

## COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES

JUNE 17, 2025

MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE  
BOARD OF EMERY COUNTY COMMISSIONERS  
HELD AT THE EMERY COUNTY COURTHOUSE

JUNE 17, 2025

Present at the meeting was Commission Chairman Keven Jensen, Commissioner Jordan Leonard, Commissioner Debnis Worwood, Attorney Mike Olsen, Sheriff Tyson Huntington, Deputy Clerk/Auditor Carol Cox, elected officials and citizens.

## CONSENT AGENDA

(1)

APPROVAL OF CHECK EDIT LIST, REQUISITIONS, AND DISPOSITIONS.

The Warrant Check Edit List #268492 through and including #268680 was presented for payment.

Requisitions were presented for the following:

<u>REQUISITION</u>	<u>DESCRIPTION</u>	<u>AMOUNT</u>
34-25	(2) AC Units Road Department/Travel Bureau	\$9,998.00

A disposition was presented for a list of computers, printers, copiers, fax machines, radios, and other miscellaneous equipment that is old and outdated as they no longer are able to interface with current software. If they were non-functioning they were discarded, and usable items were sold during an online auction. The list of the tag numbers may be found at the end of this document.

(2)

APPROVAL OF THE JUNE 3, 2025 COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES.

(3)

APPROVAL OF BUSINESS LICENSE FOR MICHAEL AND MARILYN BONNER FOR WALLY'S  
ROADSIDE GRILL, LLC.

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(4)

APPROVAL OF TERRI BENNETT AS A VOLUNTEER FOR MOTORIZED TRAILS.

(5)

APPROVAL TO HIRE KAVERY KILLPACK AS A FULL TIME DISPATCHER I UNTIL BCO/LEO CERTIFIED. WITH FULL BENEFITS. WAGE GRADE 14.

Motion to approve the Consent agenda was made by Commissioner Dennis Worwood, seconded by Commissioner Jordan Leonard, and the motion passed.

## DISCUSSION AGENDA

(1)

ITEMS PULLED FROM THE CONSENT AGENDA.

Commissioner Jensen acknowledged the presence of the Huntington Elementary Bronco Archery Team. The students came to show their gratitude for the financial support they received from Emery County that gave them the opportunity to attend a national competition in Myrtle Beach, SC. The students addressed the Commission and relayed their experience traveling out of the state, which for many of them was their first time. They thanked the Commissioners for believing in them and giving them the amazing opportunity.

(2)

SAFETY MINUTE PRESENTATION-BELINDA PEACOCK, MUSEUM OF THE SAN RAFAEL LEAD.

(3)

AWARDING OF SAFETY VISA GIFT CARDS-147 DAYS NO LOSS TIME ACCIDENTS.

Full time employee: AnnDee Mead

Part time employee: Peggy Farnsworth

Safety Sensitive Employees: Mike Grange and Joshua Opp

(4)

ACCEPTANCE AND AWARDING OF BIDS SUBMITTED FOR THE INDUSTRIAL PARK MASTER PLAN RFP.

Commissioner Jordan Leonard made a motion to re-advertise a RFQ for the Industrial Park Master Plan as the previous bids received were not comparable. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Dennis Worwood. The motion passed.

AYE: Jordan Leonard

Dennis Worwood

Keven Jensen

NAY: none

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(5)

OPEN AND ACCEPT APPLICATIONS FOR THE MARKETING & MEDIA ASSETS RFQ.

Travel Bureau Director AnnDee Mead received applications for Marketing & Media Assets from the following:

James Huggard, Sandra Salvas, Courtney Leavitt, Buskin Allred, Reata Cummings, Leon Clayton and Sarah Palmer.

She indicated that the Travel Bureau would like to create a list of several photographers and videographers to get a variety of media assets to use for marketing projects.

Commissioner Jordan Leonard made a motion to accept the applications for the Marketing & Media Assets. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Dennis Worwood. The motion passed.

AYE: Jordan Leonard

Dennis Worwood

Keven Jensen

NAY: none

(6)

RECOGNITION OF WYATT FOX, UTAH STATE CHAMPION RIFLE SHOOTING.

