

COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES

SEPTEMBER 15, 2025

The regular meeting of the Juab County Commission was held September 15, 2025, 10:00 a.m. in the Levan Town Office, 20 North Main, Levan, Utah.

Marty Palmer ----- Commissioner

Marvin Kenison ----- Commissioner

Clinton Painter -----Commissioner

Perry Davis ----- Attorney

Tanielle Callaway-----Clerk/Auditor

Others present: Myrna Trauntvein, Bruce Rowley, Paul Harmon, Kelly Draper, Justin Woffinden, Kris Olcott and Family, Kacie Sorensen, Debbie Zirbes, Melanie Cowan, Gus Rowley, Travis Kenison, Brady Talbot, Douglas Anderson, Seth Wright, Chris Painter, Don Beese, Jaron Ercanbrack, Kady Rowley, Kodey Hughes, Stephanie Ballow, Chad Ballow, Drake Underwood, Denise Peterson, Chase Oliver, Heidee Oliver, Robert Painter, Elizabeth Painter, Colby Park, Trevor McGuire, Jessica Fletcher, Chelsi Oliver, Kendall Carrigan

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

Chairman Kenison thanked the Levan Town Mayor for allowing the Commission to hold the meeting there. He thanked everyone for their attendance at the meeting.

Commissioner Painter made a motion to accept the minutes from September 2, 2025.

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

Kacie Sorensen with the USU Extension to get approval to use the arena for the winter for 4H Horse Club. It would start in October and then end, depending on the weather, the first of March. They use the arena on Fridays. Last year, they ended up combining the Nephi Club with the Mona Club. They are hoping to keep doing that. Commissioner Painter made a motion to waive the fees for the indoor barn for the 4H from October 1st through March 31st.

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

Lt. Drake Underwood discussed two grants: the HMEP grant and the JAG grant. For the JAG grant, he explained that the state requires patrol deputies and troopers to have fingerprint scanning capabilities by 2027. The \$4,500 grant would allow the sheriff's office to purchase approximately 11 individual fingerprinting scanners, which would almost cover all patrol deputies without using their own budget. The grant has a short turnaround time and requires initial payment by the county, with reimbursement to follow. Commissioner Painter made a

motion to ratify the JAG Grant. Commissioner Palmer seconds the motion, no opposition, motion carries. All voted in favor.

Lt. Underwood next explained the HMEP grant as a \$3,200 annual grant from the Utah Fire Marshal's office. The grant is used to create site plans for local industries, focusing on hazardous materials and emergency response information. This year, they plan to complete site plans for Barnes Bullets and the tomato plant, after previously doing plans for NRP and Owens Corning. The goal is to help first responders understand potential hazards and safe entry/exit points at industrial sites. Lt. Underwood aims to eventually create plans for all industries in the county, prioritizing those with higher risk or call volumes. Commissioner Palmer made a motion to ratify the expenses for the HMEP grant. Commissioner Painter seconds the motion, no opposition, motion carries. All voted in favor.

Under Sheriff Travis Kenison discussed purchasing two new vehicles for the sheriff's office, each costing \$52,608 at government pricing. The vehicles would be Ford Expeditions in space silver metallic, and would replace existing vehicles. One SUV would be used to rotate out current canine vehicles. Kenison noted they are working with their vendor to swap equipment from existing vehicles to new ones, which would cost approximately \$4,000. He suggested purchasing two vehicles now and potentially reconsidering the additional two vehicles later, given some uncertainty about the exact number budgeted for next year.

Lt. Kenison also discussed a vehicle received from Nephi City that was previously purchased with seized funds. The vehicle needs some repairs, primarily oxygen sensors, but Ford mechanics believe it can be fixed for a few hundred dollars. The transmission is new, and the overall drive train looks good. However, the electronics are in poor condition, with wires ripped out from previous modifications like a cage and door poppers. Kenison plans to work with their vehicle vendor to completely redo the electronics. The vehicle could potentially be used as a spare or for K9 operations. Commissioner Painter made a motion to approve the purchase of two vehicles. Commissioner Palmer seconds the motion, no opposition, motion carries. All voted in favor.

Lt. Kenison next presented a proposal for a check-in system for the jail, similar to those used in schools. The system would scan visitors' driver's licenses, run them through databases for warrants and facility blacklists, and track who enters and exits the facility. This would help create a log in case of incidents and screen volunteers. The system would come with a three-year license, with Ricotta (the vendor) offering a price around \$5,000 total. Lt. Kenison suggested approving up to \$6,000 to be safe, noting the system includes equipment and licensing. He mentioned the system would require vendor involvement since Ricotta won't sell directly to the county. Commissioner Painter made a motion to approve the three-year license not to exceed \$6,000, but stated they would like to see the bid when it comes in. Commissioner Palmer seconds the motion, no opposition, motion carries. All voted in favor.

Lt. Kenison briefly mentioned a new house bill from 2023 that mandates early intervention for law enforcement. The bill requires tracking critical incidents and responses to identify potential intervention needs. It went into effect January 1st of this year. Lt. Kenison noted they were not initially aware of the bill and will be looking into grant funds to help implement the required tracking system, acknowledging there will be ongoing costs associated with compliance.

