

Minutes of the Commission Meeting of the Board of Commissioners, Carbon County, State of Utah, held Wednesday, February 4, 2026 in the Commission Room of the Administration Building, Price, Utah, commencing at 4:30 p.m.

Those present: Jared Haddock, Commission Chair
Tony Martines, Commissioner
Larry Jensen, Commissioner

Also present: Christian Bryner, Attorney
Geni Hawk, Commission Secretary
Seth Marsing, Clerk/Auditor
Lori Perez, Chief Deputy Clerk
Kellie Payne, HR Director
Adam Cox, Deputy

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

1) **Approval of Minutes**

Commissioner Martines made a motion to approve the January 21, 2026 Commission Meeting minutes. Commissioner Jensen seconded. Motion carried.

2) **Employee of the Month – Kellie Payne**

Kellie said Deputy Ryan Ferguson with the Sheriff's Department is the Employee of the Month. Ryan has worked for the County since March of 2024. The reason he was nominated is because he did an excellent job with a trespasser complaint on private property and handled the situation professionally. Kellie turned the time over to Deputy Sawyer Leonard.

Officer Leonard said he is here for Sheriff Wood. This nomination was recommended by the citizen involved in the call. It is great for Deputy Ryan Ferguson to receive this award because it was submitted by the public, not by his supervisor. The reason Ryan wanted to become law enforcement was to improve the perception that the public has for law enforcement. Ryan does this. Prior to this job, Ryan served in the U.S. Army for twelve years with multiple tours in Afghanistan.

During his first week of training at his very first call, Ryan showed a great deal of repour with the citizen involved. He has repeated this ability over and over again. Ryan Ferguson is a worthy recipient of the Employee of the Month award.

Deputy Ryan Ferguson said this is the best job in the world. He appreciates the recognition.

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

Tina said the Super Service Award goes to Kristen Leffler of the Carbon Country Club. Kristen's commitment to service extends beyond excellence and hospitality. Recently she performed the Heimlich maneuver on a choking patron, likely saving their life. Her calm, decisive response in a critical moment reflects her training and her deep sense of awareness and responsibility for the safety and well-being of those she serves.

Kristen is also a preschool and elementary educator. She is a devoted mother and active community member consistently giving back behind the scenes. Kristen represents the very best of Carbon County hospitality. Her dedication, professionalism and lifesaving actions make her an outstanding ambassador for our community and a deserving recipient of the Super Service Award.

Kristen said thank you. The Country Club makes her job easy. It is the best place in town.

4) **Castle Country Classic Presentation**

Walker Hyatt said he raises and shows lambs and goats. They are here representing the Castle Country Classic Livestock Show as they begin to prepare for the 2026 show. The Castle Country Classic is a jackpot show for

Carbon and Emery County youth in various classes. This is a great tool to get younger kids involved in showing livestock.

Tess shows lambs and goats. This is her first year showing in the regular show. She started showing in the beginner show and is now old enough for the regular show.

Emma said this is the sixth year of the Castle Country Classic. She loves that this show puts a lot of emphasis on the importance of showmanship. Showmanship relies on dedication and hard work and how the kids treat and care for animals. We see high quality animals in our working classes and take pride knowing that they are raised in Carbon and Emery counties.

Cohen said he shows lambs and goats. He has shown in this show since he was six years old. He loves that they get shirts and hats every year. Last year they also got cookies and root beer. It was awesome.

Walker said they wanted to thank the commission for their support since 2021. This show is a favorite. He read a statement. Walker said they will be thankful for any amount the commissioners are able to sponsor this year.

Commissioner Haddock thanked them for their presentation and their hard work and dedication put in for each animal.

Commissioner Martines thanked the parents, it is a lot of work and effort. He thanked them for raising good solid kids. He asked the kids to pass these lessons to the next generation. These children are all outstanding.

Commissioner Jensen made a motion to support this event with a \$1,000 donation for the Castle Country Classic show in 2026. Commissioner Martines seconded. Motion carried.

