

**SANPETE COUNTY COMMISSION MEETING**

**October 21, 2025, 2:00 PM**

Sanpete County Courthouse, 160 North Main, Suite 101, Manti, Utah

Present are: Commission Chair Scott Bartholomew, Commissioners Mike Bennett and Jim Cheney. County Attorney Kevin Daniels and County Clerk Linda Christiansen.

Meeting is called to order by Commission Chair Scott Bartholomew.

**OPENING PRAYER OR REMARKS AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

Prayer is offered by Commissioner Scott Bartholomew. Pledge of allegiance is recited by all.

**STACEY LYON: APPROVAL OF CLAIMS; APPROVAL OF FINANCES; APPROVAL TO PAY CUSTOM VINYL CUTS.**

Stacey Lyon presents the agenda items. No questions or concerns are voiced in regards to the claims. Motion is made by Commissioner Bennett to approve payment of claims #362906 through #363007. The motion is seconded by Commissioner Cheney. Vote by voice is taken: Commissioner Cheney votes aye, Commissioner Bartholomew votes aye, and Commissioner Bennett votes aye. The vote is unanimous and the motion passes. No questions or concerns are voiced in regards to the finances. Motion to approve the finances as of October 21<sup>st</sup>, 2025 is made by Commissioner Bennett. The motion is seconded by Commissioner Cheney, and the motion passes. Ms. Lyon explains the invoice is for an employee event that will take place in November. The new County seal will be used on the product. Motion is made by Commissioner Bennett to approve the invoice to Ashley Ashbocker / Custom Vinyl Cuts in the amount of \$4,500.00. The motion is seconded by Commissioner Cheney, and the motion passes.

**STACEY CARLISLE: APPROVAL TO PAY JR. LIVESTOCK ANIMAL SALE CHECKS; APPROVAL TO PAY FINAL LARGE PAYMENTS FOR THE 2025 FAIR.**

Stacey Carlisle presents the agenda item. Ms. Carlisle presents the list of Junior Livestock members that will receive a check from the livestock sale at the fair; the total amount is \$134,103.90. Ms. Carlisle also provides a list of individuals that still owe money for the purchase of the animals; the total amount that still needs to be collected is \$10,979.10.

Multiple invoices have been sent; Ms. Carlisle and Keisha will start making phone calls to the individuals to see if that helps remind them that a debt is owed. After the Commissioners review the list, Commissioner Bartholomew states most of the individuals will use it for a write-off. Commissioner Bennett mentions one of the individuals listed issued a bad check last year. Commissioner Bartholomew states if they have a hard time collecting the money, the remaining amounts can be taken out of the Commissioners account because the kids are owed that money. Motion is made by Commissioner Cheney to approve the payment for the Junior Livestock animal sales for the 2025 Fair, in the amount of \$134,103.90. The motion is seconded by Commissioner Bartholomew, and the motion passes. Commissioner Bartholomew states some of the buyers paid a lot of money for the animals and it is because they would rather their money go to the kids.

**KEVIN CHRISTENSEN: APPROVAL TO PAY FOR THE EVENT CENTER LANDSCAPING UPGRADE.**

Kevin Christensen presents the agenda item. Mr. Christensen explains the invoice is for the stop and waste and backflow installation at the Event Center. Motion is made by Commissioner Cheney to approve the payment to Ecolife for the upgrade to the new Eventcenter sprinkler system in the amount of \$4,019.82. The motion is seconded by Commissioner Bartholomew, and the motion passes. Vote by voice is taken; Commissioner Cheney votes aye, Commissioner Bartholomew votes yes, and Commissioner Bennett abstains.

**TOM SEELY: APPROVAL TO PAY UTAH TRACK & WELDING FOR BUCKET REPAIR.**

Tom Seely presents the agenda item. Mr. Seely states he has a bucket that needs to be rebuilt and he has a bid from Utah Track and Welding, in the amount of \$12,534.34. Discussion ensues in regards to the work that needs to be done on the bucket. This company also did some work on the CAT blade because they are the only ones that do this type of work. Motion is made by Commissioner Bennett to approve the payment to Utah Track Welding for the 966F bucket repair in the amount of \$12,534.34. The motion is seconded by Commissioner Cheney, and the motion passes.

