

Minutes of the Commission Meeting of the Board of Commissioners, Carbon County, State of Utah, held Wednesday, December 17, 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: Christian Bryner, Attorney
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 Haddock made a motion to approve the December 3, 2025 Commission Meeting minutes. Commissioner Martines seconded. Motion carried.

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

Tina read the nomination for this month's Super Service Award. This award goes to Andrea Hall from Wendy's. Andrea is retiring and will be greatly missed. Andrea opened the Price City Wendy's in 1984 and has now closed it because the building is being torn down. The property will still be the location of a new Wendy's. She has cooked the last burgers on the old grill. Andrea has impacted so many lives and provided service to our entire community in Eastern Utah. She was presented with her award.

Andrea thanked everyone for the recognition. She said she has learned a lot from past employees, from her supervisor and from a company who invests in staff training. It was fun working with the employees and the customers. She learned that she wanted to treat others like she wanted to be treated. She is grateful for the opportunity to work at Wendy's for 41 years.

3) **Review and possible approval of Tourism Social Media Management Contract – Tina Grange**

Tina said this is an agreement between Carbon County and Soren Digital who is going to be our new social media management company. This is new for us. We have had a full-service agency for the past seven years. We made some changes to our budget and decided to have a smaller contract by a company who could provide us with social media services. We are excited to work with this company. They are four gentlemen who are known in the tourism industry and have a combined work experience of 45 years.

Commissioner Martines said he is glad that there was so many who had interest in promoting Carbon County. The State Office of Tourism also recommended this company and they are very well known in the industry. A great choice has been made and we look forward to what they can do for the County.

Commissioner Haddock said he appreciates the amount of time that was spent in making this decision. He thanked Tina and Shanny.

Commissioner Martines made a motion to approve the Tourism Social Media Management Contract. Commissioner Haddock seconded. Motion carried.

4) **Consideration and possible approval and adoption of the Carbon County Hazard Mitigation Plan – Justin Needles**

Justin said they are at the end of updating our Hazard Mitigation Plan. Our grant cycle ends towards the end of the year. FEMA has our current plan and this is the same. Justin said that since this is the last commission meeting of the year, he is looking for adoption of this plan pending any changes FEMA may make. It has to be completed by the end of the year. He needs this plan approved so that he can submit it to the State.

The Hazard Mitigation Plan goes through a long process. We work with a contractor who reviews it and looks at all of the hazards such as wild fires and flooding. They also look at other data pertaining to soil and drought and gives us an overall perspective of what our hazards are and what plans can be in place to mitigate these. Any mitigation has to be in the plan in order to get the funding.

Commissioner Martines said it is a comprehensive plan with lots of pages that had to be reviewed. He appreciates Justin's efforts. Justin said in the beginning it was thirty or forty pages and with the federal government involvement it has gotten a lot longer with more costs.

Justin said the grant is for \$40,000. Which included getting a contractor and he had to get an extension to continue the process. In the past the cost would have been closer to \$10,000.

Commissioner Haddock made a motion to approve and adopt the Carbon County Hazard Mitigation Plan. Commissioner Martines seconded. Motion carried.

5) **Consideration and possible approval of Ordinance #590 The 2026 Carbon County Commission Meeting schedule**

Commissioner Jensen said the meetings are generally the first and third Wednesday of each month. These are the days and times for the 2026 schedule.

Commissioner Martines made a motion to approve Ordinance 590 for the 2026 Carbon County Commission Meeting schedule. Commissioner Haddock seconded. Motion carried.

6) **Consideration and possible approval of Resolution #2025-06 Appointment of Board Applicants to the Carbon County Boards for 2026**

Commissioner Jensen said there are two additional applications to consider. At the last meeting there were quite a few board member appointments.

Friends of Carbon/Emery Children's Justice Center – An application was received from Alexis Sandoval. There are still openings on this board.

Housing Authority of Carbon County – An application was received from Dixie Marvadakis who is already serving on this board and would like to continue.

Commissioner Haddock made a motion to approve Alexis Sandoval for the Children's Justice Center and Dixie Marvadakis for the Housing Authority board. Commissioner Martines seconded. Motion carried.

7) **PUBLIC HEARING to Open and Adjust the 2025 Carbon County Budget**

Commissioner Martines made a motion to open the public hearing at 4:42 p.m. Commissioner Haddock seconded. Motion carried.