Wyatt Fox, Light Rifle Shooting Champion gave a brief report on this year's competition in Rock Springs, WY. The highest score one can achieve is 360. Wyatt shot a 345. He is now looking forward to the National competition.

(7)

PRESENTATION BY JEREMY JORGENSEN REGARDING THE 2025 FIRE SEASON AND OTHER FFSL INFORMATION AS WELL AS AN INTRODUCTION TO THE ASSISTANT WARDEN.

County Fire Warden Jeremy Jorgensen provided a brief update of the 2025 fire season and other vital information. He introduced his Assistant Warden, Paul Benoit. There are currently no restrictions on the unincorporated areas of the county, however, that could change any time. He reported that 100% of fires in Emery County this year have been human caused. They are looking at increasing public awareness to encourage people to use "fire sense". There is currently a reg flag warning for Carbon and Emery counties for high winds and low humidity. No burn permits will be approved through June 22.

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(8)

DISCUSS/APPROVE/DENY MODIFICATION OF GRANT AGREEMENT ADDING \$5,000.00 TO THE COOPERATIVE LAW ENFORCEMENT OPERATING & FINANCIAL PLAN BETWEEN EMERY COUNTY AND USDA, FOREST SERVICE MANTI-LASAL NATIONAL FOREST.

Sheriff Tyson Huntington explained that the modification is to add an additional \$5,000.00 to the Grant Agreement. Commissioner Jordan Leonard made a motion to approve the Modification of Grant Agreement adding \$5,000.00 to the Cooperative Law Enforcement Operating & Financial Plan between Emery County and USDA Forest Service Manti-LaSal National Forest. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Dennis Worwood. The motion passed.

AYE: Jordan Leonard

Dennis Worwood

Keven Jensen

NAY: none

(9)

DISCUSS/APPROVE/DENY FY26 SECURITY AND BAILIFF CONTRACT BETWEEN THE STATE OF UTAH SEVENTH DISTRICT COURT AND THE EMERY COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE.

Sheriff Huntington explained that the contract is with the State of Utah Seventh District Court to provide security and bailiff services for 2026. Commissioner Dennis Worwood made a motion to approve FY 26 Security and Bailiff Contract between State of Utah Seventh District Court and the ECSO. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Jordan Leonard. The motion passed.

AYE: Dennis Worwood

Jordan Leonard

Keven Jensen

NAY: none

(10)

DISCUSS/APPROVE/DENY MODIFICATION NO.P0008 BETWEEN BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT AND EMERY COUNTY TO DE-OBLIGATE UNUSED FUNDS IN THE AMOUNT OF \$13,007.25 FOR OPTION YEAR 3 OF THE CURRENT CONTRACT FOR LAW ENFORCEMENT SERVICES ON BLM LAND.

Sheriff Huntington explained that the funds that are un-used for the year are de-obligated. Commissioner Denis Worwood made a motion to approve Modification No.P0008 between BLM and EC to de-obligate unused funds in the amount of \$13,007.25 for option 3 of the current contract for law enforcement services on BLM land. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Jordan Leonard. The motion passed.

AYE: Dennis Worwood

Jordan Leonard

Keven Jensen

NAY: none

## COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES

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(11)

DISCUSS/APPROVE/DENY 2025 TAX RATES FOR EMERY COUNTY.

Clerk/Auditor Brenda Tuttle requested approval for the 2025 Certified Tax Rate for the General Fund, Library, Aquatic Center, and Assessing & Collecting as follow:

General Fund	0.003698	to generate	\$7,741,677.00
Library	0.000429	to generate	\$ 898,102.00
Rec/AQ Center	0.000068	to generate	\$ 142,356.00

Assessing/Collecting 0.000463 to generate \$1,022,609.00

Commissioner Jensen talked about lowering some of the tax rates because of new potential sources of income from the Solar Companies and the Inland Port Authority. Brenda suggested having some discussions before changing anything as the budgets are set for 25. She added that once you lower the rate you can never increase it again. Lowering the rate would be a permanent decision for future budgets. Reducing the rates may affect a citizen's taxes by, maybe, \$10.00, but could severely impact the county. None of the potential sources have started to provide revenue to the county. The Commissioners will have discussions regarding the tax rates for next year's budget. Commissioner Jordan Leonard made a motion to approve the 2025 Certified Tax Rate for Emery County. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Dennis Worwood. The motion passed. Commissioner Jensen voted NAY.