**JASON RHODES: FOLLOW UP DISCUSSION IN REGARDS TO ROAD ACCESS ON LITTLE PIGEON HOLLOW ROAD.**

Jason Rhodes is present. Commissioner Bartholomew explains the commissioners have discussed his application and they don't feel like they can hold up the progression of his project but they do want to propose a stipulation. The stipulation would be that Mr. Rhodes can develop his lots but anyone else that wants to build off of that road, they will need to complete the road study. Commissioner Bennett questions the number of lots that Mr. Rhodes is proposing. Mr. Rhodes has not decided but the number he is considering is between 4-10 lots depending on funding. Commissioner Bennett suggests putting the limit at four but Mr. Rhodes would like to see the number higher than that. They all agree that there is concern in regards to the traffic on Little Pigeon Hollow Road. Discussion ensues in regards to future growth and it is stated that four homes are currently off of that road. Commissioner Cheney mentions he is aware of multiple places in the County where many homes come off of the highway that do not have a turning lane. Commissioner Bennett suggests cutting the maximum number of lots suggested by Mr. Rhodes, in half and approve five rather than four. Mr. Rhodes suggests he will develop five lots in the first phase and if no one else develops in the area before him; he will do the traffic study. Commissioner Bartholomew speaks to Scott Olsen in the audience to see if he has any concerns. Mr. Olsen feels the approval is in line with others. Motion is made by Commissioner Bennett to approve Jason Rhodes moving forward with his subdivision, up to five lots, before the traffic study is required off of 89 and Little Pigeon Hollow Road. The motion is seconded by Commissioner Cheney, and the motion passes. Commissioner Bennett reiterates this is just for the Jason Rhodes Subdivision.

**JENNY WILLIAMS: DISCUSSION AND POTENTIAL APPROVAL TO SIGN UCC LETTER OF SUPPORT FOR CYBERSECURITY FUNDING.**

Jenny Williams presents the agenda item. Ms. Williams explains the letter is asking for

support of ongoing funding for the Utah Cyber Center, which is the model that the State has adopted to provide support to Counties that may not have the resources or funding needed for network security and record keeping. Ms. Williams explains Sanpete County has already utilized the services of the Utah Cyber Center in almost every way that they support and she finds it to be extremely valuable and helpful. The Utah Cyber Center does not ask for any funding to support the counties. Motion is made by Commissioner Bennett to approve the signing of the UCC Letter of support for cybersecurity funding. The motion is seconded by Commissioner Cheney, and the motion passes. Ms. Williams addresses an issue of importance that is not listed on the agenda; a replacement firewall for the Sheriff's office. Ms. Williams has two bids; one from CentraCom and one from Cache Valley Electric. The bids are very similar in price. Ms. Williams states CentraCom currently provides services for the County and that would be a convenient route. Cache Valley installed the previous firewall system and she feels the interface phase is better. Her recommendation is to go with Cache Valley Electric. Ms. Williams realizes she did not get the bids on the agenda but the firewall is vulnerable. The Commissioners agree it needs to be addressed today and ratified in the next meeting. Motion is made by Commissioner Cheney to approve Cache Valley Electric on the firewall in the amount of \$2,860.57 for 36 months. The motion is seconded by Commissioner Bennett, and the motion passes. County Clerk Linda Christiansen will make sure this item gets on next month's agenda.

**SHERIFF JARED BUCHANAN: APPROVAL TO PAY WAXIE SANITARY SUPPLY FOR JAIL SUPPLIES; APPROVAL TO PAY LEXIPOL FOR LAW ENFORCEMENT POLICY AND PROCEDURES; APPROVAL TO PAY SKAGGS FOR BALLISTIC VEST; APPROVAL TO PAY UTAH SHERIFFS' ASSOCIATION FOR ANNUAL DUES AND ASSESSMENT; APPROVAL TO PAY DYNAMIC INTEGRATION FOR JAIL CAMERA WORK; APPROVAL TO APPLY FOR, SIGN AND EXPEND \$6500 FOR THE STATE ASSET FORFEITURE GRANT.**

