

MINUTES of the special public meeting of the Uintah County Commission held **April 1, 2026** in the large Commission conference room of the Uintah County Building at 152 East 100 North, Vernal, Utah. The meeting commenced at 10:40 a.m.

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

ATTENDANCE: Karen England, Jeremy Raymond, Brenda McDonald, Bruce North, Bo Lamb, Loren Anderson, Leshia Coltharp, Angela Hawkins, Wendi Long, Caleb Hall
Minutes by Sheri Allen.

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

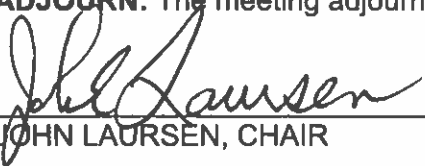
1. RESOLUTION #04-01-2026 R1: Fire Restriction

Jeremy Raymond, Fire Marshal, presented a proposed Fire Restriction Order for Uintah County, Vernal City, Ballard City, and Naples City due to unprecedented dry conditions, including record low snowpack and rain, high temperatures, and above-average fire calls. The extended forecast calls for continued below-average precipitation and above-average temperatures. Because it is before the regular fire season, the County and cities must adopt the resolution. No open burning for spring yard cleanup on all private land within the unincorporated county and the incorporated city limits of Vernal, Ballard, and Naples beginning April 2, 2026, at 12:01 AM and running through the end of May 2026, but can be rescinded sooner if moisture conditions improve. No open burning, except in established facilities/improved campgrounds on public lands, or in permanently constructed fire pits at permanent private dwellings with pressurized running water. Persons with a specific permit/waiver issued by the Fire District, or on-duty firefighters are exempt. Burning may result in a violation of city/county law under Utah Code 76.610, Reckless Burning.

Loren Anderson, Civil Attorney, presented Resolution #04-01-2026 R1: Fire Restriction, which mirrors the Fire Executive's order. This resolution bans most fires in unincorporated areas for the designated period, with certain exceptions, and can be amended if needed. The County's adoption of this resolution will strengthen the Fire District's order by confirming the County's agreement and jurisdiction. The attorney also noted that all City representatives and officials have been consulted and are supportive of the restriction.

Commissioner Norton moved to approve Resolution #04-01-2026 R1: Fire Restriction subject to the Fire District's approval. Motion passed unanimously.

ADJOURN: The meeting adjourned at approximately 10:50 am.



JOHN LAURSEN, CHAIR



MICHAEL W. WILKINS, CLERK – AUDITOR

