

SANPETE COUNTY COMMISSION MEETING

July 7, 2026, 1:00 PM

Sanpete County Courthouse, 160 North Main, Suite 302, Manti, Utah

Present are: Commission Chair Scott Bartholomew, Commissioners Mike Bennett and Jim Cheney. County Clerk Linda Christiansen is present. County Attorney Kevin Daniels was absent.

Meeting is called to order by Commission Chair Scott Bartholomew.

OPENING PRAYER OR REMARKS AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Prayer is offered by Commissioner Scott Bartholomew. Pledge of allegiance is recited by all.

CANVASS 2026 REPUBLICAN PRIMARY ELECTION HELD ON JUNE 23RD, 2026.

County Clerk Linda Christiansen presents the agenda item. Ms. Christiansen displays the Canvass packet documents on the screens in the Commission Room. The first document is the checklist of the packet documents and the signature page for the canvass. The second page that Ms. Christiansen reviews is the Standardized Canvass Statistics Report which outlines the ballots counted and not counted. Sanpete County had a 39 percent voter turnout. Sanpete County has 10,731 active registered Republican voters and 4,174 ballots were returned and counted. Ninety-seven percent of the ballots were returned by mail and in the drop boxes. Ninety-five voters voted in-person which equates to 0.02 percent. Twenty-five provisional ballots were issued but only 11 were counted. Fourteen of the provisional ballots were rejected due to the wrong party affiliation. Sixty-six ballots were received after the deadline and they did not count. Ms. Christiansen reminds everyone that in recent legislation it was changed that a certain postmark date does not validate a ballot. Every ballot in Utah must be received by the County Clerk, on Election Day in order to be counted. The precinct and summary results are included in the Canvass documents. Ms. Christiansen states the winners of the races in Sanpete County were Linda Hanks and AJ Mower. AJ Mower will receive a certification that he is the duly elected Republican Nominee for the office of County Commission Seat A for Sanpete County. Linda Hanks will receive a certification from the State due to a multi-county race. Ms. Christiansen included an election affidavit stating she follows all State and Federal Code requirements in running a fair election. The County Clerk's office held the Public Audit on Monday and there were no discrepancies between the hand-counted batches and the machine tabulation. No discrepancies were discovered with the signature audits as well. Ms. Christiansen states a new report is now available on the election results page. The Public CVR (Cast Vote Record) is now required to be posted by legislation. The CVR has a unique serial number assigned to each ballot and displays how that ballot was voted. Commissioner Bartholomew questions whether or not she expected more in-person voters this election. Ms. Christiansen stated there were more than she expected. This primary election had a third of the in-person voters compared to the presidential election in 2024. Generally speaking, the only time that most voters vote in person is on a presidential year. With that being said, that number is still less than one-percent of the voters. Commissioner Bartholomew makes the statement that voting is our right and anyone that did not vote in this election does not have the right to complain. Commissioner Bennett also comments that it would probably be easier to break into Fort Knox than tamper with anything to do with the

elections in Sanpete. Motion is made by Commissioner Bennett to accept the 2026 Republican Primary Election Canvass report for Sanpete County. The motion is seconded by Commissioner Cheney. Vote by voice is taken: Commissioner Cheney votes aye, Commissioner Bartholomew votes yes, and Commissioner Bennett vote's aye. The vote is unanimous and the motion passes. The post-canvass report is signed by the Commissioners and County Clerk.

STACEY LYON: APPROVAL OF CLAIMS; APPROVAL OF FINANCES; APPROVAL TO PAY PYRAMID INVOICE FOR TAX SALE.

Auditor Stacey Lyon presents the agenda items. No questions or concerns are voiced in regards to the claims. Motion is made by Commissioner Bennett to approve warrants #364488 through #364605 and EFT's #464-#515. The motion is seconded by Commissioner Cheney, and the motion passes. No questions or concerns are voiced in regards to the finances. Motion to approve the finances as of July 7th, 2026 is made by Commissioner Bennett. The motion is seconded by Commissioner Cheney, and the motion passes. Ms. Lyon states the next agenda item is for the posting of the tax sale that she is required to post. Her office rotates each year between the Pyramid and Sanpete Messenger and this year it was the Pyramid's turn. Motion is made by Commissioner Bennett to approve the invoice for the Pyramid for the tax sale in the amount of \$2,004.75. The motion is seconded by Commissioner Cheney, and the motion passes.