Sheriff Jared Buchanan presents the agenda items. Sheriff Buchanan presents the first invoice for payment which is for cleaning supplies. Motion is made by Commissioner Bennett to approve the payment to Waxie Sanitary Supply in the amount of \$2,366.62 out of 10-4230-250. The motion is seconded by Commissioner Cheney, and the motion passes. The next invoice is for the policies on the patrol side of the Sheriff's office. Commissioner Bartholomew questions whether the policies change much and the Sheriff states they do; every year with Legislature. Motion is made by Commissioner Bennett to approve the Lexipol invoice for policy and procedures in the amount of \$11,231.52, out of 10-4211-250. The motion is seconded by Commissioner Cheney, and the motion passes. The next invoice is for Deputy Allsop's ballistic vest. Motion is made by Commissioner Bennett to approve the invoice from Skaggs for the ballistic vest for Deputy Allsop in the amount of \$2,337.98, out of 10-4255-300. The motion is seconded by Commissioner Cheney, and the motion passes. Commissioner Bartholomew questions what happens to a vest when an officer leaves, like Sargent Albee. Sheriff Buchanan explains the vests are fitted to the officer and only have a life span of approximately 5 years. The next invoice is for the Utah Sheriff's Association Dues and Sheriff Buchanan explains two residents from Sanpete received scholarships awarded from the association and there are free trainings offered with the membership. Motion is made by Commissioner Bennett to approve the Utah Sheriff's Association invoice in the amount of \$4,572.45 out of 10-4150-210. The motion is seconded by Commissioner Cheney, and the motion passes. The next invoice is for cameras which will allow supervisors to observe from their offices. They will need to install more cameras and do additional work. Motion is made

by Commissioner Bennett to approve the invoice from Dynamic Integration for the jail cameras in the amount of \$2,419.00, out of 10-4230-250. The motion is seconded by Commissioner Cheney, and the motion passes. The last agenda item for Sheriff Buchanan is a Grant they are applying for that is to purchase one license plate reader. Currently, Sanpete does not have one but one in Juab had been used to locate a criminal in a case last week. They also utilized the license plate reader in Sevier for another case. Essentially, it can be used for a missing person or stolen vehicle case by typing in the license plate of the suspect and anywhere that plate passes the reader, it will identify it in the system. It can be used for many reasons but a person cannot request that their license plate is exempt from the reader. The Sheriff would like to have more than one in the County, in fixed locations. Potentially, on the roads where people come in and out of the county. Commissioner Bartholomew shares a story in regards to a conversation he had heard about using the LPR for speeders and the Sheriff does not know how that would work because they aren't equipped with a radar. The County has a speed trailer but that does not identify license plates. Motion is made by Commissioner Bennett to approve to apply for, sign and expend \$6,500.00 for the State Asset Forfeiture Grant. The motion is seconded by Commissioner Cheney, and the motion passes.

**AARON WOOD REPRESENTING SANPETE VALLEY HOSPITAL / INTERMOUNTAIN HEALTH: PRESENTATION OF GIFT TO COMMUNITY ANNUAL REPORT.**

Aaron Wood presents the agenda item. Mr. Wood explains that according to the Affordable Care Act of 2009 (Obamacare); not-for profit health care organizations are required by Federal law to present to the County once a year. Mr. Wood presents a booklet to the Commissioners and the County Clerk. Mr. Wood highlights the page that displays the amount of estimated property tax for 2024 that the hospital would have paid which is \$244,543. In exchange for not paying that amount in taxes; the hospital provided \$1,003,806.00 in Charity Care in 2024. The value adjusted charity care means what you would expect to get from an insurance company not the price that you would pay as a cash customer. Mr. Wood inquires whether or not the Commissioners have any questions or concerns. Commissioner Bartholomew addresses rumors going around in regards to a mega hospital being built in Ephraim. Mr. Wood is not sure what a mega hospital is but he does verify that they bought land approximately three years ago. He states they are currently in the design process but they do not have a set of blueprints yet. Mr. Wood also states they have spent an exhaustive amount of time researching across the country whether or not another hospital is being built in a rural community. Mr. Wood explains some of the difficult aspects of healthcare.

**DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE APPROVAL FOR APPLICATION BY CORY & LACEY ROSENLOF TO AMEND AND ADD TWO LOTS TO THE ROSENLOF ESTATES SUBDIVISION. THE THREE LOTS WOULD CONSIST OF LOT 1 @ 5.64 ACRES, LOT 2 @ 3.81 ACRES, AND LOT 3 @ 1.00 ACRES. THE AFFECTED PROPERTY IS LOCATED EAST OF MT. PLEASANT AND IS LOCATED IN THE RA-2 ZONE. THE ROSENLOF ESTATES SUBDIVISION IS RECORDED AS AN APPROVED SUBDIVISION. MORE SPECIFICALLY DESCRIBED AS LOT 1 #S-25990X1 AT 10.45 ACRES.**

Scott Olsen, James Richins and Heather Pyper present the agenda item. Scott Olsen is assisting with zoning approvals due to the recent resignation of the Zoning Administrator, Steven Jenson. Heather Pyper is the secretary for the Planning Commission so she took the minutes from the meeting that this item was discussed. Mr. Olsen reviews the documents that were submitted with the application. The owner affidavit is complete, a letter from the Health

