

**MINUTES** of the work session of the Uintah County Commission held **May 7, 2025** in the large Commission conference room of the Uintah County Building at 152 East 100 North, Vernal, Utah. The meeting commenced at 12:00 p.m.

**PARTICIPANTS:** Commissioners Sonja Norton, John Laursen, and Willis LeFevre.

**ATTENDANCE:** Melanie Silcox, Gennie Bird, Skyler Cargile, JC Brewer, Caleb Hall, Travis Campbell, Robin McClellan, Ryan Mattson, Gregg Galecki, Trinna Gardner, Crystal Clark, and Loren Anderson. Minutes recorded by DawnLee Caldwell..

**WELCOME:** Commissioner Laursen welcomed everyone to the meeting.

**1. OPENING REQUEST FOR QUALIFICATIONS:** Caleb Hall, Deputy Clerk-Auditor

**a. Appeal Authority**

One RFQ was received: submitted by Anderson Call & Wilkinson PC of Ogden, Utah.

**b. Cultural Resource Survey Report**

Three bids were received: Bighorn Archaeological Consultants LLC of Orem, Utah; Pinyon Environmental, Inc. of Lakewood, Colorado; and TetraTech of Salt Lake City and Logan, Utah.

All bids will be reviewed by the associated committees.

**2. SURFACE LEASE WITH AMERICAN GILSONITE**

Loren Anderson, Deputy County Attorney, along with Gregg Galecki and Skyler Cargile, American Gilsonite, addressed the meeting to discuss an easement agreement for the County's property in Bonanza. American Gilsonite has had property there for a significant amount of time and realized that a formal easement for their water well access was not in place. The proposed easement is fairly standard and will provide the access needed to their water wells. The water wells are critical to American Gilsonite's operations, which have spanned decades. While an agreement may have existed in the past, it has been lost over time, and the company seeks to formalize the access. Commissioner Laursen stated this item will be placed on the agenda for the following Tuesday's Commission meeting.

**3. SLCGP MOU 002 - PATCH MANAGEMENT ADDENDUM**

Ryan Mattson, IT, presented an addendum to the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the state cyber center, facilitated through the State Local County Grant Program (SLCGP). The original MOU, signed in February 2024, provided Sentinel One (antivirus and endpoint detection), professional IT training, and awareness training at no cost to the County. This addendum adds a program called Action One, a patch management tool that is already being deployed on all County machines. Action One allows for patch management of Windows and third-party programs and also provides remote desktop and inventory features. Uintah County was part of the proof-of-concept team for this tool and found it beneficial. The SLCGP funding for the cyber center is expected to last until around 2027, raising potential concerns about future funding. The cyber center is actively pursuing legislation for continued funding, and encouraged the Commission to highlight the positive impact of the cyber center on rural counties. He noted that Sentinel One is far superior to their previous paid antivirus and that even if future costs arise, they are expected to be nominal. The cyber center is aiming for \$5 million annual funding statewide. Crystal Clark, IT Director, added that the IT department had emailed information about these efforts and that the program has been phenomenal, working on laptops, surfaces, and even iPads (though phone implementation had issues). The Utah Association of Counties (UAC) and Johnny Miller from Utah Counties Indemnity Pool (UCIP) are involved in pushing for continued funding, emphasizing the importance of rural voices. The shared information pool under the cyber center enhances security by providing immediate awareness of threats affecting other counties. He also assured the Commission that the cyber center respects their autonomy. Sentinel One and Action One will be the two programs installed.

#### **4. CONTRACT FOR SPECIAL ENTERTAINMENT AT THE FAIR**

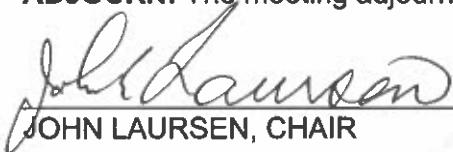
Melanie Silcox, Western Park, provided an update on the contract for special entertainment at the fair, noting that not much had changed since the last discussion. She and Loren had reviewed the contract and are proceeding with the plans. The outstanding item is the final cost from the stage and sound company, who indicated they would provide a quote by the afternoon. The initial contract stipulated a covered stage, but negotiations resulted in this requirement being removed, and the existing stage will be used. She anticipates the total cost to be around \$10,000 above the base entertainment fee, excluding insurance. They investigated rain-out insurance, a new consideration for the County. A local insurance company suggested venturing outside local options for better rates. Quotes were obtained from Vortex out of Kansas, offering tiered or flat-rate policies based on rainfall. A simple flat-rate policy quoted \$40,000 for 0.1 inches of rain on the first night, \$20,000 for the second, and \$10,000 for the third, totaling \$70,000 for all three nights at a cost of \$4,899.00. These three nights would cover the entire fair, not just the concert. Loren noted standard entertainment contracts often do not recognize "acts of God" like storms as reasons for non-payment to the entertainer. If the entertainer is contracted and present, the full fee is typically due, even if the performance is canceled due to weather. This is why rain insurance is being explored. While the last two years experienced rain, successful performances still occurred, but a past bull-riding event during heavy rain was stressful due to safety concerns. Melanie is finalizing the contract with the entertainer. She asked for direction on whether to pursue rain insurance for one or all three nights. Saturday night's concert is a paid event, while Friday night is free to the public, with an estimated cost of around \$30,000 to produce. Commissioner Norton asked if she checked with Johnny Miller at UCIP. Melanie responded the County's policy does not cover a rainout and she did not ask Johnny if something was available. The local insurance agent also recommended looking at specialized event insurance providers online, which led to the contact with Vortex. Commissioner Norton recommended inquiring with UCIP about other counties' experiences for additional insights. Commissioner Laursen suggested getting quotes for all three nights to have the full range of options. Melanie confirmed that the \$4,899 insurance cost for \$70,000 coverage would fit within the overall concert budget above the \$41,000 park allocation. She will get more information regarding the insurance and costs by noon on Monday.

#### **5. CONSIDERATION OF THE AGREEMENT WITH NAPLES CITY FOR JUSTICE COURT PROSECUTION**

Loren presented an agreement with Naples City for the County to continue providing prosecution services for their Justice Court. The previous agreement, in place since 2003, expired at the end of December. The Naples Chief of Police requested a continuation. The terms of the new draft contract are largely the same, with Naples City paying the County \$20,000 bi-annually, totaling \$40,000 per year, for misdemeanor prosecution services. The Chief requested a five-year contract with the possibility of extension. The draft agreement is being sent to Naples City for their signature. This is the same price as in 2023. Jaymon Thomas, County Attorney, informed Loren that it was a fair price.

Commissioner Laursen announced that the work session time would change to 10:00 AM on Wednesdays, effective June 4th.

**ADJOURN:** The meeting adjourned at approximately 12:45 pm

  
JOHN LAURSEN, CHAIR

  
MICHAEL W. WILKINS, CLERK – AUDITOR