SHERIFF JARED BUCHANAN: DISCUSSION AND POTENTIAL APPROVAL OF CREDIT CARD LIMIT INCREASES IN THE SHERIFF'S OFFICE.

Sheriff Jared Buchanan presents the agenda item. Sheriff Buchanan explains his current credit card limit of \$2,000.00 makes it difficult at times to make the purchases needed in the Sheriff's office. More specifically when they send a group of officers to training, they will have to collect multiple cards to pay for fees and hotel costs and it is hard to know which receipt goes with which card. Sheriff Buchanan believes it would streamline some of the processes if his credit card limit was raised to \$5,000.00. Stacey Lyon states the County does not have a credit card with that high of a limit. Furthermore, the independent auditors have encouraged the County not to have a credit card limit that exceeds the purchasing policy amount. Sheriff Buchanan requests the amount of \$2,500.00. The suggestion is that Debbie Hatch have her own card but the Sheriff doesn't think she wants one. Stacey Lyon states she has offered her credit card for the Sheriff's office to use but that is the reason the Sheriff is requesting a higher amount; to avoid tracking down the right card with the right receipt. Sheriff Buchanan states it makes it difficult to assure the funds come out of the correct budget when multiple cards are used. Commissioner Bennett suggests adjusting the purchasing policy. Discussion ensues regarding the need for a high credit card limit. Ms. Lyon would not like to see a credit card limit higher than \$2,500.00. She suggests raising his credit card limit to \$2,500.00 and raise Keith Jensen's credit card limit of \$2,000.00. Motion is made by Commissioner Bennett to approve the credit card limit on Sheriff Buchanan's card to \$2,500.00 and Keith Jensen's to \$2,000.00. The motion is seconded by Commissioner Cheney, and the motion passes.

TALISHA JOHNSON: APPROVAL TO PAY RK SAVAGE SURVEYING FOR SECTION CORNER RESTORATION PROJECT.

Deputy Recorder Shelbee Keller presents the agenda item. Commissioner Bartholomew explains this agenda item occurs every year to restore existing corner markers. Ms. Keller affirms the invoice is being paid for with a State grant. Ms. Keller states they do put it out to

bid but Savage has been doing this work for them for quite some time. Motion is made by Commissioner Bennett to approve the invoice for RK Savage Surveying for the Sanpete County 2026 Section Corner Restoration Project in the amount of \$28,076.19. The motion is seconded by Commissioner Cheney, and the motion passes.

TOM SEELY: DISCUSSION AND POTENTIAL APPROVAL OF TEMPORARY HIRES FOR CHIPPING AND WEED SPRAYING.

Road Supervisor Tom Seely presents the agenda item. Mr. Seely believes he has the weed spraying under control so the approval will most likely be for chipping only. The temporary help will be used next Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday and Monday, Tuesday of the following week. Mr. Seely has a couple of kids lined up that he has used in the past and they have gone through the paperwork and testing in Stacey's office. Motion is made by Commissioner Bennett to approve the temporary hires for chipping and weed spraying for the Road Department. The motion is seconded by Commissioner Cheney, and the motion passes. Commissioner Bartholomew states a lot of goat head weeds are showing up on the sides of the roads in the county. Mr. Seely agrees they have exploded and he doesn't know why.

APPROVAL OF RIGHT-OF-WAY APPLICATION FOR JESSICA & TUCKER DANIELS TO INSTALL POWER TO THEIR PROPERTY FOR FUTURE HOME (CONDUIT PRIMARY 2" AND SECONDARY 3"), ON A GRAVEL ROAD, NORTH OF SEWER PONDS IN MANTI, PARCEL # 6668X5.

Tom Seely has approved the application with the stipulation that a bond is submitted prior to the meeting. Mr. Seely has mentioned to the Commissioners that he would like to establish a Memorandum of Understanding with the cities for a situation like this where the city is doing the work. Unfortunately, the County does not have such document in place and if a bond is required; the County can't make an exception for the city. Linda Christiansen told the applicant that she would have to wait until the next meeting if her bond was not submitted prior to today's meeting. Motion is made by Commissioner Bennett to table the application until the bond is put in place. The motion is seconded by Commissioner Cheney, and the motion passes.