Department is complete for septic services, power is available at the subdivision and the Division of Water Rights has approved three additional domestic uses. The existing County Road was approved as the frontage when the subdivision was originally approved. The police ambulance and fire affidavit is signed and notarized, taxes and fees are paid and up to date. Mr. Olsen addresses concerns that he sees with the Mylar. Mr. Olsen questions why there is an easement through lot 1 and 2 but there does not show an easement on lot 3. Mr. Olsen also states that there should be at least 100' frontage on every lot in the RA-2 zone. Heather Pyper verifies the Planning Commission did not address the concerns he just identified in their meeting. Commissioner Cheney was also present in the Planning meeting and the only thing the Board addressed was the width of the easement needed to be 66'. Mr. Olsen suggests that this agenda item go back to the Planning Commission. Heather Pyper voices a concern in regards to both the Planning Commission Chair and Co-Chair were not in attendance at the last meeting. Gene Jacobsen signed the Mylar in their absence but he was not formally appointed by the commission. Kevin Daniels states generally a pro-tem would be appointed in that case. Due to the lack of that appointment, the Mylar will need to be signed with the appropriate authority. Mr. Olsen addresses the fact the application before them had been originally approved as a minor subdivision. Since the approval, other subdivisions have been approved within the 1000' distance. Does the amendment of the subdivision fall under the minor or major requirements? Commissioner Bennett believes it would then be considered a major. Ms. Pyper knows on past applications, the guidelines followed were in place at the time of the amendment, not the previous approval. The Commissioners agree that any new applications have to meet current code requirements. Ms. Pyper will make sure this item is on the November Planning Commission agenda. Motion is made by Commissioner Bennett to push the Cory and Lacey Rosenlof subdivision back to the Planning Commission for review in the November meeting because of the road issue and other discrepancies as stated. The motion is seconded by Commissioner Cheney, and the motion passes.

**DISCUSSION AND REVIEW OF APPROVAL FOR A 3 LOT SMALL SUBDIVISION (CORNER JUNCTION SUBDIVISION). APPLICATION BY BLUE DAMSEL HOLDINGS, LLC (KASEY PETERSEN). THE PROPERTY IS LOCATED WEST OF CENTERFIELD, AND IS LOCATED IN THE RA-2 ZONE. THE LOTS WOULD CONSIST OF LOT 1 @ 1.67 ACRES, LOT 2 @ 1.67 ACRES, AND LOT 3 @ 1.66 ACRES, PARCEL #S-10557X.**

Scott Olsen, James Richins and Heather Pyper present the agenda item. Kasey Petersen is present and he brought the Mylar to the meeting. Mr. Olsen reviews the documents that were submitted with the application. The Mylar has been reviewed and approved, the owner affidavit is complete, a letter from the Health Department in regards to septic is on file, Rocky Mountain Power has approved power, 3 domestic uses have been approved by Water Rights. The County Road Supervisor has signed off on the accesses, Police Fire and Ambulance Waiver have been signed and notarized, taxes and fees are paid and up to date. The subdivision has frontage on the Farmer's Freeway and 11180 West Street. Mr. Petersen explains the location of the property. Mr. Petersen states the well has been drilled. Mr. Petersen had the property in his name not in the LLC so he fixed that. He also added an easement from 1912 for a future road that was not listed as per the request of the Planning Commission. They will have a shared well with the shared well agreement on file. No issues or concerns are voiced. Motion is made by Commissioner Bennett to approve the signature on the 3 lot small subdivision (Corner Junction Subdivision). Application by Blue Damsel Holdings, Parcel #S-10557X. The motion is seconded by Commissioner Cheney, and the

motion passes. Curtis Ludvigson has not signed the Mylar on behalf of the Planning Commission so he will need to do so prior to recording the subdivision plat. Commissioner Scott Bartholomew, County Clerk Linda Christiansen and County Attorney Kevin Daniels sign the Mylar.

**APPROVAL OF PLANNING AND ZONING COMMISSION MEETING SCHEDULE FOR 2026.**

Heather Pyper presents the agenda item. Ms. Pyper explains she has not presented the proposed schedule to the Planning Commission yet. The proposed dates were determined before Steven Jenson left. Ms. Pyper found one date that falls on the second Wednesday that could be an issue which is November 11<sup>th</sup>, Veterans day. She proposes changing that meeting date to November 18<sup>th</sup>, the following week. Commissioner Bennett questions why the meeting is always on Wednesday night. No one knows, it has always been on Wednesday night. Commissioner Bennett requests that the meeting schedule is moved to Tuesday night following the first Commission meeting. It may conflict with Election day moving it to Tuesday but that can be adjusted. It will extend the amount of time between the Planning Meeting and the second Commission meeting which will allow the applicant more time to get any additional information needed ready. Ms. Pyper will adjust the dates as suggested and propose it to the Planning Commission in their next meeting.