Larry Wright and Colby Park presented a dry recreational subdivision located south of Yuba on Old Highway 91. The subdivision is primarily for weekend use, with lots allowing small 200-square-foot sheds and up to two shipping containers per five acres, painted in natural shades. The area was previously illegally subdivided, and this plan aims to clean up and properly organize the land. They discussed potential cattle guards at access points and emphasized that the lots are meant for bringing trailers and recreational use, not permanent housing. The subdivision has CCNRs and land use codes to prevent the area from becoming cluttered or unsightly. Commission Palmer made a motion to approve the dry recreational subdivision with the owner agreeing to put in cattleguards. Commissioner Painter seconds the motion, no opposition, motion carries. All voted in favor.

Sheriff Doug Anderson, representing the Sheriff's Office, discussed the significant increase in call volume (285% increase from 2,480 to a projected 9,500 responses) and the need for more deputies. He highlighted that Juab County should have 1.5 to 1.8 deputies per 1,000 population, but is currently understaffed. Sheriff Anderson explained that 26 deputies have left in 11 years, with 22 going to other law enforcement agencies primarily due to higher pay. He emphasized the need for a pay model that includes annual merit increases based on performance evaluations, noting that Juab County is the only county among 29 without a structured pay scale for law enforcement. Sheriff Anderson stressed that the current pay is not commensurate with the risks and challenges deputies face daily.

The following employees and family members expressed concern with the low pay of deputies and the challenges that they face: Travis Kenison, Drake Underwood, Chris Painter, Gus Rowley, Kris Olcott, Chase Oliver, Chad Ballow, Trevor McGuire, Jaron Ercanbrack, Brady Talbot, Don Beese, Elizabeth Painter, Steffanie Ballow, Jessica Fletcher, Chelsi Oliver, Mayor Bruce Rowley, Dr. Kody Hughes, Tanielle Callaway and Debbie Zirbes.

Chairman Kenison thanked all the comments and the perspectives and concerns. He stated they appreciated their wives being there to support them. He stated the Commission does support them and does worry about them. They will try and see what they can do. He stated the Commission is not against them and they want to do what's best for the Sheriff's Office and does want to retain all employees. The Commission thanked them for being civil and being willing to come in and voice concerns.

Chairman Kenison explained the intent of Juab County to do a proposed property tax increase as a measure to maintain the county's tax rate. On a \$447,000 residential property, taxes would increase slightly from \$479 to \$515.30 annually. For a business property of the same value,

taxes would increase from \$872.10 to \$936.92. The proposed increase would generate an additional \$325,000 in property tax revenue, representing a 7.343% increase. Chairman Kenison emphasized that this approach prevents the tax rate from sliding back and helps the county maintain its ability to collect revenue from new growth. He noted the goal is not to raise taxes significantly, but to preserve the county's tax rate and financial stability.

Sheriff Doug Anderson asked if the Commission could use this tax increase to do the salary increases for the Sheriff's Office and if that was the highest amount they could request. Chairman Kenison stated that would be the intent of the increase to assist with the salary increases. He stated they could do a higher amount, but they do not want to burden the citizens. He stated it was a balancing act and they had to also consider the citizens on fixed incomes. Myrna Trauntvein speaking as a senior citizen on a fixed income, suggests that many people on fixed incomes would support a tax increase to provide better pay for police officers, better roads, and improved infrastructure, and she personally would not complain about a modest increase. Commissioner Painter made a motion to approve the process for a Truth in Taxation. Commissioner Palmer seconds the motion, no opposition, motion carries. All voted in favor.

Commissioner Painter stated he wanted to address Kris Olcott's statement regarding the jail. Commissioner Painter stated they have used every political tactic he can think of to get the funds for the jail. He stated the Governor has requested Juab County submit an RFA to request funds and they are working on trying to get the funding put in place. Chairman Kenison stated we have performed the feasibility studies and they are invested in getting a new jail.

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.

Denise Peterson had some personnel action forms for approval. The first is for the County Attorney's office. The next are two forms for the Road Department. Commissioner Painter made a motion to approve the longevity increase for Annette Lovel in the attorney's department. Commissioner Palmer seconds the motion, no opposition, motion carries. All voted in favor. Commissioner Palmer made a motion to approve the hiring of Seth Wall and Justin Sutherland for the Road Department and also approve the pay increase for the CDL license for Brent Worthington. Commissioner Painter seconds the motion, no opposition, motion carries. All voted in favor.

Commissioner Painter made a motion to approve Ordinance 2025-06 putting in place a Preservation Committee and Historical Preservation Committee. This will allow the DUP to apply for grants. There was an ordinance in place from 25 years ago, but it needed to be updated and changed. This ordinance will replace the previous one. Commissioner Palmer seconds the motion, no opposition, motion carries. Chairman Kenison called for a roll call vote.

Commissioner Palmer voted, "Yes."

Commissioner Painter voted, "Yes."

Chairman Kenison voted, "Yes."

Commissioner Painter made a motion to adjourn. Meeting adjourned.

ATTEST: Tanielle Callaway

Tanielle Callaway
Juab County Clerk/Auditor

APPROVED: Marvin Kenison

Marvin Kenison
Commission Chair