

MINUTES of the public meeting of the Uintah County Commission held **March 10, 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, Sonja Norton, and Willis LeFevre.

ATTENDANCE: Mike Wilkins, Angie Ercanbrack, Tricia Collom, Jen Garcia, Devin Cobb, Danny Harrell, Danette Brooks, Alycia Luke, Brenda McDonald, Gennie Bird, Crystal Clark, Ryan Mattson, Angela Hawkins, Matt Cazier, Deanna Nyberg, Wendi Long
Minutes by Sheri Allen.

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

PRAYER by Deanna Nyberg.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE by Devin Cobb.

1. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES:** February 17, 2026, February 23, 2026 special meeting, March 3, 2026 special meeting, and March 4, 2026 work session

Commissioner LeFevre moved to approve the minutes for February 17, 2026, February 23, 2026 special meeting, March 3, 2026 special meeting, and March 4, 2026 work session. Motion passed unanimously.

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

Warrants dated February 20, 2026 in the amount of \$1,867,063.62. Payments of note are \$396,836.50 to MOPA for pagers for the Fire Department, \$194,202.00 to UBAOG for yearly dues, \$88,312.50 to Young Trucks & Tailor for hydraulics, and \$17,500.00 to AG Services for a Kubota UTV for the Cemetery.

Warrants dated February 26, 2026 in the amount of \$899,911.18. Payments of note are \$45,460.00 to Larry H Miller for an Emergency Management Tahoe, \$646,776.23 to Central Canal, and \$76,129.75 to Green River Construction for the USU 4-H remodel.

Warrants dated March 5, 2026 in the amount of \$457,113.19. Payments of note are \$97,573.95 to UBAOG for Lucky Acres.

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

3. **TAX MATTERS:**

Mike Wilkins, Clerk-Auditor, stated several homes are scheduled for the tax sale this year. Applications for a one-year deferral have been received from three of the owners, all of whom reside in the homes, making them eligible. Granting these deferrals will remove the properties from the tax sale, and the standard \$450 fee will be waived. Serial Number 06:048:0017 requested a one-year deferral of \$2,507.43. The applicant expects to pay the full amount by October 1st of this year. Serial Number 06:069:0050 requested a deferral for a total amount of \$3,735. The owner is actively working to pay this off before the deadline. Serial Number 04:064:0010 requested a deferral for \$2,568.50. This owner has already made several payments toward the deferral amount.

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

4. **MUSEUM OF UINTAH COUNTY Year End Report** - Alycia Luke, Museum of Uintah County
Alycia Luke, Museum of Uintah County, presented a year end report. The Museum currently maintains two full-time and three part-time staff members, consistent with last year. Volunteer contributions were

exceptional, with 14 volunteers logging 558.71 hours. This equates to a value of \$18,694.44, significantly benefiting the institution. Total visitation for the year reached 11,043 people. The largest portion of this total, 4,154 people, attended museum events. Local visitors make up the next largest group, fulfilling our goal of engaging the community with local history. Other visitor origins include Utah, out-of-state, and 108 international visitors. The Museum hosted 11 field trips with 430 attendees, including accompanying adults. While a full list is available, notable groups included the Sage School from Haley, Idaho, and a kindergarten class from Price, Utah, which was their second visit. The Museum saw a slight increase in sales last year. Additionally, the Museum received almost \$2,000 in donations, and are looking for ways to grow this amount. The Museum processed 23 separate accessions (donations from 23 people), bringing in 102 objects. The Museum also completed one deaccession, removing 130 objects that were either damaged, not suitable for display, or duplicates (e.g., having 30 of the same item). No new exhibits were installed last year as they focused on preparation for 2026, which marks the 250th anniversary of our Country. Current installations include the First Lady exhibit, featuring the First Lady doll collection originally created for the Bicentennial 50 years ago. The corresponding booklet for the *First Ladies of the White House Doll Collection* is now available in the gift shop, paying tribute to the community creators. The America 250 Wish Wall is operational, allowing visitors to share their vision for America's future. Additionally, the Museum is developing a Dominguez-Escalante exhibit. A major highlight for this year is a two-month Smithsonian exhibition arriving in August, for which the museum is creating a companion exhibit. The museum's digital presence is growing across Facebook and Instagram, and successfully relaunched our website following the rebranding to the Museum of Uintah County. The Museum actively participates in community events, including setting up an exhibit at the Gun and Knife show, and assisting with Summer Passports, the Treasure Hunt, the Halloween Walk, and other holidays. The Museum also hosts art shows, featuring traveling exhibits from Utah Arts and Museums and local artists. The Museum programs included collaborations with groups like Crow Canyon and the Buffalo Soldiers, a presentation on the gilsonite mining town of Rector, and hosting trivia nights. We also partner with USU Extension on several activities. The "Family Fun Friday" program did not gain traction, and we plan to re-evaluate it for a later date. In January, the board approved a specific version of our logo to be used solely throughout 2026 to celebrate the nation's 250th anniversary.