**LINDA CHRISTIANSEN: APPROVAL TO PAY ES&S INVOICES FOR THE 2025 MUNICIPAL GENERAL ELECTION.**

Linda Christiansen presents the agenda item. Ms. Christiansen explains she has two invoices that need to paid to ES&S for software services provided for the 2025 Municipal General Election; one in the amount of \$1,395.00 and the other for \$3,940.00 for a total of \$5,335.00. The ballots went out last week for 12 of the cities in Sanpete County; the only town that is not holding an election is Fayette. The cities are billed by the County for the services provided for them and the County is reimbursed. Motion is made by Commissioner Cheney to approve the payment to ES& S for software services in the amount of \$5,335.00. The motion is seconded by Commissioner Bennett, and the motion passes.

**RATIFY APPROVAL TO PAY THE ANNUAL DUES FOR PUBLIC LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES WORK FOR ROBERT K. WEIDNER FOR 2026.**

Kevin Daniels questions what Mr. Weidner does for the County and Commissioner Bartholomew responds that he advocates for Sanpete in Washington DC. Motion is made by Commissioner Bennett to ratify the payment for annual dues for Public Land and Natural Resources work by Robert K. Weidner for 2026, in the amount of \$12,000.00. The motion is seconded by Commissioner Cheney, and the motion passes.

**APPROVAL TO SIGN THE INTERLOCAL AGREEMENT FOR THE SANPETE REGIONAL AIRPORT BETWEEN SANPETE COUNTY, EPHRAIM CITY AND MANTI CITY.**

Kevin Daniels has reviewed the Interlocal Agreement and he has approved it. No questions or concerns are voiced in regards to the agreement. Commissioner Bartholomew states the agreement will be signed in the Airport Board meeting later in the day. Motion is made by Commissioner Bennett to approve the signing of the Interlocal Agreement for the Sanpete Regional Airport between Sanpete County, Ephraim City and Manti City. The motion is

seconded by Commissioner Cheney, and the motion passes.

**ABBY IVORY REPRESENTING SANPETE COUNTY ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITY BOARD:  
APPROVE APPLICATION FOR A RURAL COMMUNITIES APPLICATION GRANT THROUGH  
GOEO FOR SNOWLAND RECREATION AREA AT NO COST TO SANPETE COUNTY;  
INTRODUCE THE NEW SANPETE COUNTY LOGO AND TAGLINE.**

Abby Ivory presents the agenda items. Commissioner Bartholomew starts off by congratulating Ms. Ivory on her new job that she is taking in Eagle Mountain. This grant was one of the last things that Ms. Ivory wanted to finalize before she started her new job. This Grant is not available to cities, only county (unincorporated) areas. There will be no cost to the County and the Grant is matching funds; the County is just the host. The Economic Opportunity Board approved moving forward with the Grant. The Grant will enable the Snowland Recreation Area to add 800 square feet to the lodge for summer and winter use. Discussion ensues in regards to the many activities that the recreation area could be used for in the summertime. Ms. Ivory will continue to help her replacement with reporting and seeing this Grant through. Motion is made by Commissioner Cheney to approve Sanpete County as the host for the Rural Committee Grant for Snowland Recreation Area. The motion is seconded by Commissioner Bennett, and the motion passes. Ms. Ivory then presents the new Sanpete County Logo and Tagline. The County Clerk displays one of the examples of the logo on the TV screen. Ms. Ivory had a committee of approximately 20 people to choose the logo and tagline. The committee went through multiple meetings and processes to determine the final choices. The new tagline for Sanpete County is Life Centered. The company provided a letterhead sample that the County could use and it is displayed. Ms. Ivory explains how the tagline for Sanpete can be used for many events throughout the community. Ms. Ivory states the logo and seal comes in three colors; baby blue, light green and a rusty red. The different colors are displayed. The link with all of the files has been sent out and Ms. Ivory encourages the Commission to download the link because it will expire after a week. Ms. Ivory will be officially done working for Sanpete once the Grant has been submitted but she starts at her new job on Monday.

