

**MINUTES** of the public meeting of the Uintah County Commission held **March 24, 2026** in the Commission Chambers of the Uintah County Building at 147 East Main, Vernal, Utah. The meeting commenced at 3:03 pm.

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

**ATTENDANCE:** Mike Wilkins, Wendi Long, Carson Young, Ken Campbell, Scott Hardman, Jenny Garcia, Ryan Mattson, Matt Cazier, Jess Hermann, Crystal Clark, Angela Hawkins  
Minutes by Sheri Allen.

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

**PRAYER** by Ken Campbell.

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE** by Scott Hardman.

**1. APPROVAL OF MINUTES:** March 17, 2026 and March 18, 2026

*Commissioner Norton moved to approve the minutes for March 17, 2026 and March 18, 2026. Motion passed unanimously.*

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

Warrants dated March 19, 2026 in the amount of \$1,472,411.07. Payments of note are \$75,215.00 to Uintah Basin Association of Governments (UBAOG) for Lucky Acres, \$400,000.00 to Utah Education and Outdoor Access, and regular monthly expenses including payroll and medical claims.

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

**3. TAX MATTERS:** None

**4. VERNAL'S DINOSAUR ROUNDUP RODEO SPONSORSHIP REQUEST -** Carson Young  
Carson Young, Dinosaur Roundup Rodeo, requested a county sponsorship of \$25,000.00 and presented highlights for the upcoming rodeo, scheduled for June 18–20 (Father's Day weekend) at Western Park. The 2025 rodeo had a strong showing with 626 professional contestants and attendees from 35 US states and Europe, with Friday and Saturday selling out for the fourth consecutive year. For the 2026 event, features include securing top-ranked entertainment like barrel man Dusty Myers and the Westernaires flag team. The rodeo will again be a PRCA Playoff Series event, which boosts its national profile and broadcast opportunities. To combat ticket scams, a new strategy involves in-person advance sales at Western Park from April 15–30, with online sales beginning May 1. The committee is also aiming to boost participation in the 11th annual Dinah Decorating Contest to a goal of 90 decorated dinosaurs to commemorate the 250th anniversary of the Declaration of Independence and the 90th year since the PRCA was founded.

*Commissioner Norton moved to approve the Dinosaur Roundup Rodeo sponsorship of \$25,000.00 as presented by Carson Young. Motion passed unanimously.*

**5. ROAD DEPARTMENT BACKHOE RENTAL AGREEMENT -** Scott Hardman, Road Department  
Scott Hardman, Road Department, sought approval for the annual renewal of the 430 Backhoe rental agreement with Wheeler. The agreement, which involves an annual cost of \$14,000, maintains the same terms as in previous years and has been in continuous effect for at least seven years. Loren Anderson, Civil Attorney, has reviewed the agreement, and it was also a subject of discussion during the work session. The current lease term runs from February 27 of the current year through February

26 of the following year. Wheeler contacted the department following the work session last week to confirm the continuation of the satisfactory rental agreement.

*Commissioner LeFevre moved to approve the rental agreement for the 430 Backhoe with Wheeler as presented by Scott Hardman. Motion passed unanimously.*

**6. POLICY 860 - Mobile Devices and Management - Ryan Mattson, IT**

Ryan Mattson, IT requested approval of Policy 860, the Mobile Device and Management Policy to ensure Uintah County's compliance with the FBI's annual Criminal Justice Information Services (CJIS) audit. The new policy establishes two key restrictions on CJIS Data, prohibits the access, storage, or transmission of CJIS data on all personally owned devices. This data is only allowed on specific, county-owned devices with advanced security. SaaS Access, limits access to all contracted County web applications like BambooHR and I-Works exclusively to county-owned devices. The policy's goal is to maintain County control over its data location, download, and dissemination.

*Commissioner Norton moved to approve Policy 860 Mobile Devices and Management as presented by Ryan Mattson. Motion passed unanimously.*

**7. COMMERCIAL AIR SERVICE at VERNAL REGIONAL AIRPORT - Ken Campbell, Vernal Regional Airport**

Ken Campbell, Vernal Regional Airport, discussed the process for selecting a commercial air service provider, which involved a Request for Qualification (RFQ) that yielded four applications: SkyWest, Advanced Air, Denver Air, and the current provider, Contour. The applications were evaluated based on several factors, including qualifications, aircraft type, airline relationships, and maintenance capacity. The Vernal City Council unanimously approved Contour. However, the County Commission deferred its vote, requesting a public forum for additional clarification. The general sentiment favored Contour for several reasons. They committed to tripling their advertising budget and offered competitive one-way ticket prices, estimated to be about \$45 cheaper than competitors. The addition of the Denver route has been very successful, leading to a near-record passenger count. All applicants, except SkyWest, proposed using the current 30-seat aircraft size; SkyWest offered a larger 50-seat aircraft under Part 380. A key difference noted was the connection type: SkyWest's codeshare offers superior benefits starting with the first leg of a journey, whereas Contour's Interline connection benefits begin only on the second leg out of Denver or Phoenix. The community utilizes the Alternate Essential Air Service Program (AEAS), which grants greater local control over the selection process. The recommendation presented to the Commission is to approve a 48-month contract with Contour.

*Commissioner Norton moved to approve the 48 month contract with Contour as presented by Ken Campbell. Motion passed unanimously.*

**8. PUBLIC COMMENT :**

Jen Garcia, Human Resources, shared exciting news regarding a new award designation for Uintah County's volunteer program. Over the past year, the HR department spearheaded a total overhaul of the volunteer program, including streamlining the application process, introducing a new volunteer handbook, launching a dedicated website, and updating the volunteer policy. As part of this growth, Uintah County attended the U Serve Utah training on volunteer programming for maximum impact, which led to seeking the Volunteer Program Maximum Impact (VPMI) designation. This State-recognized trust indicator confirms the program meets the high standards set by the Utah Commission on Service and Volunteerism. To earn the designation, organizations submit evidence for review, and the state awards a bronze, silver, or gold designation. Uintah County submitted 11 items for review, all of which were accepted. As of January 13, Uintah County has officially been awarded the Gold designation by U Serve Utah. This is the highest level and is valid for five years.

Jen then read a portion of the designation letter: "Dear Uintah County, on behalf of U Serve Utah, the state of Utah's commission on service and volunteerism, I am pleased to award Uintah County Gold

designation. The VPMI designation serves as a trust indicator that your organization's volunteer program is recognized by U Serve Utah. It signifies your organization's commitment to excellence in volunteer programming through participation in a 2025 U Serve Utah VPMI professional developmental course. Your organization developed a portfolio of evidence that outlined strategic strategies for strengthening and evolving your volunteer program. Your Gold designation is valid for five years."

The letter was signed by Judy Hut, Community Engagement Program Manager for U Serve Utah. Jen confirmed that the process, which took about a year of work, involved improving programming, establishing volunteer coordinators for interested departments, attending a two-day VPMI training following a previous volunteer management certification, and compiling and submitting a portfolio of evidence by December for review.

**ADJOURN:** The meeting adjourned at approximately 3:36 pm.

  
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JOHN LAURSEN, CHAIR

  
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MICHAEL W. WILKINS, CLERK – AUDITOR

