

MINUTES of the public meeting of the Uintah County Commission held **February 3, 2026** in the Commission Chambers of the Uintah County Building at 147 East Main, Vernal, Utah. The meeting commenced at 3:00 pm.

PARTICIPANTS: Commissioners John Laursen, and Sonja Norton. Willis LeFevre was excused.

ATTENDANCE: Mike Wilkins, Jared Kaufman, Marty Partridge, Steve Labrum, Wendi Long, Matt Wilber, Julie Joy-Hundley, Deanna Nyberg, Richard Powell, Karen England, Scott Hardman, Shawn Labrum, Barry Johnson, Angela Hawkins
Minutes by Sheri Allen.

WELCOME: Commissioner Laursen, Chair, welcomed everyone to the meeting.

PRAYER by Mike Wilkins.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE by Angela Hawkins.

1. APPROVAL OF MINUTES: January 27, 2026

Commissioner Norton moved to approve the minutes for January 27, 2026. Motion passed unanimously.

2. APPROVAL OF WARRANTS – Mike Wilkins, Clerk-Auditor

Warrants dated January 30, 2026 in the amount of \$487,727.83. Payments of note are \$92,925.50 to Central Dispatch for the quarterly payment and this also had the regular monthly payments.

Commissioner Laursen moved to approve the warrants as presented by Mike Wilkins. Motion passed unanimously.

3. TAX MATTERS:

Mike Wilkins, Clerk-Auditor, requested a tax abatement for the 2025 tax year for Vernal City in the amount of \$13,253.11 on property serial numbers 05:031:0005 (\$11,684.02), 05:051:0037 (\$966.77), 05:051:0041 (\$102.37), and 05:051:0042 (\$499.95). The reason for this abatement is that Vernal City purchased the property in 2025 and this is the difference that was not picked up by Vernal City in time for the closing.

Commissioner Norton moved to approve the tax abatement as presented by Mike Wilkins . Motion passed unanimously.

4. ROADWAY LAYFLAT PIPELINE CONTRACT FORM - Jared Kaufman, Road Department
Jared Kauffman, Road Department, requested approval for the Roadway Layflat Pipeline Contract Form. A layflat line is a temporary, collapsible, and removable pipeline. When empty, it lies flat on the ground, but when in use, it inflates into a cylinder. Their temporary nature allows for easy setup, movement, and transport of liquid goods. Jared has been collaborating with Loren Anderson, Civil Attorney and Scott Hardman, Road Department, on a contract for a one-year renewal for the use of layflat lines within county rights-of-way. County code currently states that any temporary layflat pipeline crossing private land is limited to an initial 60-day period with two potential 60-day renewals, requiring administrative approval. This new agreement, upon Commission approval, would allow for extensions up to one year, provided the agreement includes approval from the affected landowners. The need for this agreement arose because some companies are anticipating the desire to extend their use past the two 60-day renewal limit in the near future. The contract would allow the Road Department to work with contractors and present these longer extensions for Commission review and approval, determining if the extension past the temporary phase is acceptable. Extensions for short periods (up to the current

renewal limit) remain an administrative road department decision. For periods longer than the standard renewal period, up to one year, the Commission would make the final decision. The Commission could then decide on one additional year of extension, which would be the maximum duration for this type of temporary line.

Commissioner Norton moved to approve the Roadway Layflat Pipeline Contract as presented by Jared Kauffman. Motion passed unanimously

5. 2025 LIBRARY REPORT YEAR IN REVIEW - Karen England, Library

Karen England, Library, gave a 2025 year in review presentation on the Uintah County Library. The presentation was created by Stacia Watkins. The Uintah County Library is for residents to view their library as a vital social, educational, and civic hub. The Library strives to offer clean, high-quality facilities and services that support lifelong learning. The Library's mission is to support the community's quest to learn, grow, and discover. They promote individual and community growth through opportunities for lifelong learning and enrichment, centered on first-rate informational resources. Two new card designs are available. They feature dinosaurs named after account types, embracing the "Dinosaur Land" moniker of the Uintah Basin. The Bookmobile Outreach Program, launched in October 2025, serves outlying areas in Uintah and Daggett counties, reaching 131 patrons in the first three months. The goal is to provide equitable access to materials, technology, and programming. Key stops with strong turnout include Fort Duchesne and Manila. Future plans include increased stops in Jensen, Naples, Randlett, and the new addition of Dutch John in January. The Makerspace opened in the last quarter of 2025; this space offers tools and educational opportunities to support creativity, innovation, and lifelong learning. It includes a Cricut Maker, two Beaver Box cardboard cutters, specialized sewing machines (including a serger), button makers, and lamination equipment. The space has been utilized by 36 patrons in its first three months and is steadily growing. This project was made possible in part by the Institute of Museum and Library Services. The Library provides access through wireless and physical computers, including a dedicated video conference and American Sign Language room. Both Wi-Fi and patron computers are utilized daily by hundreds of people. The Library is an event-driven entity. In 2025, the Library planned or hosted nearly 1,500 programs, events, and presentations, either sponsored by the Library or organized by patrons. These events attracted over 33,000 patrons. The most popular events included Summer Reading Activities, the Halloween Walk, Dr. Seuss's Birthday Party, and Santa's Visit, each attracting 100 to 600 attendees. A highly successful, patron-organized infant and toddler trick-or-treat event brought nearly 350 people into the Library in a single afternoon. The year ended with 19 staff members (including pages, assistants, associate librarians, and specialized roles). The library also benefited from 162 volunteers who contributed 2,119 hours of service. 2025 saw a significant increase in new users, with 665 new adult cards and 667 new children's cards issued. The Library has 6,369 adults and 2,241 children, for a total of 8,610 cardholders. A total of 50,637 visitors utilized library services, including physical materials, computers, meeting spaces, and program attendance. Recognizing that Daggett County lacks its own library and is a close neighbor (with an estimated 900-950 residents), the Library Board voted to officially recognize it as part of Uintah County's legal library service area. This expansion includes bookmobile stops in Manila and Dutch John. While Library services could not be extended to Colorado patrons, the Library Board successfully granted an appeal from a Rangely family to continue offering physical materials and other services to neighboring Colorado counties. The Library continues to serve these patrons, as Vernal is a major hub they visit for other services. The circulating collection remains the Library's most used resource. While the physical collection remains stable, E-content circulation is steadily increasing. Physical checkouts are over 100,000, renewals 74,000, holds filled 11,000. Sharing with Duchesne County, items were sent 2,354 and borrowed from 5,751 items. Interlibrary loans requested and filled 360 items. The Library circulated 28,776 E-books, 79,569 E-audio, and over 7,000 E-magazines. The Library saves patrons a significant amount of money by providing collections, services, and programs. The Library demonstrated steady, responsible use of county funds. The Library loves their patrons and asks that the community come and visit the Library.