**\*STACEY LYON: ADOPTION OF RESOLUTION OF APPOINTMENT OF A SANPETE COUNTY  
REPRESENTATIVE AND AN ALTERNATE REPRESENTATIVE FOR THE UTAH COUNTIES  
INDEMNITY POOL ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING. \***

Stacey Lyon presents the agenda item. Ms. Lyon is willing to continue to serve as the representative and they need to appoint an alternate in the event that she is sick. Motion is made by Commissioner Bennett to appoint Stacey Lyon as the Sanpete County Representative and Kevin Daniels as the alternate for the Utah Counties Indemnity Pool Meeting. The motion is seconded by Commissioner Cheney, and the motion passes.

**PUBLIC HEARING TO CONSIDER AND POTENTIALLY RECOMMEND FOR APPROVAL ON THE  
FOLLOWING ITEMS: TO VACATE/ABANDON CLASS D ROADS: 1104, 1105, 240, 248, 249,  
465, 468 AND 927, WITHIN SANPETE COUNTY. THE ROADS TO BE CONSIDERED FOR  
VACATION RESULT FROM SEVERAL PAST WORK MEETINGS AND AFTER CONSIDERING  
MULTIPLE AND VARIED PUBLIC REQUESTS FOR ROAD REVIEW. THE ROADS LISTED DO NOT  
REPRESENT EVERY POSSIBLE ROAD POTENTIALLY QUALIFIED FOR VACATION.**

Commissioner Bartholomew addresses road 927 first because it is in a separate area than the others. Talisha Johnson and McKray Johnson are present. McKray Johnson was under the

impression this had already been done. Mr. Johnson explains they put in a private road off of the County Lane to get to their equipment yard; they are the only ones that use it and he is not sure why it was identified as a public road. Ms. Johnson points the road out on the map that is displayed on the TV screen. Commissioner Bartholomew addresses the audience to see if anyone opposes the vacating of this road. No one responds. Motion is made by Commissioner Bennett to abandon road 927. The motion is seconded by Commissioner Cheney, and the motion passes. Commissioner Bartholomew addresses the audience and states; the last public hearing (in regards to this issue) was one of the most contentious that he has ever been a part of. They are not going to allow that to happen again this time; do not speak over each other, cuss, yell or be disrespectful. If this behavior occurs, you will be asked to leave. When this issue was addressed last year, the letters were almost equal; in support of or against opening or closing. There's been a handful of letters that said that they want the roads to be opened back up; the majority want the roads to stay closed. Commissioner Bartholomew clarifies they did not bring this issue up; the landowners requested it. The purpose of the public hearing is to decide whether or not the County will abandon the right of way. The County is not in any way taking anybody's ground and they are not permitting hunting on private land. The main thing that the Commissioners look at is; is there public land and is there access to this public land if the County decides to close the road? Commissioner Bartholomew opens the meeting for public comment which is restricted to two minutes per person. Lorna Olson addresses the Commissioners; she and her husband are landowners of two of the roads listed. Ms. Olson identifies the roads on the screen. Ms. Olson feels like this was already done once, but she understands the County has new commissioners that need to learn about these roads. Ms. Olson states the roads have always been private and do not access anything that the general public needs to access. Ms. Olson states the area that is owned by the State is accessible through the Bald Mountain area. She also states there is a written access deed from 1968. The written access way goes from the canyon road, passed Ben Gordon's yard, through the cattle guard and that's where the access stops. All of her properties do not have that access written on them. Ms. Olson also states even though the County says it's not a taking, it would be a taking because it is not on their deeds. Eric Nielson for Willow Creek Ranch addresses the Commission. Mr. Nielson identifies his property and which roads cross his property. Mr. Nielson states he does not believe that originally going back to 2018, that notification of how the roads originally were stated to be county roads was proper to begin with. He does not feel it is necessarily a taking, but it's a prescriptive easement being that the County would allow people to pass through there. He also believes there is a state law that says, that the only way that you can allow that is if a road has open access to the public for more than 20 years and that has not been the case. Mr. Nielson believes people want access to hunt on the property so they can drag the animal down the hill in order to get it out. As a property owner, Mr. Nielson has concerns in regards to the liabilities they may have if people are on their property. Mr. Nielson requests that the Commissioners vote in favor of abandoning the roads. Commissioner Bartholomew asks a question in regards to road 240 and whether it dead ends. Mr. Nielson's response is no, the map does not show the continuance. Mr. Nielson points out the location of the Ephraim Irrigation Company divider on the map. Commissioner Bartholomew clarifies with Mr. Nielson that the road does dead end on his land. Ted Meikle addresses the Commissioners. Mr. Meikle sent a letter to the Commissioners in regards to his position prior to the hearing and he states he won't cover that. Mr. Meikle states, when you consider the value of this it is not just the access, it's also the loop. Roads are good for more than just getting somewhere; they're good for traveling. Mr. Meikle states the

