

Minutes of the Commission Meeting of the Board of Commissioners, Carbon County, State of Utah, held Wednesday, July 2, 2025 in the Commission Room of the Administration Building, Price, Utah, commencing at 4:30 p.m.

Those present: Larry Jensen, Commission Chair
Jared Haddock, Commissioner
Tony Martines, Commissioner

Also present: Christian Bryner, County Attorney
Geni Hawk, Commission Secretary
Seth Marsing, Clerk/Auditor
Lori Perez, Chief Deputy Clerk
Kellie Payne, HR Director
Adam Cox, Jail Commander

1) Approval of Minutes

Commissioner Haddock made a motion to approve the June 18, 2025 Commission Meeting minutes. Commissioner Martines seconded. Motion carried.

Commissioner Jensen took a moment to explain the tax disclosure notice that will be mailed to all property owners over the next few weeks. If you are a property owner and do not get one you will need to contact the County for a new one. This notice is not a bill. The property tax bills are mailed out by October 31. This notice explains how your tax dollars are shared among the local government taxing entities, to show how your property is classified and valued and to inform you of your right to appeal by the September 15, 2025 deadline. You can also compare this year's values to last year's values, tax rates and tax dollars. It will also notify you of any tax increases and your right to attend the taxing entity's public hearing.

Seth said there are no tax increases except for possibly Wellington City who is currently going through Truth in Taxation hearings. Commissioner Jensen said this involves a series of public hearings before a vote is taken to raise taxes.

In order to appeal the information on the tax disclosure notice you have to file an appeal by September 15, 2025. This notice shows your property's assessed value as of January 1, 2025. You have from July 31st to September 15th to file an appeal. Late appeals will not be accepted. All appeal applications and supporting evidence must be received on or prior to September 15, 2025 or within 45 days from the mailing date of the notice.

Commissioner Jensen discussed the six programs available for property tax relief on primary residences. You can call the clerk's office for help and information. The six ways are: 1) age and income based for residents over age 66 with income under \$42,623.00, 2) County hardship for those in extreme hardship or disabled with income under \$51,148.00, 3) disabled veterans exemptions for veterans with at least 10% VA disability, 4) active duty military is for those who are deployed outside the State of Utah for 200 or more days last year, 5) blind exemption for legally blind home owners or surviving spouse or orphan, 6) and the 65 and older payment deferral for residents with income under \$85,246.00, this is a new abatement. Seth said this is for those who cannot afford their taxes, it is a deferral and the taxes become due eventually if the name on the deed changes.

Seth said the tax disclosure notices will be mailed out on July 20th. Commissioner Martines said to watch for these notices the end of July the first part of August. If you have questions, please call.

Commissioner Haddock said the September 15th appeal deadline is going to be a hard deadline. We will not accept late appeals.

2) Employee of the Month – Kellie Payne

Kellie said the July 2025 Employee of the Month is Todd Thorne. Todd is the director of Planning and Zoning and has been employed with Carbon County for nine years. He was nominated by his staff. They, as well as Todd, were invited to the microphone.

Tiffany said the Planning and Zoning Staff - Mellissa, Ryan, Doris, Lincoln and Tiffany, are proud to nominate Todd Thorne for Employee of the Month. He is quick thinking and has solid leadership. He is not just a great supervisor, he is like a group hug and motivational speaker. He listens with the patience of a therapist and backs this team like a best friend. He handles challenges. If you bring him a problem, the chances are he is already working on a solution. He leads with empathy, fairness and integrity. Morale is high and productivity is up. He sets the tone and the team rises to it. Todd brings out the best in everyone. Todd is the clear choice for this award.

Todd thanked the commissioners for the good work environment and for the good people he works with. It is a good place to be and he enjoys coming to work every day.

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

Tina said Amy Lee has owned and operated the busiest tanning salon on Main Street in Price for more than twenty years. Sunset Glow Tanning has been a staple in the community and her customer service has always been amazing. She always makes you feel special, every time you come in. After twenty plus years, Amy has decided to move on to a new chapter of her life and is closing her business. She is going to be missed by so many people in the community. This is the time to honor her for all she has done for Carbon County and Price City's downtown district. The Super Service Award goes to Amy Lee with Sunset Glow Tanning.

Amy said thank you for the support of the community over all of the years. The Commissioners congratulated her.

4) **Children's Justice Center Tournament update – Friends' Board**

Alisha Sandoval is the chairperson for the Children's Justice Center Friends' Board. This year they held their Golf, Dinner and Concert Event on June 21. They had twenty-nine golf teams participate and prepared for 200 people for the concert and dinner and had to set up more tables. It was a really great turnout. They earned \$38,448.40, minus the costs, the total to be deposited is \$28,414.