6. SECOND ADDENDUM TO THE INTERLOCAL COOPERATION AGREEMENT: THE SEVEN COUNTY INFRASTRUCTURE COALITION - Loren W. Anderson, Civil Attorney

Loren Anderson, Civil Attorney, requested an addendum to be approved for the Interlocal Cooperation Agreement. This addendum is to add Sanpete County and change the name from the Seven County Infrastructure Coalition to the Rural Utah Infrastructure Coalition.

Commissioner Norton moved to approve the addendum to the Interlocal Cooperation Agreement as presented by Loren Anderson. Motion passed unanimously.

7. ADDENDUM TO US MARSHALS FUGITIVE TASK FORCE RE: Body Worn Cameras by Task Force Officers - Sheriff Labrum

Steve Labrum, Uintah County Sheriff, requested approval for an addendum to the US Marshals Fugitive Task Force contract. This addendum is regarding body-worn cameras. The original policy, which began in 2022, was problematic as it restricted the Task Force's ability to use either their own or US Marshals cameras. The policy has since improved significantly. This addendum details the guidelines for the partnership, specifically outlining how video data will be shared and when the cameras must be on or when they can be turned off. This update ensures a strong partnership for recording the activities of our Task Force officers.

Commissioner Norton moved to approve the addendum to the US Marshals Fugitive Task Force as presented by Sheriff Labrum. Motion passed unanimously.

8. COOPERATIVE LAW ENFORCEMENT AGREEMENT BETWEEN UINTAH COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE AND US FOREST SERVICE - Sheriff Labrum

Steve Labrum, Uintah County Sheriff, requested approval for the Cooperative Law Enforcement Agreement between US Forest Service and Uintah County Sheriff's Office. The Forest Service contract for patrolling the forest is for \$9,000. The Sheriff's Office can utilize these funds until 2030.

Commissioner Norton moved to approve the Cooperative Law Enforcement Agreement as presented by Sheriff Labrum. Motion passed unanimously.

9. ADDENDUM/RENEWAL TO JAIL MEDICAL AGREEMENT DR. BROOKSBY - Sheriff Labrum

Steve Labrum, Uintah County Sheriff, requested approval for the renewal of the Jail Medical Agreement with Dr. Brooksby. This agreement will stay the same and go through February of 2027.

Commissioner Laursen moved to approve the renewal of the Jail Medical Agreement for Dr. Brooksby as presented by Sheriff Labrum. Motion passed unanimously.

10. LAW ENFORCEMENT CONTRACT BETWEEN BALLARD CITY AND THE UINTAH COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE - Sheriff Labrum

Steve Labrum, Uintah County Sheriff, requested approval for the Law Enforcement Contract between Ballard City and Uintah County Sheriff's Office. The contract for patrol services has been renegotiated. The new contract will span three years, from February 1, 2026, to December 31, 2029, and is set at \$105,000.00. This represents an increase that the Ballard City Mayor agreed was warranted.

Commissioner Norton moved to approve the Law Enforcement Contract as presented by Sheriff Labrum. Motion passed unanimously.

11. UBTECH SECURITY AGREEMENT WITH THE SHERIFF'S OFFICE - Sheriff Labrum

Steve Labrum, Uintah County Sheriff, requested approval for the UBTECH Security Agreement. The security agreement provides for a full-time deputy to be stationed at UBTECH. Sheriff Labrum reported that he spoke with President Weight, who expressed a desire to continue the partnership with another three-year contract, running from July 1, 2026, through June 30, 2029. President Weight also agreed to an increase in the contract amount from \$90,000 to \$100,000 for each year of the three-year

contract. The current contract remains in effect until the new agreement starts on July 1, 2026.

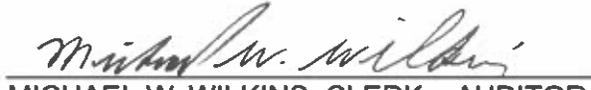
Commissioner Norton moved to approve the UBTECH Security Agreement as presented by Sheriff Labrum. Motion passed unanimously.

12. PUBLIC COMMENT: none

ADJOURN: The meeting adjourned at approximately 3:35 pm.



JOHN LAURSEN, CHAIR



MICHAEL W. WILKINS, CLERK – AUDITOR