Commissioner Jensen asked Seth to explain his recommendations. Seth said twice a year we do amendments to the budget generally over the course of the year for unexpected things such as expenses or grants received that are required to be spent within the year. He went over the changes:

Fund 10 – General Fund: There is a proposed increase of \$735,000. The main adjustment is in two different places. One is a \$500,000 transfer from the General Fund to the Airport Fund. We have had two big projects at the airport for the installation of the fire suppression system and the construction of the north taxi lane. Most of

this is covered by federal or state grants. There is a small amount of the taxi lane that we end up paying for. This transfer is so we will have a positive fund balance in our Airport Fund until we receive the reimbursement back from the federal government.

The other large item for Fund 10 amendments is to increase our budget for our opioid fund disbursements. These are funds received from the opioid lawsuit settlements. We receive 5 to 6 hundred thousand a year and we distribute it to Four Corners Mental Health Authority and the Health Department for opioid addiction issues. This shows us distributing these funds to these agencies. It is not money generally in the General Fund except when it is received for opioid disbursement for these cases.

In Fund 19, there is an increase of \$25,000. We have had an increase in the sports programs offered by the Recreation Department. They have had to hire more temporary employees. This is to make sure that we have the funds in place to cover the expense.

In Fund 20, there is a proposed increase of \$367,000. We have had a significant increase in costs related to automobile operations and repairs for the Sheriff's Department. Of this amount, \$125,000 is for these items and \$212,000 is for the Range Fire Mitigation and Prevention account which we discussed in our last commission meeting. We are required to spend upwards of \$300,000 a year then the State will take care of the remaining costs for firefighting on the rangelands. This \$212,000 is going towards the purchase of a fire truck.

There is a proposed increase for Search and Rescue of \$30,000 to cover the cost of equipment that was purchased this year. This is all covered by their fundraising at the demolition derby.

Commissioner Haddock said concerning the Range Fire Mitigation and Prevention – the increase of \$212,000 was required by the State for insurance. It was a required spend.

Fund 21 is for the RDA with Graphite Solar and Intermountain Electronics. This is to show money that is dispersed. We receive tax increment from these two RDA's and we disperse it back to the taxing entities such as the cities and water district, as well as a portion to the tax payer.

Fund 26, there is a proposed increase of \$120,000. The bulk of this, \$100,000, is part of the grant we have received over the last couple of years to make improvements to the motocross track. What they are going to spend each year is not always known at the first of the year and we make amendments for this adjustment. There is \$20,000 for building and grounds maintenance for the rodeo improvements. They have raised quite a bit of money this year and this is showing them spending this money.

The last item is for Fund 54 which is the Airport. There is a proposed increase of \$700,000. Most of this is part of the north taxi lane project to make sure we have enough funding in place. The bulk of this is covered by grants from the federal government.

This is all Seth had, he asked if there were any questions.

Commissioner Jensen invited anyone from the public to come to the microphone to make any comments. The time was 4:50 p.m.

Seeing no one, Commissioner Jensen closed the public hearing at 4:51 p.m.

8) Consideration and possible approval of amendments to the 2025 Carbon County Budget

Commissioner Haddock made a motion to approve the amendments to the 2025 Carbon County Budget. Commissioner Martines seconded. Motion carried.

9) PUBLIC HEARING REGARDING THE 2026 Carbon County Tentative Budget

Commissioner Martines made a motion to enter into a public hearing in regards to the 2026 Carbon County Tentative Budget. Commissioner Haddock seconded. Motion carried.

Seth said a month ago, we presented the tentative budget for 2026 as part of the State code requirement. The tentative budget was presented, made available in our office for ten days, advertised in the local newspaper and

will finally be approved in this public meeting. There were no changes since the tentative budget was presented in the last meeting. As part of the public hearing for 2026 budget, we need to make it clear that it is also a public hearing for a 3.5% cost of living increase (COLA) for all employees in the County.

Commissioner Haddock asked how is the COLA calculated? Seth said it is in place in order to keep up with inflation. The projected number was 3.5% but it was closer to 3 to 3.2% for inflation this year.

Commissioner Martines asked if the Clerk/Auditor's office received any requests or questions about the tentative budget? Seth said we have not had very much interest, maybe one or two people requesting a copy of the budget.

Commissioner Jensen opened the public hearing for public comment at 4:54 p.m.

David Jelin said he is a county resident. Some of his questions had to do with the COLA. Employee costs stayed the same except under the Treasurer where employee benefits plummeted from \$74,000 to \$40,000 which is contrary to some others where the budget went up and the employee cost went up and the benefits went down or visa versa. In the Attorney's budget the cost of employment went up and the benefits went up which is explained by the COLA. But on page 3, if the cost went up in general is the County doing different things for different employees in different offices?

