

Minutes of the Commission Meeting of the Board of Commissioners, Carbon County, State of Utah, held Wednesday, November 5, 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: Lyn Hansen, Deputy Attorney
Geni Hawk, Commission Secretary
Seth Marsing, Clerk/Auditor
Lori Perez, Chief Deputy Clerk
Kellie Payne, HR Director
Jeff Wood, Sheriff

Commissioner Jensen welcomed everyone to the meeting and led the Pledge of Allegiance.

1) **Approval of Minutes**

Commissioner Martines made a motion to approve the October 15, 2025 Commission Meeting minutes. Commissioner Haddock seconded. Motion carried.

2) **Employee of the Month – Tess Tonc**

Tess said the Employee of the Month for November is Chris Gravett. He has worked for Carbon County for two and a half years. Zac Wise and Jaden Tonc nominated him for Employee of the Month.

Zac said Chris always goes above and beyond and lifts everyone's moral. He always listens and anyone can lean on him. With such a large group of employees with conflicting personalities, Chris will listen and support you. He has filled a need and always says a kind word and often pays for breakfast, lunch or dinner. He is continually learning and passing on knowledge in a positive way. Working with Chris is always a pleasure and a positive experience. They appreciate Chris and his efforts for Carbon County. Chris and Dave Varner are putting themselves through paramedic school right now in order to provide better care for the County.

Marty Wilson, from the Ambulance Garage, said they have twenty-eight phenomenal employees who work for the Ambulance Department. Not any of them take as many second calls or call the department to find out how they can help as Chris does. He is often the first one on scene, or steps up and asks what is needed. He is not afraid to jump into the back of the rig or get his hands dirty. Marty thanked Chris's wife and kids because he leaves them often in order to help Carbon County. His amount of dedication is extraordinary.

Chris said thank you and he is happy to be working with this phenomenal group of people. Commissioner Jensen thanked Chris and the entire crew.

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

Shelley Wright said she is filling in for Tina Grange today. Shelley nominated the recipients of this award. The November Super Service Award goes to Helen Yates and John Sanchez. John is Helen's son. Shelley said for the past eleven years John and Helen have dedicated a year's worth of time and money to purchase new backpacks, school supplies, toiletries and children's clothing to support the Children's Justice Center's Back to School Giveaway. This began in 2014 when John had to complete a service project.

This project started out with backpacks and school supplies. Today they provide backpacks for 200+ children as well as socks, pajamas, slippers, paper towels, toilet paper and other household essentials. Because of the growth of the project, the Children's Justice Center had to move the Back to School Giveaway Event to the Carbon County Event Center.

John and Helen could not be in attendance tonight and Shelley will be presenting it to them at a later date. She wanted the community to be aware of their service and how amazing John and Helen are.

Commissioner Jensen thanked Shelley for nominating them and delivering their certificates. Their service is appreciated.

4) **Open Request for Qualifications (RFQ) for Social Media Support – Tina Grange**

Commissioner Jensen said Tina is not here tonight because there is a film crew filming “Ghost Hunters” in Hiawatha this evening and she has been an integral part of helping them.

Seth said ten RFQ’s were received. He will read the company names from each bid received:

Why We Dream
On Line Optimism
Wide Focus Social Media
Q and M Division of American Eagle Inc.
Spark Loft in Oregon
Media Now Interactive
Sinclair Travel AMP
Soren Marketing
Elevated Marketing
Jamie Swank

Commissioner Martines made a motion to acknowledge the ten bids received and allow Tina, Shanny and the appropriate commissioner to review and select the best value for the County. Commissioner Haddock seconded. Motion carried.

5) **Presentation from the State of Utah, Division of Outdoor Recreation – Wade Allinson**

Wade said he spent thirty years serving this community in law enforcement. He now works for the Division of Outdoor Recreation. He is the OHV program manager for the State of Utah. He has been a member of the Emery County Search and Rescue for fifteen years. He said it is the spirit of voluntarism that makes our communities great. It makes Carbon and Emery Counties great and separates us from the larger counties.

Wade said the Division of Outdoor Recreation has a program called Explore Utah. It is supported by the Division of Natural Resources, Outdoor Recreation/State Parks and the Utah Office of Tourism. It involves a series of short promotional videos that the State produces at no charge. Wade volunteered Carbon County along with Sevier, Millard and San Juan counties to be a part of the program. The goal is to promote OHV areas as well as other things to do within each county. So not to just go up on the mountain on an OHV ride but to come back and enjoy the museums in Carbon County, go to the shooting range, go on a hike or a bike ride and spend more time in the county. This program is willing to help the County at no cost. Wade will contact Tina and let her know about the program. It is free advertising and a promotion for the area.