AYE: Jordan Leonard

Dennis Worwood

NAY: Keven Jensen

(12)

DISCUSS/APPROVE/DENY 2025 TAX RATES FOR CVSSD.

Jacob Sharp, Manager CVSSD requested approval for the 2025 Certified Tax Rates for their General Operations and Interest and Sinking Fund/Bond as follow:

General Operations	0.001166	to generate	\$1,844,770.00
Interest & Sinking Fund/Bond	0.000913	to generate	\$1,444,655.00

Jacob explained that the Certified Tax Rate is similar to last year. There was a slight decrease in Centrally Assessed values. Commissioner Jordan Leonard made a motion to approve 2025 Tax Rates for CVSSD. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Dennis Worwood. The motion passed.

AYE: Jordan Leonard

Dennis Worwood

Keven Jensen

NAY: none

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(13)

DISCUSS/APPROVE/DENY RUSSIAN OLIVE INVASIVE SPECIES MITIGATION GRANT AGREEMENT FOR FY JULY 1, 2025-JUNE 30, 2026.

Cory Worwood, Weed/Mosquito Director, requested approval for an ongoing Russian Olive Invasive species Mitigation Grant. The amount of the grant is \$57,750.00 from the Utah Department of Agriculture to remove Russian Olives along the river bank on the western end of the county. Commissioner Dennis Worwood made a motion to approve the Russian Olive Invasive Species Mitigation Grant Agreement for FY July 1, 2025-June 30, 2026. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Jordan Leonard. The motion passed.

AYE: Dennis Worwood

Jordan Leonard

Keven Jensen

NAY: none

(14)

DISCUSS/APPROVE/DENY ORDINANCE IMPOSING A TRANSIENT ROOM TAX NOT TO EXCEED 4.5% ON SHORT-TERM RENTALS OF ACCOMMODATIONS AND SERVICES AS AUTHORIZED BY UTAH CODE 59-12-301(1) (A)(II).

Travel Director AnnDee Mead explained an Ordinance imposing a Transient Room Tax not to exceed 4.5% on short-term rentals of accommodations and services as authorized by Utah Code 59-12-301 (1) (a) (ii). This authorizes counties of second through sixth class to impose a transient room tax (TRT) on charges for accommodations and services. Emery County is a county of the fourth class and desires to impose this tax at the maximum allowable rate in order to promote tourism and mitigate the impacts of recreation and visitor use. This would include short-term rentals of tourist homes, hotels, motels, trailer courts, and similar accommodations. Revenue from this tax would be used exclusively for the purpose of establishing and promoting tourism, recreation, film production, and conventions, acquiring, constructing, or maintaining tourism-or recreation-related facilities and infrastructure. Also, mitigating impacts of recreation, tourism, and conventions through support for emergency services, law enforcement, road repair, and solid waste management, as well as, making payments for bonds for such purposes. Commissioner Dennis Worwood made a motion to approve Ordinance 2025-6-17 imposing a Transient Room Tax not to exceed 4.5% on short-term rentals of accommodations and services as authorized by Utah Code 59-12-301 (1) (a) (ii). The motion was seconded by Commissioner Jordan Leonard. The motion passed.

AYE: Dennis Worwood

Jordan Leonard

Keven Jensen

NAY: none

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(15)

DISCUSS/APPROVE/DENY UOT CO-OP MARKETING GRANT APPLICATION.

AnnDee Mead requested approval for the UOT Co-op Marketing Grant Application. This grant will assist in extending the events budget for things that align with the County's new brand. Commissioner Dennis Worwood made a motion to approve the UOT CO-OP Marketing Grant Application. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Jordan Leonard. The motion passed.

