

MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE
BOARD OF EMERY COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
HELD IN THE EMERY COUNTY COURTHOUSE

SEPTEMBER 16, 2025

Present at the meeting was Commission Chairman Keven Jensen, Commissioner Jordan Leonard, Commissioner Dennis Worwood, Attorney Mike Olsen, Sheriff Tyson Huntingtpn, Deputy Clerk/Auditor Carol Cox, elected officials and citizens.

CONSENT AGENDA

(1)

APPROVAL OF CHECK EDIT LIST, REQUISITIONS, AND DISPOSITIONS.

The Warrant Check Edit List #269290 through and including #269384 was presented for payment.

There were no requisitions or dispositions.

(2)

APPROVAL OF SEPTEMBER 2, 2035 COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES

(3)

APPROVAL TO GIVE KYLEE TAYLOR A 3% WAGE INCREASE FOR SUCCESSFUL COMPLETION OF HER 6 MONTH ORIENTATION PERIOD AS AN ASSISTANT LIBRARIAN IN THE FERRON LIBRARY, EFFECTIVE 9-29-25.

DISCUSSION AGENDA

(1)

ITEMS PULLED FROM THE CONSENT AGENDA.

Motion to approve the Consent Agenda was made by Commissioner Dennis Worwood, seconded by Commissioner Jordan Leonard, and the motion passed.

AYE: Dennis Worwood

Jordan Leonard

Keven Jensen

NAY: none

Commission Meeting Minutes
September 16, 2025

(2)

SAFETY MINUTE PRESENTATION BY KAREN RICHARDS, DEPUTY ASSESSOR II.

Karen Richards talked about the importance and value of getting a building permit.

(3)

AWARDING OF SAFETY VISA GIFT CARDS-238 DAYS NO LOSS TIME ACCIDENTS

Full time employee: Mitzi Lopez

Part time employee: Maegan Crosland

Safety Sensitive employees: Devin Hooley and Dustin Deto

Commissioner Jordan Leonard made a motion to close the regular meeting and enter into a Public Hearing to receive public comment regarding the PacifiCorp planned Clawson I Solar Power Generation and Battery Energy Storage System. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Dennis Worwood. The motion passed.

AYE: Jordan Leonard

Dennis Worwood

Keven Jensen

NAY: none

(4)

PUBLIC HEARING: TO RECEIVE PUBLIC COMMENT REGARDING THE PACIFICORP
PLANNED CLAWSON I SOLAR GENERATION AND BATTERY ENERGY STORAGE SYSTEM.

Spencer Martin, Contractor to PacifiCorp for Clawson I Solar Power Generation and Battery Energy Storage System provided details regarding the proposed planned project. The project is approximately 1200 acres on the west side of Highway 10, north of Rock Canyon Road on property owned by PacifiCorp. He talked about three proposed, possible locations for connecting to the power grid. Jeff Wagner talked about property tax associated with PacifiCorp subject to Centrally Assessed and assessed taxes by the State of Utah. He added, he understands that the citizens would like to experience relief on property taxes as a result of solar adding to the tax base. This project is an approximately \$300 million investment with the battery storage at approximately \$200 Million. A project like this adds to the tax base. This will be assessed by the State of Utah as a centrally assessed property.

The public was invited to make comments..

Comments were heard from:

J Mark Humphrey: In favor of the project. He asked that the infrastructure that is there be protected.

Commission Meeting Minutes
September 16, 2025

Ed Geary: Asked if access to any roads will be blocked.

Derri Jewkes: As a cattle owner next to the property, he asked about panel leaks, dust control, possible ambient heat from the panels, fenced set backs from adjacent property owners.

Dan Rasmussen: Asked if this project will be able to jump ahead of other projects already in the works.

Val Payne: Asked that they become acquainted with other activities that may be going on such as, recreation activity on OHV routes in the area. He asked about vulnerability.

Cory Worwood: Asked as Weed/Mosquito Supervisor that they be aware of equipment brought into the project area be weed free and risk free. As a property owner he has concern for the storage facility as far as battery leakage or battery fires that may blow onto his property.

Shawn Jewkes: Asked if there have been any studies on the impact of wildlife and natural habitat in the area.

Bruce Funk: Asked about water runoff issues and whether the storage facility will aesthetically match to the terrain in the area.

James Nielson: Asked about archeological and historical studies in the area.

Merlin Rushton, RMP explained that this a RMP/PC project so they would have more control over these things. We will have control of the standards and security of the area.

The Public Hearing was closed and the Commissioners returned to the regular meeting schedule.

(5)

RATIFICATION OF SIGNING OF EMERY COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE APPLICATION FOR THE JAG-LOCAL LAW ENFORCEMENT BLOCK GRANT FROM THE STATE OF UTAH COMMISSION ON CRIMINAL AND JUVENILE JUSTICE.

