

Minutes of the Commission Meeting of the Board of Commissioners, Carbon County, State of Utah, held Wednesday, July 16, 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, Excused
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
Jeff Wood, Sheriff

Commissioner Jensen excused Commissioner Haddock from the meeting.

1) **Approval of Minutes**

Commissioner Martines made a motion to approve the July 2, 2025 Commission Meeting minutes. Commissioner Jensen stepped down and seconded. Motion carried.

2) **Employee recognition presented by Rebecca Taylor, Director of the Senior Center**

Rebecca invited Heather Isaacson to the podium and said that back in April there was an unexpected need in the kitchen. We were looking for someone to step into a challenging roll that was thought to be temporary. Heather was approached for the job which included coming in an hour earlier. What started as a six-week commitment has now stretched into three months. Through it all Heather has been amazing. She has shown up every day with a willingness to learn and grow. Her rolls are now pure perfection. Heather stepped up with unwavering commitment and a positive attitude. The Senior Center is grateful for her flexibility and her contribution to the team. Heather was thanked for everything she does.

Heather said it has been a challenge for her and she thanked her coworkers who helped her out.

3) **Employee recognition presented by Deputy Chief Zac Wise, Helper Fire Department**

Zac said the fire chiefs from Carbon County want to formally recognize the efforts of the Carbon County Road Department and the Carbon County Maintenance Department during a major structure fire in the Gordon Creek area on Wednesday, June 25th. In response to the rapidly growing fire, which involved multiple structures and lack of an accessible water source, immediate support was requested. Jeremy Robinson brought a water truck from the Fairgrounds. The Road Shop was contacted for additional assistance, and already had a water truck in route. Both the Road and Maintenance Departments went above and beyond in their response by providing water trucks, closing the roads and providing coolers full of water. Their team was ready to assist however they were needed. Their swift action and coordination were instrumental in gaining valuable time in containing the fire and preventing further damage and potential loss of life. They specifically want to recognize: Phil Pappas, Jeremy, Jake, Bryan and Cody for their quick responses. They also extended their sincere appreciation to their supervisors and the Carbon County Commission for the use of their vital personnel and resources. Their ongoing support plays a crucial role in the safety of our communities. Events like this highlight the importance of a strong relationship and what can be achieved when we come together in a shared purpose.

Zac brought Barry Horsley, Daniel Luke and Justin Needles to the front because of their critical involvement. The nearest water source was a half a mile away. Jeremy immediately responded from the Fair Grounds because of a text. As soon as everyone arrived they had the road blocked, water lines going and they never ran out of water. They truly deserve this recognition. Without the support of Barry and Daniel this would have never happened.

van. Which is what they are doing today. Once the new van is purchased, they will work on selling the next two vans, purchase the second one which will allow them to have two newer and nicer vans.

Commissioner Martines made a motion to acknowledge the two bids and allow Commissioner Haddock and Kourtney to review and move forward with the best value. Commissioner Jensen stepped down and seconded. Motion approved.

6) **Consideration and possible approval of the Carbon County Emergency Operations Plan - Justin Needles, Director Emergency Services**

Justin said he was here two weeks ago talking about the EMPG grant. One of the requirements is that we have a current emergency operation plan. He is here to get an approval letter to continue the operation plan that we have had in place over the last several years. Nothing has changed on the plan this year, we will probably do some updates next year. This plan is in place in the event of a large-scale emergency. The EOC would be opened up and the plan would be used to make sure things operate smoothly.

Commissioner Jensen said he read through the plan and the commission is here to support it. It is important to keep the plan in place when it is quiet. Justin said emergency management has had lots of training and this Fall his goal is to do more training. Commissioner Martines said planning ahead goes a long way.

Commissioner Jensen asked Justin to explain what would happen if we had an incident. Justin said you have to remember that all emergencies happen, start and end locally. There are a lot of players that come in from the State and Federal government but the responsibility falls to the jurisdiction who has the authority whether that is the County or the city. The EOC trainings take place upstairs in the ambulance garage. IT is called in to set up the EOC location. We need people from all departments including finance, Sheriff's Office, each of the cities, health department, fire, law enforcement, public works and all those things that are affected, this includes protecting the public. The electrical company comes to address critical infrastructure. There are sixteen different emergency support functions. Emergency alerts will go out to warn the public ahead of time. Commissioner Jensen said we are in good hands.