APPROVAL OF RIGHT-OF-WAY APPLICATION FOR CLARK BOWN TO INSTALL POWER LINE UNDER A COUNTY ROAD; APPROXIMATELY HALF A MILE NORTH OF FAYETTE ON BARTHOLOMEW ROAD.

Tom Seely has approved the application with the stipulation that the bond is submitted prior to the meeting. Mr. Seely states the bond has not be received and it should be treated in the same manner as the previous application. Motion is made by Commissioner Bennett to table the application for Clark Bown to install a power line until the bond paperwork is received. The motion is seconded by Commissioner Cheney, and the motion passes. Commissioner Bartholomew questions whom will notify the applicants that the bonds need to be submitted. Tom Seely verifies they have already been made aware.

APPROVAL OF RIGHT-OF WAY APPLICATION FOR ENBRIDGE GAS TO INSTALL TWO 3/4" GAS SERVICES TO NEW HOMES. THEY WILL BORE OR MISSILE UNDER WEST SIDE ROAD. LOCATED AT 15910 N & 15856 N WEST SIDE ROAD; WALES.

Tom Seely has approved the application. Mr. Seely states the bond is in place. Motion is made by Commissioner Cheney to approve the Enbridge Gas application to bore under the

West Side Road, in Wales, Utah. The motion is seconded by Commissioner Bennett, and the motion passes.

JEFF TANNER & DAVE OXMAN REPRESENTING THE SANPETE COUNTY ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITY ADVISORY BOARD: DISCUSSION AND POTENTIAL APPROVAL OF COMPETITIVE BUSINESS GRANT APPLICATION WINNERS.

Jeff Tanner and Dave Oxman present the agenda items. Mr. Tanner clarifies that the grant application awards are fifty percent, post-performance reimbursement. This stipulation is identified on the application and the applicant provides the information on how they intend to get the money. Commissioner Cheney verifies that the amount requested by the applicant is the fifty percent amount. The Board requires the applicants to detail the costs to restrict an individual from requesting more money than is needed. Mr. Tanner was unaware of the stipulation that one business could not be granted the award more than once so he will go back to the Board to reconsider another application in place of their recommendation of the Casino Star Theatre. Mr. Tanner will clarify with Weld to Order that they have not been a previous winner as well. The other businesses that they feel are deserving of the grant and are good to go are: Keep-It-Clean Carwash, Rooted Emily and Das Café One LLC. Dave Oxman appreciates the Commissioners feedback regarding the past winner stipulation. Commissioner Bennett states there were discussions via email regarding the list of winners and the agreement to not award past winners. He requests that Mr. Tanner and Mr. Oxman go back to the board for another recommendation. Commissioner Cheney refers to the list of applicants and inquires if the next winner will automatically be the next in line. Mr. Oxman states there may be some concerns as to whether or not that is how it is handled, based on the geographical location of the next business in line and whether they feel each area is represented. Commissioner Bartholomew expresses appreciation for the Board and all of the hard work that is put into selecting the winners. Mr. Tanner states they received 27 applications and he believes next year they will receive more because they will get the word out much sooner. Commissioner Bennett states by not awarding past winners, it gives more opportunity to spread out the funding to more businesses. Mr. Oxman states he would like clarification that the Commissioners are in agreeance with the businesses that are approved. It needs to be verified whether or not Weld to Order received the grant in the past. Casino Star Theatre is a past winner and can't receive the award again. Mr. Tanner is good with a partial approval today. Motion is made by Commissioner Bennett to approve the list except for the Casino Star Theatre and regarding Weld to Order, Jeff Tanner will verify that they have not been a past grant winner; if they are not a past winner, they are approved. The motion is seconded by Commissioner Cheney, and the motion passes. The list shows; Keep-It-Clean Carwash for \$10,000.00, Rooted Emily for \$5,000.00 and Das Café One LLC for \$18,043.00. If Weld to Order LLC is approved, the amount requested is \$9,600.00.

MAX LEWIS REPRESENTING SANPETE FIRE: APPROVAL OF INDIANOLA VALLEY FIRE DEPARTMENT MEMBERS.