Wade said the OHV clubs are the glue that keeps Bureau of Land Management and Forest lands in place. The clubs volunteer and help solve the problems on public land. The local Carbon County club volunteered on the Devils Racetrack last month and worked on that trail system.

One thing that is important is RS2477. They are winning this battle in court. They have not lost a single court case this year with RS2477. This has given us title to roads that we should have access too. There are more legal things in place but we are winning battles.

In August, the Division gave out 1.7 million dollars in grants to support OHV use in our local communities. Most of that money stays in the rural areas because of the high number of trails. It supports the Search and Rescue and included the cost of the new snow mobiles recently received by the Sheriff’s Office. When you go and registered your OHV machines, that money is being well spent.

The OHV community carries a lot of weight. The new snowmobiles will be used to rescue snowmobilers. But Search and Rescue will also use them to rescue non-motorized people. Hundreds of thousands of dollars in grants are given out that benefit both motorized and non-motorized communities. The OHV grants are given out for trailheads and toilets at those trailheads. Everyone benefits from these grants not just OHV riders.

Wade quoted Alan Peterson who said, “join a club, participate with that club and donate”. These three things are what you need to live by in the OHV community. You need to participate and donate. We need to keep fighting to keep the trails open.

He asked for any questions from the commissioners. He talked about grants received and that grants are non-matching. The grants can be used to buy ground that can then be used for playgrounds and parks.

Commissioner Jensen told Wade thank you and for reaching out to Tina in the Tourism Office.

6) Appoint a member of the Carbon County Commission as a board member of Carbon Emery Criminal Justice Coordinating Council

Commissioner Jensen said this is a board that Commissioner Hopes served on and he is no longer a commissioner and needs to be replaced.

Commissioner Jensen stepped down and made a motion to appoint Commissioner Haddock to the Carbon Emery Criminal Justice Coordinating Council. Commissioner Martines seconded. Motion carried.

7) Consideration and possible approval of Easement #3 with the Utah School and Institutional Trust Lands Administration (SITLA)

Commissioner Jensen said this is an easement that was secured a number of years ago. This is a one-time renewal of fees for sections of Ridge Road and two sections of the road that goes south off of Ridge Road into Miller Creek. There is a number of sections that go through SITLA properties where we have an easement. The total cost is \$10,020 and it is for a thirty-year extension.

Commissioner Jensen explained that the State Institutional Trust Lands (SITLA) is the State agency that is tasked with managing these lands that were given to the State of Utah by the federal government when the State was created. This land is used to infuse money into the public schools. The money is collected and the interest from that money can be spent. This includes the methane gas wells west of Price that are on these properties. The mineral money goes to SITLA and into the School Trust fund.

Commissioner Haddock made a motion to approve Easement #3 with the Utah School and Institutional Trust Lands Administration. Commissioner Martines seconded. Motion carried.

8) Authorization of the Carbon County Assessor's Office to select a certified commercial appraiser to appraise the commercial properties in Carbon County

Commissioner Jensen said this was an agenda item in the October 15th commission meeting. No proposals were received at that time. The Assessor's office will need to find a commercial appraiser.

Commissioner Martines made a motion to authorize the Carbon County Assessor's Office to select a certified commercial appraiser to appraise the commercial properties in Carbon County. Commissioner Haddock seconded. Motion carried.

9) Adjourn as the Carbon County Board of Commission and convene as the Carbon County Board of Equalization

Commissioner Haddock made a motion to adjourn as the Carbon County Board of Commissioners and convene as the Carbon County Board of Equalization. Commissioner Martines seconded. Motion carried.

10) Consideration and possible approval of Assessor initiated adjustments – Keven Ewell

Keven said we have about one hundred and fifteen appeals that have either stipulated or an agreement reached and are being presented to the commission tonight. He asked for any questions.

Commissioner Martines asked how close are we to the end of the appeals. Keven said as of this morning we still had two hundred and four that were not fully completed. Forty-one of these are scheduled for hearings next week. We have an additional sixty that are ready for hearings. We have to set up additional days to hear

those. There are about one hundred left that we are still reviewing. They went out and inspected twelve of those today.

Commissioner Haddock thanked Keven and Amy and the whole team for putting this together. Commissioner Haddock said they work on these parcels on this list and review them. Keven brings concerns to the commission so there are no surprises. It is important that people understand the process. Keven said the intent is to not have surprises.

Keven said concerning the Price River Terminal, back in 2021, 2022 and 2023 we double taxed these individuals for personal property and then taxed them again for the same amount for real property. During these years they should have been billed separately but we billed them all together. They paid the real property tax but not the personal property tax because it was a double taxation. Keven recommends that we write off the amount of \$724,795.06 which has not been paid but which is the double tax. They are now working on 2024 and 2025 to make sure they are correct. They have appealed in 2025 and in 2024 there was an escaped property. In trying to get this correct we did not tax them in 2024. He is working on getting both 2024 and 2025 corrected.

