

MINUTES of the public meeting of the Uintah County Commission held **July 9, 2024** in the Commission Chambers of the Uintah County Building at 147 East Main, Vernal, Utah. Meeting commenced at 3:00 pm.

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

ATTENDANCE: Mike Wilkins, Willis LeFevre, Tammie Mecham, Cindy Birchell, Karen England, Wendi Long, Karina Valencia, Deanna Nyberg, Trevor Morrill, Paul Chacon, Brenda McDonald, and Tonya Craven.

Minutes recorded by Tai Duncan.

WELCOME: Commissioner Laursen welcomed everyone to the meeting.

PRAYER offered by Deanna Nyberg.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE led by Trevor Morrill.

1. APPROVAL OF MINUTES of the July 1, 2024 work session and July 2, 2024 meeting.

Commissioner Norton moved to approve the minutes for July 1, 2024 work session and July 2, 2024 meeting. Motion passed unanimously.

2. REPORT OF WARRANTS – Mike Wilkins, Clerk-Auditor, presented warrants dated July 5, 2024 in the amount of \$368,361.33. Payments out of the ordinary include a partial payment to Bonneville Asphalt for parking lots in the amount of \$35,817.20 and two payments to Rocky Mountain Power for moving power at Western Park in the amounts of \$ \$52,840.00 and \$8,103.11.

3. REVIEW and COUNTER SIGNATURE of CERTIFIED LIST of CLAIMS –

Check #393032 in the amount of \$19,931.44 to Uintah County Farm Bureau. This is a pass-thru grant from the Economic Development office. They were not able to get a purchase order prior to the event because they were unaware of the exact costs until the end. The grant assisted Farm Bureau with paying for their event speakers.

Commissioner Norton moved to approve the claim as presented. Motion passed unanimously.

4. TAX MATTERS - None

5. RECESS FOR BOARD OF EQUALIZATION

Commissioner Norton moved to recess for Board of Equalization. Motion passed unanimously.

6. ASSESSOR STIPULATIONS – Mike Wilkins, Clerk-Auditor

Mike presented the stipulation report on behalf of the Assessor's office. After completing the assessment roll, two parcels were discovered that needed corrected. Serial number 03:078:0003 has a secondary residence or vacation home. The property itself, Ramsey Hill, is centrally assessed but the home and one acre will have to be locally assessed. Serial number 06:034:0027 should receive the residential exemption. The Assessor's office and property owners have all agreed and the changes need approved before the valuation notices go out in the mail next week.

Commissioner Norton moved to approve the Assessor stipulations as presented. Motion passed unanimously.

7. ADJOURN BOARD OF EQUALIZATION AND RECONVENE COMMISSION MEETING

Commissioner Norton moved to adjourn Board of Equalization and reconvene Commission meeting. Motion passed unanimously.

8. EVENT FUNDING THANK YOU: Uintah Basin Junior Livestock Show – Cindy Birchell

Cindy took a moment to thank the County and the Tourism department for the \$1500 sponsorship for the UBJLS. It is greatly appreciated. 48 families were here from out of town; one family parked a trailer at the Western Park, three or four families stayed in hotels, one family rented a KOA space, the rest rented air bnb's in the area for the week. It was a successful show with 350 participants from across the State. Typically, about 160 participants are from out of the Basin. The Commissioners also thanked her for such a successful event.

9. FEE WAIVER REQUEST: Uintah Special Service District #1, temporary use permit for a 5k – Deanna Nyberg, Community Development

Matt Cazier presented this for Deanna in yesterday's work session. In the past, such fees have been waived for governmental agencies. The 5k was done over the 4th of July. They do have a registration fee that goes towards the costs of running the event. USSD1 has expressed to Deanna that they do not break even on this event. Commissioner Norton asked if there was a policy of any kind in place regarding what fees are and are not waived. It is common that governmental agencies request fee waivers for many different things, including building permits. USSD1 received a waiver last fall for a temporary use permit and are expected to request such again this fall. They will look into a policy.

Commissioner Norton moved to approve the fee waiver request as presented. Motion passed unanimously.