5) ***Open sealed bids for Carbon County Events and Recreation Complex fireworks display for 2026 4th of July celebration – Kourtney Cox***

Seth said no bids were received.

Kourtney said we can look at doing something else and go after new options. No one responded even though she emailed the bid notices to interested parties. She was contacted by several companies and will get quotes from them.

Commissioner Jensen made a motion to acknowledge that no bids were received and authorize Kourtney and Commissioner Haddock to work through the options and make a choice. Commissioner Martines seconded. Motion carried.

Kourtney had one more announcement. She said last year we brought back the Black Diamond Rodeo which was very exciting. For this being her offices first rodeo, they were nominated for the top two finalists for the Wilderness Circuit Top Small Rodeo of the Year. The exciting news received yesterday, is that the 2026 Black Diamond Rodeo is going to be streamed on the Cowboy Channel. This means our rodeo, our community, and our sponsors will have a wider reach then we ever expected. We are thrilled by this notice and schedule.

Commissioner Haddock thanked Kourtney for her hard work and dedication. These things do not come together by chance.

6) ***Ratification of the FY 2026 Rural Communities Opportunity Grant award from the Governor's Office of Economic Opportunity – Shanny Wilson***

Shanny said this is a ratification agreement for the Rural Communities Opportunity Grant that Carbon County was awarded this year. We have been applying for this grant for the last four years. It is a grant through the Governor's Office of Economic Opportunity. We applied once more and finally received it. The maximum amount available is \$600,000 and that is what we received. We will use it for road development on Ridge Road. We have already signed the grant and she will work closely with Daniel Luke and the Road Department to make this happen.

Commissioner Jensen added that this is to build the road leading into the industrial park on the Campbell property. It was purchased for companies who will need rail service. We not only have this money, but also a federal grant to assist us with building this road. It takes a great deal of Shanny's time to put these grant applications together and we appreciate her.

Shanny said we have companies moving in and hopefully we will be able to share this information soon.

Commissioner Martines made a motion to ratify the FY 2026 Rural Communities Opportunity Grant award from the Governor's Office of Economic Opportunity. Commissioner Jensen seconded. Motion carried.

Commissioner Haddock said he appreciates Shanny for her dedicated work and hopes the community understands just how much tax payer dollars are being saved by these grants. He is grateful for her efforts.

Commissioner Jensen added that the economic development efforts have been going on for years and it takes many years for companies to move their projects along. There are four projects that are promising and significant. This area, with the road and rail, has been positive for the county. As time passes and these companies start building it will add tax base and jobs to the community. It will help with the challenges we are living with due to the loss of the coal mines and power plant.

7) Consideration and possible approval to apply for the Hazardous Materials Preparedness Grant – Justin Needles

Justin said this 80/20 grant is for the Hazmat Team to pay for training. We get \$4,000 from the State of Utah, State Fire Marshall, Hazmat Division. We have to match it with one thousand dollars. This comes from the Emergency Services budget and each year we send the Hazmat team to either the Public Safety Summit or to a conference.

Commissioner Jensen made a motion to approve the application for the Hazardous Materials Preparedness Grant. Commissioner Martines seconded. Motion carried.

8) Consideration and possible approval to appointment board applicants to Friends of the Carbon/Emery County Children's Justice Center Board

Commissioner Martines said we had a couple of changes to the Children's Justice Center board due to vacancies. The person in this application has been on the board previously. He recommends Carrie Alton to the Friends of the Carbon/Emery County Children's Justice Center board.

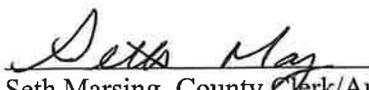
Commissioner Haddock made a motion to approve the appointment of Carrie Alton to the Friends of the Carbon/Emery County Children's Justice Center board. Commissioner Jensen seconded. Motion carried.

9) Review and approval of departmental reports

Commissioner Martines made a motion to adjourn.

The meeting adjourned at 4:54 p.m.

ATTEST:


Seth Marsing, County Clerk/Auditor