The other item is: there are several parcels in Scofield Estates that should have been on green belt in 2022. It did not make it to green belt even though it had been agreed upon but no adjustments were ever made. He wants these adjustments approved with the green belt values now being entered and he will send a letter to the treasurer to make these adjustments.

Commissioner Haddock asked if we had stipulated on the value of the property for Price River Terminal. Keven said not for 2025, they disagree with our values. They are going to go to a hearing. Commissioner Haddock said we are approving the waving of the fees where they were double taxed. Keven said yes, for the years of 2021, 2022 and 2023. Nothing for 2024 or 2025 are in the discussion for today.

Commissioner Haddock made a motion to approve the Assessor Initiated adjustments. Commissioner Martines seconded. Motion carried.

11) Adjourn as the Carbon County Board of Equalization and reconvene as the Carbon County Board of Commissioners

Commissioner Martines made motion to adjourn as the Carbon County Board of Equalization and reconvene as the Carbon County Board of Commissioners. Commissioner Haddock seconded. Motion carried.

12) Presentation of the Carbon County 2026 Tentative Budget – Seth Marsing

Seth said this is the process we go through each year when preparing and eventually approving the budget for 2026. By State Code we are required to present the budget in Commission Meeting and hold a public hearing in the next two meetings.

This is the tentative budget for what is being proposed. There is a provision in the code to adjust the budget between this presentation and the finalizing of the final budget. For simplicity, Seth will read each fund that we use as part of our accounting and the budget for each fund and mention key changes that we have this upcoming year. Part of the code requires that we have the budget available for inspection in the clerk's office. That will be available starting tomorrow. We encourage anyone from the public that has questions or would like to inspect the budget to do so. We are happy to receive input and make sure that the public is aware of the proposed budget.

Seth started with the General Fund. This is our largest fund as far as dollar amount. It houses most of our departments that are for the general operations of the county government.

Fund 10 General Fund	\$19,090,050	General Operations of County Government
Fund 20 Municipal Services Fund	\$ 9,627,300	Services provided by Sheriff Dept., Roads, etc.
Fund 56 Municipal Building Authority	\$ 1,939,000	Tracking bonds for constructing buildings and roads
Fund 55 Enterprise Fund	\$ 900,000	7 th District Court Building rent used to pay the bond
Fund 45 Capital Projects	\$ 15,000	Improvements to radio towers

Fund 54 Airport Fund	\$ 2,169,500	Fire suppression project at the airport
Fund 24 Senior Center Fund	\$ 310,100	Senior Center
Fund 25 Senior Center Nutrition	\$ 846,900	Senior Nutrition program
Fund 26 Event Center	\$ 883,400	
Fund 19 Carbon Recreation	\$ 653,950	
Fund 15 Tourism Fund	\$ 902,000	Tourism and advertising of Carbon County
Fund 28 Economic Development	\$ 290,000	
Fund 29 911 Emergency Fund	\$ 4,000	911 Dispatch
Fund 21 Carbon County RDA Fund	\$ 1,300,000	CRA and RDA in Development Areas

The proposed budget is for 2026 and the proposed budget is less than our current budget for 2025. It is significantly less by a million dollars. We will have budget amendments throughout the year which will make the budget higher.

The three key changes are a proposal for a 3.5% COLA for every County employee including elected officials. This is something we have tried to do to keep up with inflation. Another key change is the water suppression project at the airport which will cost around \$2,000,000. A decrease from the 2025 budget is the completion of the hangar at the airport and expansion for Utah State University. It won't be in our 2026 budget.

The full budget will be available for inspection in the Clerk's office tomorrow.

Commissioner Martines said he appreciates Seth and his office in overseeing these accounts and making sure that each department is staying within their budget. One more thing to mention is that our insurance premiums did not go up. Seth said this item did not change which is amazing for a governmental entity of our size. This is a big deal and is due to employees being careful on how they use their insurance. We appreciate their efforts.


This completes the presentation of the tentative budget and it does not need approval yet.

Commissioner Jensen said thank you to Seth and his team for taking care of the election yesterday. It has been going on for several weeks. Your office does this plus everything else you do day to day. He thanked everyone.

13) Review and approval of departmental reports

Commissioner Martines made a motion to adjourn.

The meeting adjourned at 5:13 p.m.



 Larry Jensen, Commission Chair
 Carbon County Commission

ATTEST:



 Seth Marsing, County Clerk/Auditor



