

MINUTES of the work session of the Uintah County Commission held **February 11, 2026** in the large Commission conference room of the Uintah County Building at 152 East 100 North, Vernal, Utah. The meeting commenced at 10:05a.m.

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

ATTENDANCE: Mike Wilkins, Deanna Nyberg, Matt Cazier, Trinna Gardner, Ryan Mattson, JC Brewer, Richard Powell, Crystal Clark, Wendi Long, Russell Tomlinson, Gennie Bird, Karen England, Loren Anderson, Angela Hawkins.
Minutes by Sheri Allen.

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

1. OPENING INVITATION FOR BID UC26-O1: Scale Computing Hyper-Converged Infrastructure Nodes - Trinna Gardner, Purchasing & Grants

Mike Wilkins, Clerk-Auditor, received one formal bid for the UC26-1 Scale Computing Hyper-Converged Infrastructure Nodes from Ramsys Storage Solutions out of South Jordan, Utah.

2. BUCKSKIN HILLS ENDURO COURSE PLAN PRESENTATION - Mike Cook, Trails

Mike Cook, Trails, presented the Buckskin Hills Enduro Course Plans. He explained that a community member and Wade Allison, head of the state OHV department, approached him with interest in developing an enduro training course. The course is designed to mimic obstacles found on single-track trails. The goal is to allow riders to learn and practice these skills locally, preventing injuries and negative incidents that could occur 20 miles away from town. Mike visited a similar facility in Montrose, Colorado. The basic plan involves multiple lanes: easy, medium, and hard, featuring different obstacles such as running over logs, rocks on banks or side hills, log piles, and up and down sections. This layout allows riders to progress from easy to hard difficulty before attempting actual trails, creating a better environment for new riders, including children and families. The concept drawing shows the course located at Buckskin Hills, in an area approved by Scott Hardman, Road Department. It will utilize a natural wash along with man-made obstacles. It is situated right across from the Buckskin Hills office to the west, near the snow hill. The track is approximately two acres. The current estimates for the building of the course suggest a projected cost close to \$300,000. The plan is to pursue the OHV grant, which, combined with some in-kind match money, is projected to fully fund the project. Russell Tomlinson, Jensen Water, inquired about the impact on water. Mike responded that usage would be comparatively light, as it is primarily a training area. While it could potentially be linked to motocross events for a race lap, it will generally require very little maintenance. The Montrose facility, for example, only requires maintenance, replacing a bumped pole fence or minor weed spraying for a day or two every other month, according to the BLM.

3. CAN DO CREW LIBRARY JANITORIAL CONTRACT - 2026 - Karen England

Karen England, Library, initiated the discussion regarding the renewal of the Can Do Crew's Janitorial Contract. The Attorney's Office has reviewed the contract, which is a continuation of services provided by the Uintah County School District's Can Do Crew. This program brings students with disabilities to the Library during the school year to teach them job skills. It has been a very beneficial relationship with the School District; the Crew keeps the Library and facility very clean and tidy. The contract amount is for \$18,900, to be paid by the County in nine equal installments of \$2,100 throughout the school year.

4. JOINT LIBRARY SERVICES BETWEEN UINTAH & DUCHESNE MOU - Karen England, Library

Karen England, Library, led the discussion of the reciprocal library borrowing services agreement with Duchesne County and the shared cost of the Integrated Library Services (ILS). The ILS uses ByWater and Aspen, the patron-facing side. The \$15,000 annual cost for ByWater services is split equally with Duchesne County so our share is \$7,500. The ByWater contract is due for renewal next year. The partnership is highly beneficial, especially for Uintah County residents in Ballard who frequently use the Library.

5. DISCUSSION ON AMBULANCE SERVICE IN THE UINTAH BASIN - John Laursen, Commissioner
Commissioner Laursen explained a recent state law change requiring ambulance services to obtain a letter from each entity they serve. Naples City, Vernal City, and Uintah County need to provide approval to operate in their area. The primary sticking point involves Gold Cross and Uintah Basin Medical Center (UBMC) in Roosevelt. Commissioner Laursen is requesting that Gold Cross maintain its current service area, and that UBMC be allowed to transport patients from their facility clinic/urgent care in Vernal back to Roosevelt. He believes this change will significantly cut costs, as currently, when a patient is transported from the local clinic to the hospital in Roosevelt, the hospital pays the ambulance service, which ultimately impacts patient bills. The Commissioner's request is crucial because if Uintah County does not submit the letter allowing it, Uintah Basin Medical Center (Roosevelt) would not be authorized to transport people from their clinic in Uintah County back to Roosevelt. The letter will stipulate that Roosevelt must amend its license to allow transport directly from its Vernal clinic and back. This change is intended to benefit patients, which is the Commissioner's main priority. A letter is required by the state.

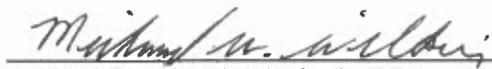
6. ORDINANCE #02-04-2026 O1: Amendments to Title 17 – Code clean-up and corrections, removing duplicate and contradicting language, clarifying obscure language - Deanna Nyberg, Community Development

Deanna Nyberg, Community Development, presented two items. Amending Variance Applications, Chapter 17.10, is redundant and should be formally removed because its provisions have been moved to Chapter 17.13 following the replacement of the Board of Adjustment with a Hearing Officer. Concerning Residential Fence Height, the current code limits residential fences to seven feet without a building permit, aligning with the International Residential Building Code (IRC). Discussion centered on changing the maximum height to eight feet, which would simplify construction (as eight feet is a standard lumber size) and potentially better suit some needs. Matt clarified that allowing eight feet would mandate a building permit, as seven feet is the state-adopted limit before a permit is required. Front yard fences have a separate four-foot limit unless they are 90% see-through. The Commissioners need to decide whether to keep the seven-foot limit (IRC standard) or proceed with a code amendment to allow eight-foot fences, which would require a building permit.

ADJOURN: The meeting adjourned at approximately 10:29 am.



JOHN LAURSEN, CHAIR



MICHAEL W. WILKINS, CLERK – AUDITOR