Max Lewis presents the agenda item. Mr. Lewis presents a list of the new Indianola Fire Department members that have passed the drug screening. Mr. Lewis has worked with all of the individuals with the exception of one but he believes they will be a great addition to the department. Mr. Lewis believes there are 13-14 members at the Indianola Fire Department. At least five of the new members have red carded and a couple are from last year. Mr. Lewis was unaware of the requirement that the Commissioners needed to approve the list until Stacey Lyon

informed him as such. Motion is made by Commissioner Bennett to approve the Indianola Valley Fire Department Members. The motion is seconded by Commissioner Cheney, and the motion passes.

HEIDI SORENSEN: RATIFY APPROVAL TO POST JOB OPENING FOR ZONING ENFORCEMENT / OFFICE ASSISTANT.

Heidi Sorensen presents the agenda item. Ms. Sorensen states the job was posted last week on July 1st. Prior to the posting of the job, the job description was reviewed and revised by the County Attorney. They have received five applications so far and the close date is to be determined. Motion is made by Commissioner Cheney to approve the posting of the job description for Zoning Enforcement / Office Assistant. The motion is seconded by Commissioner Bennett, and the motion passes.

STACEY CARLISLE REPRESENTING SANPETE COUNTY FAIRBOARD: APPROVAL TO ORDER BUCKLES FOR THE 2026 WINNERS.

Stacey Carlisle presents the agenda item. Ms. Carlisle requests the approval to purchase buckles for the Junior Livestock winners. Motion is made by Commissioner Cheney to approve the purchase of the Junior Livestock buckles in the amount of \$5,310.80. The motion is seconded by Commissioner Bartholomew. Vote by voice is taken: Commissioner Cheney votes aye, Commissioner Bartholomew votes yes, and Commissioner Bennett abstains. The motion passes. Commissioner Bartholomew states the kids wear the buckles proudly. Discussion ensues regarding the remodel project of the old Manti Senior Center and the transition to the Event Center for Meals on Wheels while the remodel job is taking place.

BRYAN T. BIES: DISCUSSION AND POTENTIAL APPROVAL OF NEW LIGHTS IN THE BUILDING & ZONING OFFICES; DISCUSSION AND POTENTIAL APPROVAL OF ADA DOOR OPENERS IN THE BUILDING; DISCUSSION AND POTENTIAL APPROVAL OF VRF SYSTEM UPGRADE; DISCUSSION AND POTENTIAL APPROVAL OF HANDRAIL FOR STAIRS IN WEST FOYER FOR ADA.

Bryan T. Bies presents the agenda items. Mr. Bies states the building and zoning department wanted new lights because other offices have received light upgrades. It is not an emergency and is not an essential need. Motion is made by Commissioner Bennett to table this item until they get the boiler situation figured out. The motion is seconded by Commissioner Cheney, and the motion passes. Mr. Bies addresses the need to make all of the doors on the south side of the building more accessible by installing ADA openers. The middle doors located by the Clerk's office already have one but he would like to install them by the Treasurer and Building Department offices. Due to the handicapped parking located on the south side of the building, Commissioner Bennett believes all three doors need the ADA door openers. Commissioner Cheney raises concern with the Treasurer's door because it is a single door with a lot of backed up traffic standing in the path of the door. Mr. Bies has ordered signs to identify the handicapped accessible doors. This was not a recommended fix but Mr. Bies feels the public would be better served by installing the door openers. Mr. Bies has a quote of \$6,642.14 from House of Glass to install two ADA door openers. Commissioner Cheney mentions the ramp goes up to the Treasurer's door so it only makes sense to install an opener there. Motion is made by Commissioner Bennett to approve the ADA door openers from House of Glass for the two doors stated in the amount of \$6,642.14. The motion is seconded by Commissioner Cheney, and the motion passes. Mr. Bies spoke with three contractors to bid the VRF system

upgrade. One of the contractors that bid the job did not come in person to inspect the building. It is important that whomever gets the job understands the way the system works and the complexity of it. Commissioner Bartholomew questions whether or not Mr. Bies has put the job out to bid on the State's website. Mr. Bies states he did not. The commissioners would like him to try that before they make a decision. Mr. Bies reached out to several contractors for the last agenda item and his request is that the new handrail match the existing. The existing hand rail is stainless steel. The only bid they have for stainless steel seems high so the commissioners would like Mr. Bies to get a few more bids. Commissioner Cheney has a few contacts that Mr. Bies can reach out to. Mr. Bies has an engineering report from the county's insurance adjuster with a few minor things he needs to discuss with the Commissioners. They instruct him to talk to them after the meeting on some solutions.