roads have been public since the 1950's. Mr. Meikle addresses the issue with parking. The last thing he addresses from his letter is in regards to the law that was passed on May 9th of 2025. Mr. Meikle states that the law says that if you vacate this road, jurisdiction goes to the Utah Department of Transportation, and it remains a public road. He believes in some ways this would be disadvantageous to the landowners because if it remains under a county commission control, you have the ability to finesse whether people can put a gate up or not. And if it goes to the State, the statute specifically says all gates have to come down, according to Mr. Meikle. Mr. Meikle believes that if the County vacates the roads today, it will actually put more burdens on the landowners. Mr. Meikle urges the Commissioners to acknowledge the interests of the public. Commissioner Bartholomew inquires to Kevin Daniels and whether he has a response. Kevin Daniels states the County disagrees with his interpretation of that because this process was started prior to that law being enacted and the old law would apply. Brett Olson addresses the Commissioners. Mr. Olson points out his home and states that he has young kids. He would like all of the roads to be closed to cut down on the traffic. John Young addresses the Commissioners. Mr. Young agrees with what Lorna Olson said; they have already been through this once before. Bethany Tripp addresses the Commissioners. Ms. Tripp states third east is a well-known road that she sees a lot of people walking along it, walking dogs, riding bikes and they appreciate that it's not high traffic. Morgan Black addresses the Commissioners. Mr. Black grew up in the area and has worked for all the landowners that used to own and now own property. Mr. Black states the roads have always been private and the gate was closed 20 plus years ago. He also states that it has always been permissive access; it was never an open road. Mike Young addresses the Commissioners. Mr. Young is one of the landowners on 240 and agrees this was already approved by the prior Commission. Mr. Young states it has always been private access but also permissive when asked. Mr. Young states it should stay private. Commissioner Bartholomew addresses the representative from the DNR, Mark Farmer, Wildlife Habitat Manager and asks for his opinion on the situation. Mr. Farmer responds that they are caught in the middle of this; we want to have good relationships with our private landowners and we want to have good relationships with our sportsmen. Mr. Farmer addresses the gate across their property that is located on the south and he states it has been locked since he started 20 years ago. Mr. Farmer also states as long as people can get up 240 to hunt and they can do that with permission, he doesn't think that is an issue. There's also dedicated access to DNR property. Mr. Farmer felt the Commissioners came up with a good give and take solution last time. Commissioner Bartholomew states he is the only Commissioner that was in this mess before. He reminds the audience that the decision was split. One commissioner wanted roads closed and one stated all roads need to remain open no matter what. The decision came to Commissioner Bartholomew and the reason that he made the decision to close the road is because he was allowed to go up there and actually go on the roads and take a look at them. Commissioner Bartholomew states there are roads and trails that go all throughout John Young's property. He also states it is obvious that the fence had been there for some time. Now, he understands that a road has been graded on the top end, down to that fence. He questions whether that statement is true? Mr. Farmer explains there was a washout on that corner from a major runoff event which washed out the road. The DNR fixed the road. Commissioner Bartholomew then states an individual would still have access coming back across the top to all of that property up there. Kelly Jacobson questions who went in and fixed the road. Mark Farmer responds that they have the equipment and did the work. Chad Olson addresses the Commissioners. Mr. Olson requests that the County redefine what a Class D Road is, so that everyone understands. Mr. Olson also

