

## **COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES**

**AUGUST 18, 2025**

The regular meeting of the Juab County Commission was held August 18, 2025, 10:00 a.m. in the Juab County Commission Chambers, 160 North Main, Nephi, Utah.

Marty Palmer ----- Commissioner

Marvin Kenison ----- Commissioner

Clinton Painter ----- Commissioner

Perry Davis ----- Attorney

Tanielle Callaway ----- Clerk/Auditor

Others present: Myrna Trauntvein, John Crippen, Landon Rowley, Gage Bell, Cindy Ledbetter, Nate Martinez, Jason Morrell, Brent Boswell, Drake Underwood, Travis Kenison, Scott Sorenson, Lynn Ingram

Chairman Kenison welcomed all in attendance. Commissioner Palmer offered a word of prayer. Commissioner Painter led us in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Commissioner Painter made a motion to accept the minutes from August 4, 2025.

Commissioner Palmer seconds the motion, no opposition, motion carries. All voted in favor.

Jason Morrill and Brent Boswell from the Juab Economic Development Board requested permission to apply for a \$200,000 grant similar to the previous year's funding. They explained that \$20,000 would go toward educational programs while \$180,000 would provide grants to local businesses for development. The educational component has been particularly successful, offering free training from local experts including attorneys, marketing specialists, and accountants to about 30 attendees, creating valuable networking opportunities. Mr. Boswell noted they expanded the program to the West Desert with two additional sessions for six participants there, and they plan to continue this outreach in the future. Commissioner Painter made a motion to approve the grant application. Commissioner Palmer seconds the motion, no opposition, motion carries. All voted in favor.

Landon Rowley introduced Gage Bell as Juab County's new fire warden, praising his strong leadership skills and extensive qualifications. Mr. Bell was selected as the top candidate from an interview panel that included Commissioner Clint Painter, and unlike previous hires who needed additional training, Mr. Bell comes fully qualified with 10 years of firefighting experience. Mr. Rowley noted that Gage Bell has already responded to fires in the county, met with fire department members, and will be introduced to all the chiefs at an upcoming district meeting on Thursday.

Cindy Ledbetter provided updates on several BLM projects affecting Juab County. She explained that new administration priorities have shifted focus away from Gentile transmission lines to solar farms on private land, though work continues on the Dog Valley and Shining Valley projects despite NEPA delays and sage grouse concerns. The Cross Tie transmission line project is moving forward with a decision expected by month's end. She discussed a new 300-foot Verizon communication tower along Highway 132 and ongoing work on the Ash Grove road right-of-way. Ledbetter also addressed issues with Carl Richie's Sahara Sunrise project, where unauthorized road improvements led to trespass concerns, requiring a new application for alternative routing. She emphasized that all projects must go through proper county planning and permitting processes.

Nate Martinez presented Comcast's proposal to bring internet and cable services to Juab County through a franchise agreement. He highlighted Comcast's billion-dollar investment in Utah, employing over 750 people statewide, and plans to extend their network south from existing coverage areas. The service would use full fiber-to-curb technology offering up to 2 gigabytes up and down speeds with nationwide locked-in pricing and no contracts. Construction would primarily use directional boring rather than trenching, with proper permitting and resident notification processes. Mr. Martinez emphasized Comcast's community investment programs including Lift Zones for free internet access, Internet Essentials for low-income families at \$14.95/month, and employee volunteer opportunities. He requested commission approval of the franchise ordinance to begin the 6-10 week construction timeline before winter. Commissioner Painter made a motion to approve Ordinance 2025-05 Adopting Chapter 5.5-8 of the Juab County Code and authorize the Commission Chair to sign the agreement. Commissioner Palmer seconds the motion, no opposition, motion carries. All voted in favor.

Lt. Drake Underwood presented Juab County's Utah Community Emergency Preparedness Assessment (CEPA), where the county served as a pilot program for the state. The comprehensive assessment evaluated 32 core capabilities using local area experts and identified key vulnerabilities including wildfire, drought, and hazardous materials releases as the highest risks. Major gaps were found in backup power generation for critical county buildings, limited storage facilities for emergency equipment, inadequate housing capacity for emergencies, and transportation limitations relying solely on school buses. The county scored well in areas like community resilience and volunteer willingness but struggles with resource limitations and heavy reliance on grant funding. Underwood emphasized that mass casualty incidents involving more than six people would overwhelm local capacity, and the county can typically sustain operations for only 24-48 hours before requiring outside assistance. The assessment will be required every three years going forward and serves as a roadmap for addressing emergency preparedness gaps. The Commissioners thanked Lt. Underwood for all his work on the project.

**Other Business:**

Commissioner Painter made a motion to approve the Juab County bills as presented. Commissioner Palmer seconds the motion, no opposition, motion carries. All voted in favor.

John Crippen presented two personnel action forms. The first is for the Jail. Justin Woffinden has successfully completed probation. The second is for Nick Painter. He has also successfully completed probation. Commissioner Painter made a motion to approve the personnel action forms. Commissioner Palmer seconds the motion, no opposition, motion carries. All voted in favor.

Commissioner Painter made a motion to ratify all the actions taken from the last Commission Meeting that needed to be ratified in this meeting. Commissioner Palmer seconds the motion, no opposition, motion carries. All voted in favor.

Chairman Kenison discussed the MOU for the Pine Valley Project. The Pine Valley MOU involves Juab County joining a multi-county group that is monitoring and protecting water rights in the Pine Valley area. Chairman Kenison has been involved in this effort, and Commissioner Palmer is now also on the list for participation. The MOU allows the county to be involved in protecting water resources without any immediate tax dollar commitment, though future costs are unknown. This is part of a broader effort with several counties fighting against Iron County's water grab, with Salt Lake County notably joining the coalition despite not participating in similar efforts previously, as they recognize the potential negative impacts on their water supply as well. Commissioner Palmer made a motion to authorize the Commission Chair to sign the MOU. Commissioner Painter seconds the motion, no opposition, motion carries. All voted in favor.

Commissioner Painter made a motion to adjourn the open meeting and move to the Closed Session for personnel and litigation. Commissioner Palmer seconds the motion, no opposition, motion carries. Chairman Kenison called for a roll call vote.

Commissioner Painter voted, "Yes."

Commissioner Palmer voted, "Yes."

Chairman Kenison voted, "Yes."

Commissioner Painter made a motion to adjourn. Meeting adjourned.

ATTEST: 

Tanielle Callaway  
Juab County Clerk/Auditor

APPROVED: 

Marvin Kenison  
Commission Chair