AYE: Dennis Worwood

Jordan Leonard

Keven Jensen

NAY: None

(16)

DISCUSS/APPROVE/DENY OHV-R GRANT APPLICATION

AnnDee Mead requested approval for the OHV-R Grant Application. New maps need to be printed so this is a matching grant to purchase maps that will be used for the next 3 to 4 years. They are asking for \$6,000.00. Commissioner Jordan Leonard made a motion to approve the OHV-R Grant Application. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Dennis Worwood. The motion passed.

AYE: Jordan Leonard

Dennis Worwood

Keven Jensen

NAY: none

(17)

DISCUSS/APPROVE/DENY EMERY TOWN VISITOR INFORMATION SIGN.

Emery Town leaders have asked the Travel Bureau to help with a Visitor Information Sign to provide vital information for visitors passing through off of I-70. They are working with UDOT and BLM to get information that would be essential to visiting the area. They have funds to put towards the production of a sign, but requested assistance from the Travel Bureau with TRT funds to fund the cost to create the sign. Commissioner Dennis Worwood made a motion to approve Emery Town and EC Travel Bureau's request for a Visitor Information Sign in Emery Town using TRT funds. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Jordan Leonard. The motion passed.

AYE: Dennis Worwood

Jordan Leonard

Keven Jensen

NAY: none

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(18)

DISCUSS/APPROVE/DENY RESOLUTION ESTABLISHING THE HUNTINGTON 69V  
MUNICIPAL AIRPORT ADVISORY BOARD AND CREATING BYLAWS OF THE BOARD.

The Commissioners discussed the need to have a Huntington Municipal Airport Advisory Board. They agreed that they need a working group to work through the details. Establishing a board will help the Airport function better and fit the needs of the County. Commissioner Dennis Worwood made a motion to table. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Jordan Leonard. The motion passed.

AYE: Dennis Worwood  
Jordan Leonard  
Keven Jensen

NAY: none

(19)

DISCUSS/APPROVE/DENY TRANSITION OF ZIONS WEALTH INVESTMENT TO RAYMOND  
JAMES.

Treasurer, Josie Stilson explained that Emery County's Investment portfolio has been with Zions Wealth Investment for many years. Over the years the county has maintained a good working relationship with Scott Bennett. Scott has moved to Raymond James. Josie requested approval to transition from Zions Wealth Investment to Raymond James maintaining the working relationship from which the County has benefited. There are no fees to transition. Josie introduced Scott Bennett to the Commissioners and invited him to provide a summary of what the company will continue to provide to the county. Commissioner Dennis Worwood made a motion to approve the transition of Zions Wealth Investment to Raymond James. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Jordan Leonard. The motion passed.

AYE: Dennis Worwood  
Jordan Leonard  
Keven Jensen

NAY: none

(20)

DISCUSSION REGARDING A POLICY FOR DONATIONS. SPECIFICALLY TO INDIVIDUALS

The Commissioners had a conversation regarding a policy for donations, specifically to individuals. This discussion came about due to recent requests from individuals to attend events, etc. They felt that there needs to be a clear, specified dollar amount for individual donations and group donations. Discussion only.



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(21)

ELECTED OFFICIALS REPORTS

Castle Dale Mayor, Danny VanWagoner thanked the deputies, EMS and Fire Dept. for being willing to sacrifice their time to assist in a recent fire incident.

Larry Ellertson reported on efforts in the State legislature with regard to Wildland Fire Mitigation in the State of Utah. Also, salvaging energy credits. Concerns with Public Lands and the permitting process of monuments and roads with regard to the Antiquities Act.

Sheriff Huntington reported on a recent fire in Clawson. There is an ongoing investigation.

Commissioner Leonard applauded our volunteers. He reminded everyone of the Lunch and Learn. Presenters will be the Inland Port Authority.

Commissioner Worwood reported on the progress of the Huntington Senior Center.

Commissioner Jensen reminded everyone of the comment period for the Wedge Campground improvements.

(22)

ADJOURN

Motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Commissioner Jordan Leonard, seconded by Commissioner Dennis Worwood, and the motion passed.

AYE: Jordan Leonard

Dennis Worwood

Keven Jensen

NAY: none

ATTEST: \_\_\_\_\_ COMMISSIONER: \_\_\_\_\_