothing is changing in the plan.

Commissioner Norton moved to approve the Promulgation as presented. Commissioner Laursen seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

8. PHENOMECON TALENT CONTRACTS – Lesha Coltharp, Tourism & Events, noted Phenomecon will be September 4th – 7th this year. A paragraph was removed from the contracts to accommodate GRAMA, Government Records Access Management Act, requirements as these are public records.

Commissioner Norton moved to approve the Contracts as presented. Commissioner Laursen seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

9. JENSEN WELCOME CENTER Agreement with Utah Office of Tourism – Lesha Coltharp, Tourism & Events

This is a five-year contract, July 1, 2024 through June 30, 2029 for a total of \$425,000, or \$85,000 a year. The State is billed twice a year, \$42,500 each. This will begin the years 11-15 that this contract has been in place and will require the Chair's signature.

Commissioner Norton moved to approve the Jensen Welcome Center agreement as presented. Commissioner Laursen seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

10. MULTI-JURISDICTIONAL BUILDING INSPECTION SERVICES AGREEMENT between Uintah County, Vernal City, Naples City, and Roosevelt City dealing with building inspection services, adding each entity to the third-party inspection firm list of each of the entities, to comply with Utah SB 185 2024 – Matt Cazier, Community Development

This agreement is in response to new State requirements. Each jurisdiction, City or County, must have a list of other inspectors that can complete a building inspection in the event the jurisdiction cannot complete it within three days of the request. This was reviewed in work session yesterday. It is a five-year agreement with a clause to automatically extend for five years if there are no changes. There is a clause to terminate with 30 days' notice.

Commissioner Norton moved to approve the Agreement as presented. Commissioner Laursen seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

11. FOREST SERVICE CONTRACT with Sheriff's Office – Steve Labrum, Sheriff

This is a modification to the Contract for Sheriff's Deputies to patrol the Forest. There is \$8,126 to carry over from the previous year plus \$4,500 for 2024 for a total of \$12,626. The modification requires the Commission Chair signature as well as the Sheriff and several individuals from the Forest Service.

Commissioner Norton moved to approve the Forest Service Contract as presented. Commissioner Laursen seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

12. SECURITY AND BAILIFF CONTRACT AMENDMENT – Steve Labrum, Sheriff

This is a contract with the Administrative Office of the Courts to provide services to 8th District Court. The Contract was originally for \$157,998.30 and they have agreed to \$30,000 more for a total of \$187,998.30. This is an amendment to this year's contract which ran July 1, 2023 through June 30, 2024 to add the additional funds. It reimburses the County 60% or less of the actual cost for these services.

Commissioner Norton moved to approve the Contract Amendment as presented. Commissioner Laursen seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

13. PUBLIC HEARING – 2024 BUDGET INCREASE

Commissioner Laursen opened up the Public Hearing and asked Mike to present the Resolution for discussion.

14. RESOLUTION #05-14-2024 R1: 2024 BUDGET INCREASE – Mike Wilkins, Clerk-Auditor

The following shows increases in expenses for the various departments and the source of revenue for those increases, indicated by parentheses.

Fund 10 General Fund

Clerk-Auditor	\$21,200.00
Lt. Governor Election Grant	(\$21,200.00)

Fund 11 Municipal Services

Sheriff Department	\$70,700.00
BLM Officer Contract – Revenue Reduction	\$4,100.00
Mental Health Resource Grant – Revenue Reduction	\$18,100.00
Forest Patrol Contract	(\$3,700.00)
Bullet Proof Vest Grant	(\$11,100.00)
FBI Task Force	(\$1,300.00)
Fund Balance	(\$76,800.00)
Liquor Law Enforcement	\$33,300.00
Liquor Control Revenue Rollover from 2023	(\$33,300.00)

Fund 15 Flood Control

Canal Crossing	\$310,000.00
Fund Balance	(\$310,000.00)

Fund 20 Library

Library	\$35,300.00
UEN Grant	(\$34,900.00)
CLEF Grant	(\$400.00)

Fund 22 Dinosaurland Tourism

Travel & Tourism	\$7,300.00
Outlaw ATV Jamboree	(\$4,200.00)
Miscellaneous Income	(\$3,100.00)

Fund 86 Cemetery

Cemetery	\$70,000.00
Vernal City Contribution	(\$35,000.00)
Fund Balance	(\$35,000.00)

There are several departments that have received grants. There was a carryover for liquor control that can be used this year. The Cemetery expense is for fixing a pipeline under south Vernal Avenue and Vernal City has contributed half the price.

Commissioner Laursen asked for any comments or questions and received none. He then closed the public hearing and asked for a motion on the Resolution.

Commissioner Norton moved to approve Resolution #05-14-2024 R1 as presented. Commissioner Laursen seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

15. PUBLIC COMMENT – None.

16. CLOSED SESSION for the purpose of discussing the purchase, exchange, or lease of real property when public discussion of the transaction would disclose the appraisal or estimated value of the property under consideration or prevent the public body from completing the transaction on the best possible terms

At 3:30 pm Commissioner Norton moved to go into Closed Session for the purpose of discussing the purchase, exchange, or lease of real property when public discussion of the transaction would disclose

the appraisal or estimated value of the property under consideration or prevent the public body from completing the transaction on the best possible terms and when discussion is complete, adjourn and reconvene Commission meeting in order to adjourn. Commissioner Laursen seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

Closed Session attendance: Mike Wilkins, Barbara Simper, Wendi Long, and Matt Cazier.

ADJOURN: The meeting adjourned at approximately 3:42 pm.


JOHN LAURSEN, CHAIR


MICHAEL W. WILKINS, CLERK – AUDITOR