10. ORDINANCE #07-08-2024 O1: combining the Historic Preservation Board and Museum Advisory Board and related matters – Jon Stearmer, Deputy County Attorney, was not available so Commissioner Norton presented. The Historic Preservation Board has not met in the time she has been a Commissioner and board member. She has attended Heritage Museum Advisory Board meetings and they have discussed combining the two boards as they are very similar. They would like to see more activity due to the combination as well. Vernal City has a historic preservation board and it is advantageous for both entities to have such boards to take advantage of more grant opportunities.

Commissioner Norton moved to approve Ordinance #07-08-2024 O1 as presented. Motion passed unanimously.

11. RECESS FOR BOARD OF CANVASSERS

Commissioner Norton moved to recess for Board of Canvassers. Motion passed unanimously.

Wendi Long, Treasurer, joined the Board of Canvassers. As per State Code, the Board of Canvassers is made up of the County legislative body. If one or more is not available, the Treasurer, Assessor or Sheriff may serve.

12. RATIFICATION OF THE JUNE 2024 PRIMARY ELECTION RESULTS

Mike presented the Canvass statistics and election results.

There was a 50.6% turnout; of 13,221 registered Republican voters, 6,690 ballots were cast. 6,443 were returned through the mail or drop box, 222 voted in person and 10 ballots were returned electronically. These electronic ballots are our military voters, those living overseas, and some disability voters. 15 of the 19 provisional ballots were counted; 4 were not counted because they were affiliated with the wrong party. 3 of these provisional ballots are also same day registrations. 223 ballots returned were rejected for various reasons, 144 have not been cured and therefore, not counted. Of these, 18 were returned unsigned, 125 signatures could not be verified, and 1 for another reason. There are not enough to change

the outcome of any of the races in Uintah County.

US Senate: John Curtis received 3,183 votes; Jason J. Walton 500; Brad Wilson 658; Trent Staggs 2,232; declaring John Curtis as winner in Uintah County.

US House District #3: JR Bird received 3,578 votes; Mike Kennedy 1,949; Case Lawrence 641; Stewart Peay 185; John "Frugal" Dougall 226; declaring JR Bird as winner in Uintah County.

Governor and Lieutenant Governor: Spencer J. Cox/Diedre M. Henderson received 2,715 votes; Phil Lyman/Natalie Clawson 3,891; declaring Phil Lyman/Natalie Clawson as winner in Uintah County.

Attorney General: Derek Brown received 3,007 votes; Frank Demcy Mylar 1,511; Rachel Terry 1,782; declaring Derek Brown as winner in Uintah County.

State Auditor: Tina Cannon received 3,242 votes; Ricky Hatch 3,003; declaring Tina Cannon winner in Uintah County.

The State will declare the state and federal winners once the State Canvass is complete.

County Commissioner: Danny B. Mortensen received 2,950 votes; Willis LeFevre 3,641; declaring Willis LeFevre as the Republican candidate for Uintah County Commissioner.

The Board of Canvassers will sign the letter to the State Lt. Governor's office that states: "I, Michael W. Wilkins, Uintah County Clerk-Auditor, do hereby certify that the attached documentation is a true and correct copy of the official Primary Election held on June 25, 2024 after the Board of Canvassers meeting held July 9, 2024 at 3:00 pm."

Mike also took a moment to thank Commissioner Laursen for participating in the Logic and Accuracy testing of the election equipment. He also thanked today's Board of Canvassers for participating in the audit. The ballots are tracked and counted in batches. This list of batches is sent to the Lt. Governor's office and they randomly select a percentage from each machine used to be reviewed. 15 minutes before the scheduled audit, the State informs the County which batches will need to be audited. These batches are then reviewed to ensure the ballot image, cast vote record, and physical ballot all match. This is the way to ensure the integrity of the counting software. The public is always welcome to attend and observe the Logic and Accuracy and the Audit.

Commissioner Norton moved to approve the 2024 Primary Election Results and Canvass as presented. Motion passed unanimously.

13. ADJOURN BOARD OF CANVASSERS AND RECONVENE COMMISSION MEETING

Commissioner Norton moved to adjourn the Board of Canvassers and reconvene the Commission meeting. Motion passed unanimously.

14. PUBLIC COMMENT – none.

15. 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 – ***not needed.***

ADJOURN: The meeting adjourned at approximately 3:22 pm.


JOHN LAURSEN, CHAIR


MICHAEL W. WILKINS, CLERK – AUDITOR