Shelley Wright said they did well and the Children's Justice Center is very grateful for all of the work that the board members did. They have a fifteen-member board who are all rock stars. We wouldn't be here without their support and help. She thanked everyone for all of the work accomplished for the Children's Justice Center.

Alisha said they wanted to give a big thank you to Megan Camberlango because she really worked hard. She made sure things got done. She helped with invoicing, payments, thank you letters, etc. Every time the board needed something she was willing to help. They presented her with a big thank you and a plaque.

Alisha thanked everyone for the support for this great cause. Commissioner Jensen said the Children's Justice Center plays a big role in our community. It takes a lot of effort to operate along with a lot of volunteers.

5) **PUBLIC HEARING – Jones and DeMille Transportation Master Plan -**

Daniel Luke said a year ago the Road Department received a grant for \$80,000 to develop a Master Transportation Plan. They have been working with Jones and DeMille to establish this over the past year. The plan was presented at a public open house held on June 10th. It has also been presented in Commission Meeting and in the Planning Commission Meeting. It is still being prepared and amended.

This plan includes tools for Planning and Zoning to be able to work with developers to help have an organized approach to the development of the County. It has key elements within it to provide connectivity. We build on dead end streets which in some cases is desired but also needs elements of connectivity. This plan is a 170-page document that has current traffic flows, speeds, types of vehicles using the roads, along with a forecast for what the repairs and impacts will be in the future. It has planning tools to forecast budgets needed for repairs and improvements. This document is available online along with associated maps. They have received a number of public comments which is still open for additional feedback. It is advertised on the County's media pages. They are addressing the comments received and are hoping for more good feedback.

Commissioner Martines said the work that has been completed has been amazing. He thanked the Road Department and their staff. All of the Master Plan upgrades will be on that same level. Daniel said this tool will open additional pots of money for the Road Department. We can apply for other grants and other similar things once this Master Plan is in place. It is a big factor to why we are doing this in order to seek more funding.

Commissioner Jensen said the State has been generous to pay for this. The work that we do locally affects the State Highway System as well. It is a coordinated effort to ensure that they are aware of what is going on and what would help us. Commissioner Haddock thanked Daniel for his hard work.

Commissioner Jensen opened the public hearing at 4:48 p.m.

Hearing no comments, Commissioner Jensen closed the public hearing at 4:49 p.m.

6) **Notice of State 1 Fire Restrictions for Unincorporated Parts of Utah**

Commissioner Jensen said Jeremy Jorgensen is here to answer questions but Commissioner Jensen wanted to read the interagency fire notice. Commissioner Jensen read the restrictions notice. The restriction begins June 28, 2025 at 12:01 a.m. (A copy will be attached to the minutes.)

Commissioner Jensen said the only areas where fires can be built are in established fire rings or grills at improved campgrounds or designated day use areas in State Parks, on BLM Lands, and in National Parks Service sites in the Dixie, Fish Lake and Manti La Sal National Forests. If you are up on the Forest you can build a fire if you are in a designated campsite with an established firepit or in permanent firepits on private land located in unincorporated State Lands if the home has pressurized running water.

Jeremy said to clarify, the restriction notice excludes incorporated cities and towns. This only covers State Forest and unincorporated lands. The cities have their own rules and regulations. Fire building in the cities should be built cautiously.

Jeremy said concerning fireworks they are discouraged in areas where there is dry grass or any combustible materials in the cities. There are restrictions for all unincorporated lands in the State which includes the subdivisions in Westwood, Gordon Creek, Coal Creek or any other areas that are part of the County. Fireworks are not allowed unless they have waivers signed by Jeremy. There are only two waivers for the two public fireworks displays on July 4th at the Fairgrounds and July 5th in Scofield. There is a \$1,000 fine and possibly six months in jail.

7) **Consideration and possible approval of funding request from Utah Support Advocates for Recovery Awareness (USARA) for Opioid Settlement Funds**

Mercedes, Evan and David were introduced. David Done said he is the Advocacy Public Policy Director for Utah Support Advocates for Recovery Awareness (USARA). The County is going to be receiving some additional opioid settlement funds. They are asking for allocation of those new funds, not touching any of the existing funds which are already going to good places. They are asking for \$200,000 to sustain and expand the currently existing recovery community center here in Price. This is an investment for one of the most critical and often, missing piece of recovery. It is long term community-based support services. They are staffed by people with experience, people who have lived the experience and have gone through recovery. They are a little different then some of the other organizations who receive funding. They are not political and do not have any inherent built in pay. They cannot bill insurance or get funds from Medicaid. They are often dependent upon other sources of funding in order to do their work. They work with individuals before, during and after treatment. They exist to protect the investment of recovery and keep people doing well. Mercedes and Evan are the boots on the ground. Anyone can walk in and find hope, community and recovery. They are happy to answer any question and think this is a good use of opioid funds.