5. VOCA PRESENTATION for the ATTORNEY'S OFFICE - Tricia Collom & Angie Ercanbrack
Tricia Collom and Angie Ercanbrack, Victim's Advocates from the Attorney's Office, provided a presentation focusing on their year-end and grant updates. Since the grant restarted on July 1st, the advocates have served just over 200 people in the community, providing more than 2,200 individual support services. These services are crucial for helping individuals and families navigate the justice system, which can often feel overwhelming for victims. The services provided include: attending court hearings with victims, providing case notifications, meeting with the prosecution, assisting with restitution, making referrals to community resources, and helping individuals and families navigate the entire court process. The advocates' primary role is to ensure that victims understand what is happening, are aware of their rights, and have a consistent source of support throughout the process. The continuation of these vital services is only possible through grant funding and the continued support from the County, which ensures victims are not facing these difficult situations alone. A new victim portal has recently been rolled out through the case management system. This portal allows victims to: log in and view upcoming court dates, update their personal information (such as phone numbers and addresses), which directly resolves the previous difficulty in maintaining contact with victims who change their details, send restitution documents to the advocates, receive victim impact surveys after their cases, and communicate with the advocates through the portal. The team hopes to provide more information on the effectiveness of the new portal at their next update.

6. ORDINANCE #03-04-2026 01: Amendments to Ch 6.28, Cruelty to Animals - Devin Cobb,
Uintah Animal Control & Shelter
Devin Cobb, Uintah Animal Control, requested approval for amendments to Chapter 6.28, Cruelty to Animals. He explained that he worked with County Attorney Loren Anderson to better define the animal cruelty ordinance, making it more user-friendly and expanding its scope so readers could better

understand its meaning. The offense remains classified as a Class B misdemeanor. The proposed amendments expand pet owners' responsibilities. While the existing chapter addresses animal cruelty, the expansion specifically mandates that pet owners must provide their animals with shelter, food, and water, and care for them. The intent is to prevent treating an animal as "yard art" and neglecting its care, thus providing a clearer, more comprehensive definition of owner obligations.

Commissioner LeFevre moved to approve Ordinance #03-04-2026 O1 as presented by Devin Cobb. Motion passed unanimously.

7. POLICY 460, Employee Benefits, Amendments - Jen Garcia, Human Resources
Jen Garcia, Human Resources, introduced the proposed amendments to Policy 460, Employee Benefits, for approval. The proposed changes are intended to update the policy to reflect amendments that have already been passed in previous commission meetings, as discussed in a prior work session. Loren Anderson, Civil Attorney, worked with Jen and Mike on this and URS is requiring us to make these changes.

Commissioner LeFevre moved to approve Policy 460 as presented by Jen Garcia. Motion passed unanimously.