**LINDA CHRISTIANSEN: APPROVAL TO PAY ES&S FOR ANNUAL LICENSES AND FEES;
APPROVAL TO PAY KP FOR BALLOT PRINTING AND MAILING SERVICES FOR THE 2026
REPUBLICAN PRIMARY ELECTION.**

County Clerk Linda Christiansen presents the agenda item. Ms. Christiansen states the first invoice that she is presenting is for the licensing and maintenance fees for the election software and equipment. She also explains that the State does reimburse a portion of the fees every year. One year the full amount was paid; other years it has equated to 60-70 percent of the total bill. The elections budget has a specific line item for this invoice to be paid out of which is the Special Elections Grant budget (10-4170-660). Ms. Christiansen reported that she was able to receive a reimbursement from the State on a scanner that Jenny Williams purchased to scan envelopes for the elections department. The cost of the scanner was approximately \$4,000.00 and the State reimbursed the County \$2,800.00. The invoice to ES&S is for \$11,205.00. Motion is made by Commissioner Cheney to approve the payment to ES&S invoice in the amount of \$11,205.00. The motion is seconded by Commissioner Bennett, and the motion passes. The next invoice that Ms. Christiansen presents for payment is for the 2026 Republican Primary Election. Ms. Christiansen expresses frustration with recent legislation in regards to election processes and unfunded mandates. One requirement is a second polling location. The polls need to be open from 7am-8pm; having the adequate staffing and equipment for that amount of time is costly with less than 25 voters utilizing the location. With the State of Utah transitioning from a Vote by Mail to Vote by Choice it ultimately creates two elections that could end up costing the County double. The financial burden to accommodate in-person voting for less than one percent of the voters in Sanpete is significant. More than half of the ballots were wasted because they were not returned. The voter turnout for this election was thirty nine percent. There are approximately 17,000 registered voters in Sanpete; Ms. Christiansen estimates that the next election ballot printing costs will be closer to \$30,000.00. Commissioner Bartholomew questions how the upcoming Rural Health Tax will be noticed for the County. If the Resolution is passed, it will be on the November ballot. Motion is made by Commissioner Bennett to approve the KP invoice in the amount of \$23,472.27 for ballots. The motion is seconded by Commissioner Cheney, and the motion passes. Commissioner Bartholomew questions the cost of each ballot per voter. Ms. Christiansen explains this is only one bill that goes into that calculation. The printing costs for this invoice alone calculated to \$2.20 for ballot printing and mailing. That does not include the equipment costs, staff, training and supplies to run an election. The cost per voter is approximately \$4.00 a ballot.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

County Clerk Linda Christiansen states there are three sets of minutes that need to be approved. Motion is made by Commissioner Bennett to approve the meeting minutes from June 2nd. The motion is seconded by Commissioner Cheney, and the motion passes. Motion is made by Commissioner Cheney to approve the minutes from June 16th. The motion is seconded by Commissioner Bennett, and the motion passes. Ms. Christiansen noticed she had not fixed the room number on the template she uses for Commission minutes. The next set of minutes for the public hearing still had the old commission room number on it but she corrected it. It is discussed that the flyer printed for the public hearing had the time incorrect so the Commissioners stayed to see if anyone else came but no one did. Motion is made by Commissioner Bennett to approve the minutes from June 30th Public Hearing. The motion is seconded by Commissioner Cheney, and the motion passes.

CLOSED SESSION

No closed session was needed.

Motion is made by Commissioner Bennett to adjourn. The motion is seconded by Commissioner Cheney, and the motion passes.

The meeting is adjourned at 2:03 P.M.

ATTEST:



Linda Christiansen
Sanpete County Clerk

APPROVED:



Scott Bartholomew
Commission Chair