Commissioner Martines made a motion to approve the Carbon County Emergency Operations Plan. Commissioner Jensen stepped down and seconded. Motion carried.

Justin said this plan was emailed to Geni and she should have it for the commissioners to sign along with the Sheriff.

7) **Ratification of the 2026 Indigent Defense Grant Agreement – Christian Bryner, County Attorney**

Christian said this is additional grant funding given to the public defender system. The legislature has funded this separately to ensure that there are a sufficient number of public defenders to handle all of the cases given to them by the Sheriff's office and other local departments. By law the County is required to pay for indigent defense for anyone in the County who might be charged with any crime that is a Class C misdemeanor or higher requiring jail time. If you cannot afford an attorney you are entitled to one. This burden of cost falls upon the County Commissioners. It is funding required by State statute and the constitution and there is no getting around this. The State of Utah wants to make sure we have enough attorneys to give attention to all of the different criminal cases. We used to have one public defender in the County who handled everything. We now have five public defenders. We have a very robust defense team and this grant allows the County to pay for the heavier caseloads. This cannot supplant our own attorney budget just supplement it and ensures that the attorneys are getting paid sufficiently to handle all of the cases and supply a robust defense.

The contract also gives \$8,000 for defense resources which gives funding that public defenders can use to hire experts for the case, training, and to track cases. Basically, it allows for the contracts to be monitored and that the County is happy with the work provided. It does not require anything from the County except that we maintain our primary level of funding. Christian has reviewed this grant, it is the same and he does not have any concerns. It does what it sets out to accomplish to supply adequate public defense.

Commissioner Jensen said this is a ratification and so the contract has already been signed.

Elections Department – Proposed increase of \$12,000 for new poll pads which are used to check voters in as they come to polling locations. The ones we have are five to six years old and the State is requiring that we update those. We will get 50% of that back from the State.

Maintenance Department - A \$6,000 increase for benefits.

Ambulance Department – A \$380,000 increase because an ambulance was involved in a wreck. In order to put a new box onto a new chassis cost about \$80,000. The other \$300,000 is for new defibrillators because our current ones are old. We were informed that upcoming new defibrillators are going up and wanted to get it done before the deadline. Waiting until next year would have been a significant increase in price.

Ambulance – Also a proposed increase of \$60,000 to pay for a new roof. The roof was old and there were leaking issues.

Recreation Department -Fund 19 - A \$54,000 increase for their buildings and ground maintenance. This was given by the tax advisory board from funds they received from the tourism department. We need to show that it will be expended by the Recreation Department. It is for upgrades at the Shooting Range, \$21,000 increase proposed for equipment such as the vans discussed earlier in this meeting.

Municipal Services Department - Fund 20 – the Sheriff's Department has a proposed increase to their benefits of \$150,000. They have had a number of increases from URS and other benefits.

Building and Inspection Department - A \$50,000 increase for benefits and salaries. One of their employee's was coded to the Zoning Department and will now be in the Inspection Department due to the amount of work they are doing.

Fairgrounds - Fund 26 - an increase of \$37,000. This is to show an expenditure of grant funds for the motocross track of funds we already received but needed to be budgeted to expend. Also, \$15,000 for lightening damage to sound equipment at the Fairgrounds some of this will be funded by school district, a \$16,000 increase for equipment purchases that was delayed from last year and came through in 2025 and a \$97,000 increase to the County Fair account. This is revenue brought in by the Fair this year.

Airport - Fund 54 – an increase of \$80,000 for work done by Jones and DeMille for the Airport Fire Suppression project and an increase of \$300,000 for construction of the north taxing lane. The majority of this will be funded by federal grant dollars

This is all of the proposals that Seth had. He asked if there were any questions. There were not questions from the commissioners.

Commissioner Jensen opened the public hearing at 5:11 p.m.

Seeing no response from the public, the public hearing was closed at 5:12 p.m.

10) Consideration and possible approval of amendments to 2025 budget - Seth Marsing, Clerk/Auditor

Commission Martines made a motion to approve the amendments to the 2025 budget. Commissioner Jensen stepped down and seconded. Motion carried.

11) Review and approval of departmental reports

Commissioner Martines made a motion to adjourn.

The meeting adjourned at 5:13 p.m.

ATTEST:


Seth Marsing, County Clerk/Auditor