8. SCIENCE ACROSS AMERICA AGREEMENT - Gennie Bird, Grants
Gennie Bird, Purchasing and Grants, presented a grant agreement awarded to Crystal Summarell for the Uintah County Library. The Library received a "Science Across America" grant. The grant's purpose is to develop an educational outreach campaign in partnership with Tangled Bank Studios, a production company working with the Space Science Institute and the Star Library Network. Uintah County Library will serve as an advisory library for the national "Science Across America" campaign. They will help test and refine educational materials before the national rollout. The project focus for the Library is to highlight the region's distinct geological and industrial heritage through specialized Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, and Mathematics (STEAM) programs, and activities that will include two community dialogue events, a scientific book display, and incorporating local scientific achievements into a national digital map. The Library will receive a \$500 contribution to assist with outreach to rural youth. The Library gains free access to educational films, materials, activity guides, and promotional assets via a shared drive. This is at no cost to the County, requiring only engagement, with no matching funds required.

Commissioner Norton moved to approve the Science Across America Agreement as presented by Gennie Bird. Motion passed unanimously.

9. RATIFICATION OF LIBRARY SERVICES AND TECHNOLOGY ACT (LSTA) GRANT AGREEMENT - Gennie Bird, Grants

Gennie Bird, Purchasing and Grants, presented a grant applied for and received by the Uintah County Library. Darren Kelly, Uintah County Library, will be the project manager, and secured a \$5,000 technology grant from the Department of Cultural and Community Engagement Library Division. The grant funds will be used to purchase laptops to expand digital access via the bookmobile. This initiative aims to provide patrons in rural and underserved areas with the ability to complete research, apply for jobs, access online services, and receive digital literacy support. These laptops will be available at every bookmobile stop and incorporated into outreach programming to strengthen the community's access to essential digital tools. The contract term runs from February 10, 2026, through June 30, 2026, with no required matching funds. Due to a short turnaround time for signatures, the contract was reviewed and approved by Loren's office, and has already been signed. The Commission is requested to ratify the signed agreement.

Commissioner Norton moved to approve the ratification of the Library Services and Technology Act Grant agreement as presented by Gennie Bird. Motion passed unanimously.

10. NARCOTICS STRIKE FORCE INTERLOCAL AGREEMENT - Brian Fletcher, Deputy Sheriff
Brian Fletcher, Deputy Sheriff, requested approval for the interlocal agreement with the other law enforcement agencies participating in the Narcotics Strike Force. The agreement is essentially the same as the previous one, with the only change being the addition of Daggett County as a participant.

Commissioner LeFevre moved to approve the Narcotics Strike Force Interlocal Agreement with the addition of Daggett County as presented by Deputy Sheriff Brian Fletcher. Motion passed unanimously.

11. PUBLIC COMMENT : none

12. CLOSED SESSION to discuss the purchase, exchange, or lease of real property when public discussion of the transaction would disclose the appraisal or estimated value of the property under consideration or prevent the public body from completing the transaction on the best possible terms in accordance with Utah Code 52-4-205 (1)(c)

At 3:30 pm, Commissioner Norton moved to go into Closed Session for the purpose of discussing the purchase, exchange, or lease of real property when public discussion of the transaction would disclose the appraisal or estimated value of the property under consideration or prevent the public body from completing the transaction on the best possible terms in the Small Commission Conference Room and when discussion is complete, adjourn, and reconvene Commission meeting in order to adjourn. Motion passed unanimously.

The closed session began at 3:40 pm with Commissioner Laursen, Commissioner LeFevre, Commissioner Norton, Loren Anderson, Mike Wilkins, Matt Cazier, and Danette Brooks in attendance.

Closed session adjourned at approximately 4:15 pm.

ADJOURN: The meeting adjourned at approximately 4:16 pm.



JOHN LAURSEN, CHAIR



MICHAEL W. WILKINS, CLERK - AUDITOR