poses the question as to whether or not the Division has the right to maintain the road through private property? Kevin Daniels responds, as far as definition, it's already defined in the statute. Kevin Daniels looks up the definition of a Class D Road in statute. Bryce Adams addresses the Commission. Mr. Adams states his comments are more on a personal level. Mr. Adams refers to himself as a sportsman, as well as a private land owner and he shares a story of an experience he had taking his 12-year-old daughter, who is a first time hunter, onto their private property to hunt. During her hunt, they witnessed another property owner hunting with his family. Both families were enjoying the time on their property that has been in families for generations. Mr. Adams states, if the County opens up the roads, all that is going to go away because there's going to be people on those roads with garbage, trash, trespassers and everything else. Mr. Adams also states, as a sportsman and part of a family landowner, what it means to a lot to them to keep those roads closed, that have been closed for generations. Kevin Daniels reads the definition of a Class D Road which can be referenced in Utah Code Annotated 72 -3 -105 (1). Discussion ensues in regards to the definition and who can travel it. Discussion in regards to who maintains the roads begin but Kevin Daniels reminds everyone that is not what the public hearing is supposed to address at this time. Troy Young, one of the property owners addresses the Commissioners. Mr. Young states the locked gate on 1105 has been there since he could remember; at least 40 years. Mr. Young requests that the Commissioners vacate the roads. Eric Stevens asks the question; why can't they ask for access on public roads to the public property to shoot the same public animal that they're shooting and have that same experience with our kids. Why is it only good for one and not good for both? Mr. Stevens also addresses the fact that he does not need to ask for permission on public roads and public lands. Commissioner Bartholomew expresses understanding because he too has land that he would love to close off to the public because of the disrespect and trespassing that occurs. He also explains that there are times when these roads need to stay open. Bethany Tripp comments in regards to disrupting the wildlife's natural tendency of moving from public land to private and that is not something we want to further disrupt by creating a public road. She also states that the property owners have been allowing others to hunt for many years. According to Ms. Tripp, a public road is not needed to hunt, you just need to request permission from the property owners. Commissioner Bennett expresses feelings for both sides. Commissioner Bennett went up to see the roads with property owners and the DNR. Commissioner Bennett expresses frustration with the DWR in regards to establishing the fence line as the boundary, instead of some imaginary line. He questions why the DWR doesn't get with the private landowner and establish the boundary? Mr. Farmer responds that there are a lot of properties without fences. Commissioner Bennett responds that there is a fence but it's not the boundary which is frustrating. Commissioner Bennett explains the difficulty of this decision. He states there is access to the Bald Mountain on both ends. Commissioner Bennett again states his frustration is with the DNR saying, this fence goes along this road and it says boundary but they won't say that's the boundary. The DNR says it's this imaginary line that they supposedly put posts in that are no longer there. Commissioner Cheney also went out to the property numerous times and spoke with individuals on the phone in regards to this issue. Commissioner Cheney expresses feelings for both sides. He has a strong feeling that public access is a very important thing and it needs to stay public. Commissioner Cheney states, in this case he feels that there is a good access. He also speaks to the fact that he owns a lot of private property that is pretty close to public lands. He speaks on how it would upset him if he had to allow someone to drive on the road that he built on his property to give them access to public lands. Commissioner Cheney speaks of the value to own property in a free country and

the right to protect what we own. He agrees this is a tough decision. Commissioner Cheney believes the law that was enacted in May of this year, brought up by Ted Meikle, is a good start to help protect public lands. Commissioner Cheney believes the bill will protect the public, for example when the Forest Service wants to close roads but will hurt the private property owner, which he hopes will be addressed and fixed in the next legislative session. Commissioner Cheney states that not everyone will be happy with the decision made today. Tom Seely, County Road Supervisor makes a statement in regards to being landlocked once the road is closed. Mr. Seely has seen it happen before so he just wanted the property owners to know that may happen once property owners sell or change ownership. If there is no deeded access to the property owner's land, there is a chance they will lose that someday down the road. John Young responds that had been mentioned in the last hearing and all of the property owners have discussed that possibility. No more comments or concerns are voiced. Motion is made by Commissioner Cheney to vacate roads 468, 240, 1105 to the property line of the wildlife management unit, 249, 248, 465 & propose leaving open 1104 off of 1217 to the border of the wildlife management unit where it intersects with 1105. That will give great access to the Bald Mountain area from the DWR, recognizes this as their access already, and it sounds like they have fixed some of that road in the area. The motion is seconded by Commissioner Bennett, and the motion passes. Vote by voice is taken; Commissioner Cheney votes aye, Commissioner Bennett votes aye and Commissioner Bartholomew votes aye. Commissioner Bartholomew expresses gratitude for the respectful behavior during the public hearing.

#### **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

No questions or concerns are voiced in regards to the minutes. Motion is made by Commissioner Cheney to approve the minutes. The motion is seconded by Commissioner Bartholomew, and the motion passes. Commissioner Bennett was not present at the last Commission meeting.

#### **CLOSED SESSION**

No closed session was needed.

Commissioner Bartholomew states they will take a break until the public hearing at 4:00 PM.

Motion is made by Commissioner Cheney to adjourn. The motion is seconded by Commissioner Bennett, and the motion passes.

The meeting is adjourned at 4:50 P.M.

ATTEST:



Linda Christiansen  
Sanpete County Clerk

APPROVED:



Scott Bartholomew  
Commission Chair