Mercedes Morgan said she has been managing the recovery center here in Price for five and a half years. She feels fortunate to get to work one on one with individuals. They offer support for those who are incarcerated, they are allowed into the jail, they have a good relationship with the court system, they work with DCFS and

supporting families. There were 3,350 times where someone reached out and were able to sit down with a coach. Anyone can reach out for support and will receive it with love, understanding, compassion and a soft place to land. They are trying to catch those who are falling through the cracks. They try and remove all of the red tape so that anyone walking through the door can get assistance, free of charge.

Evan said he wants to echo what everyone else said. He is a recovered addict and tried to find help in the past. This program changed his life and he now works for the program. It would mean a lot to him to have the commission consider this request and help them move forward.

Commissioner Haddock said he is grateful for their help in the community. He has met with past clients and USARA has filled a niche. Commissioner Martines thanked them and for the support they give to those who need it. These are the things we enjoy, to get government money allocated to the right sources where it can really help a community.

David said the reason they are asking now is because some of their federal funding is on the chopping block. They are trying to stay operational which is why they are asking for this funding. He thanked the commission for their time.

Commissioner Jensen said as we meet with you, we are waiting for reports from all the agencies that have received opioid funds. We want to hear from them in the next two weeks. There is no question that you need the funds but we need to map out how we move forward this next year. The goal is to allocate the money, give it out and a year later have a deep review of the success. At that point we can decide if we need to move or adjust things. There are some extra funds available.

Seth said to clarify, this request is for an annual amount of \$200,000. These funds come from Purdue and the Satler Family. David said they are working together to solve a common need.

Commissioner Jensen asked USARA to give them a few weeks to decide about the funding.

Commissioner Martines made a motion to table the approval and awarding of the funding request from Utah Support Advocates for Recovery Awareness (USARA) for opioid settlement funds until the Commission can evaluate all of the requests. Commissioner Haddock seconded. Motion carried.

8) **Consideration and possible approval of Contracting with Jones and DeMille Engineering to perform and Environmental Review for the Carbon Industrial Park road work for Grant Funding from Housing and Urban Development**

Commissioner Jensen said when the County was looking at purchasing the Campbell property two years ago, Congressman Curtis's office was approached about grant funding to help purchase it. The application was approved for 2.85 million dollars for that effort. But when we looked closely at the restrictions that would be placed on the property in order to use that grant money, it posed a problem. We did not use the money to buy the property and we had given up on it. We received a phone call from the staff who manage those funds asking why we had not requested them. We explained why we did not accept the funds. They asked if there were any other use for the money on the project. We have decided to accept the money and use it to build the road into the property. The first step to receive those funds is to do the environmental work. By recommendation, Jones and DeMille have an employee who knows what needs to be looked at and will cut the costs of what this work would normally take. In conversations with Jones and DeMille and the HUD people, they have eliminated some of the requirements.

This consideration is to approve the contract with Jones and DeMille. The agenda contains a map and description of the work. The amount quoted is \$60,000 which can be paid by the grant.

Commissioner Martines said this is a good thing to be working on. Commissioner Jensen said these Federal grants take time because of the requirements. There are lots of different angles to look at including plants, endangered species, wildlife, raptors, mining, grazing, and archaeological sites. This one should be simple because it is in fields that have been plowed and planted in the past.

Commissioner Haddock made a motion to approve the contract with Jones and DeMille Engineering to perform the environmental review for the Carbon Industrial Park road. Commissioner Martines seconded. Motion carried.

9) **Consideration and possible approval of the Utah State Historical Records Advisory Board Grant received by the Clerk/Auditor's Office – Seth Marsing**

Seth said we have a lot of records stored in our office including all of the marriage licenses dating back to the early 1900's. In order to preserve them and help provide better access to them, Lori reached out to the Utah State Archives and Records Service Division and found this grant. They will provide \$4,680 in grant funding with a 50/50 match. We have hired a contract worker, Kathy Hamaker, who is part time and comes in two to three times a week for a couple of hours and has started scanning these records in order to preserve them. This has needed to be done for quite a while but we did not have the man power or time to do it. We are excited for this effort. Because of the timing, we have already applied and received approval of the grant so this is a ratification instead of an approval.

Commissioner Martines made a motion to approve and ratify the Utah State Historical Records Advisory Board Grant received by the Clerk/Auditor's Office. Commissioner Haddock seconded. Motion carried.

10) **Review of Department Reports**

Commissioner Haddock made a motion to adjourn.

The meeting adjourned at 5:42 p.m.



Larry Jensen, Commission Chair
Carbon County Commission

ATTEST:



Seth Marsing, County Clerk/Auditor