Seth said there are two full time employees in the Treasurer's office, Tara and her chief deputy. The chief deputy is married to another employee of the county and they both don't need benefits from the county. In the past she took the benefits and her husband did not. This year, because of his age, he is taking the benefits and she is not. Previously, there were two full time employees taking benefits in that office and now there is only one even though the office still has two full time employees.

David said on page 8, the employees went from \$90 to \$85,000 but the benefits went from \$68 to \$40,000. Seth said there is an employee who works in the Justice Court who went from a family plan down to a single plan due to her child aging out. So, the cost went down.

David said Search and Rescue lost \$25,000. Sheriff Wood said that is an expense because they bought some equipment. David said he wanted to help them out and gave Sheriff Wood a monetary donation.

David said he has an interest in county meetings and likes to attend the working and public meetings. He thinks there should be more publicizing of the meetings and projects for more transparency. He appreciates knowing more about what is going on in the County.

Seth said we love more input from the public. As a matter of information, the donations received for Search and Rescue was \$48,000 which was the revenue they brought in. The \$20,000 is what we are budgeting or expecting to bring in through donations in 2026. That is the difference between those two numbers. It does show as a negative on the spreadsheet and that is a function of double entry accounting. Revenues are shown as a negative and expenses as a positive.

Commissioner Jensen asked for any other public comments on the 2026 budget.

Commissioner Jensen closed the public hearing at 5:01 p.m.

10) Consideration and possible approval of the 2026 Carbon County Budget

Commissioner Martines made a motion to approve the 2026 Carbon County Budget. Commissioner Haddock seconded. Motion carried.

11) Ratification of the application for the Bulletproof Vest Grant Partnership - Sheriff Wood

Sheriff Wood thanked David Jelin for the \$3,000 donation to Search and Rescue that was mentioned in agenda item 9.

This partnership is a grant we have had for many years, it is ongoing. We are on a five-year cycle which means that the vests are good for five years and they are staggered for replacement. This year his office is asking for

fifteen vests. This totals to \$26,595 which the grant provides. They were not able to present this before the grant was awarded which is why they are asking that it be ratified. Before this grant came along, it was the responsibility of each deputy to buy their own vest. Most deputies can't afford them and wore them longer than they were effective. This is why this is a great program. Daneil Robison tracks the vests and makes sure they are being replaced. There is no match needed.

Commissioner Martines said he appreciates Sheriff Wood and the team he has and what they do for the community. Sheriff Wood said they are the best in the business, he loves our local law enforcement team, meaning every police officer, trooper, wildlife manager, fire fighter and every first responder in the community. Commissioner Haddock said he appreciates the effort that goes into getting these grants so that it does not have to come out of the tax payers dollar.

Commissioner Haddock made a motion to ratify the application for the Bulletproof Vest Grant Partnership. Commissioner Martines seconded. Motion carried.

12) Adjourn as the Carbon County Board of Commissioners and convene as the Carbon County Board of Equalization

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

13) Consideration and possible approval of Assessor initiated adjustments - Amy Schmidt-Peters

Amy said we have twenty-two properties on the list that they have recommended or have stipulated with the property owner. These were appeals that came in on time. The couple that were late were justified last time when approved and they have either stipulated or been recommended to the hearing officer. At this time, they are asking for approval for these adjustments.

Commissioner Haddock made a motion to approve the twenty-two assessor-initiated adjustments. Commissioner Martines seconded. Motion carried.

Amy said the next part of the list are four appeals that came in as factual errors and were all late. She is asking that you accept these late appeals because of the factual errors and to accept the values that were adjusted for the same reason.

Commissioner Martines made a motion to approve the late appeals that have been adjusted and accept the corrections. Commissioner Haddock seconded. Motion carried.

Amy said the last three were appeals that were late and had no justification for being late. There are five reasons for a late appeal. These three appeals did not show any of these five reasons. They recommend that they be denied.

Commissioner Haddock made a motion to deny the late appeals without any factual errors. Commissioner Martines seconded. Motion carried.

14) Adjourn as the Carbon County Board of Equalization and reconvene as the Carbon County Board of Commission

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

15) Consideration and possible approval of Commissioner Jared Haddock as Carbon County Commission Chair beginning January 1, 2026.

Commissioner Martines made a motion to approve Commissioner Jared Haddock as the Carbon County Commission Chair beginning January 1, 2026. Commissioner Jensen stepped down and seconded. Motion carried.

13) Review and approval of departmental reports

Commissioner Martines made a motion to adjourn.

The meeting adjourned at 5:08 p.m.



Larry Jensen, Commission Chair
Carbon County Commission

ATTEST:


Seth Marsing, County Clerk/Auditor