Sheriff Huntington indicated that this a yearly application in the amount of \$4,500.

Commissioner Dennis Worwood made a motion to ratify the signing of Emery County Sheriff's Office application for JAG-Local Law Enforcement Block Grant from the State of Utah

Commission on Criminal and Juvenile Justice. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Jordan Leonard. The motion passed.

AYE: Dennis Worwood

Jordan Leonard

Keven Jensen

NAY: none

Commission Meeting Minutes
September 16, 2025

(6)

RATIFICATION OF UTAH AIRPORT REVITALIZATION GRANT APPLICATION.

This is a 100% grant to be used to renovate the office/storage building at the Huntington Airport. The amount of the grant request is \$4,400. The application was signed to meet a deadline. Commissioner Dennis Worwood made a motion to ratify approval of Utah Airport Revitalization Grant Application. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Jordan Leonard. The motion passed.

AYE: Dennis Worwood
Jordan Leonard
Keven Jensen

NAY: none

(7)

UPDATE ON CASTLE DALE BRIDGE REHABILITATION BY THE HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION.

Suzanne Anderson, along with Historic Preservation Commission Chair, Ed Geary, Vice Chair, Val Payne and Secretary, Bernice Payne gave a brief update of the progress of the HPC to rehabilitate the Castle Dale Bridge. There are no funding issues at this time. Justin Truman has done a lot in helping to find the uncut lumber to repair the deck. In 1964 the road was conveyed to Castle Dale and Emery County and added to the B Road System. It is on an existing ROW. The road is identified on OHV trail maps.

(8)

DISCUSS/APPROVE/DENY UTAH COOPERATIVE MARKETING GRANT CONTRACT #260632776 BETWEEN THE UTAH OFFICE OF TOURISM, THE GOVERNOR'S OFFICE OF ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITY AND EMERY COUNTY TOURISM OFFICE.

AnnDee Mead explained the scope of work for the recently awarded Utah Cooperative Marketing Grant between the Utah Office of Tourism, the Governor's Office of Economic Opportunity and Emery County Tourism Office. They were awarded \$46,314.00. The funds will be used to continue to enhance Emery County's robust event marketing efforts that draw significant visitor interest. In addition they will actively support and promote various community-driven events throughout the year. The marketing funds will be used specifically for marketing outside of the area and specifically in Moab, Colorado, the Wasatch Front. The second element of this project will focus on the future of Emery County's tourism marketing. After approximately two years of efforts to complete a county-wide rebrand, they are now ready to develop a proactive marketing and tourism plan that will guide the next phase of their growth. Their overall goal is to create a sustainable and actionable roadmap for Emery County's future tourism development. Commissioner Jordan Leonard made a motion to approve the Utah

Commission Meeting Minutes
September 16, 2025

Cooperative Marketing Grant Contract #260632776. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Dennis Worwood. The motion passed.

AYE: Jordan Leonard
Dennis Worwood
Keven Jensen

NAY: none

(9)

DISCUSS/APPROVE/DENY STATE OF UTAH CONTRACT BETWEEN EMERY COUNTY AND
DIVISION OF OUTDOOR RECREATION REGARDING THE FY2026 OHR GRANT

AnnDee Mead explained the scope of work for the State of Utah contract between Emery County and Division of Outdoor Recreation FY2026 OHVR Grant. Emery County is undertaking a comprehensive project to design, produce, and distribute high-quality trail maps to serve both local residents and visiting outdoor enthusiasts. These maps are intended to enhance public education regarding trail systems, promote responsible and sustainable recreation practices, protect sensitive natural and cultural resources, and ultimately reduce the frequency and severity of search and rescue incidents across the county. This project is a collaboration which has already begun in coordination with the BLM to update and refine Geographic Information System (GIS) data. In addition to the GIS work, EC has partnered with a professional advertising agency to develop visually appealing cover art that reflects the region's unique landscapes and recreational opportunities. The next major phase of the project will be to secure funding to complete map proofs and begin the printing process. Once the maps are printed, they will be distributed throughout Emery County and other key locations across the state. Digital versions will also be made available to the public through the Avenza Maps platform. This will allow users to download georeferenced maps directly to their smartphones or GPS devices, enabling offline use and real-time location tracking even in remote areas without cellular service. The grant is a 50/50 match. The total project is estimated to be \$12,000.00. A \$6,000 grant that they will match with \$6,000.00. They hope to have the maps available by the end of the year. Commissioner Dennis Worwood made a motion to approve the State of Utah Contract between Emery County and Division of Outdoor Recreation regarding the FY2026 OHVR Grant. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Jordan Leonard. The motion passed.

AYE: Dennis Worwood
Jordan Leonard
Keven Jensen

NAY: none

Commission Meeting minutes
September 16, 2025

(10)

DISCUSS/APPROVE/DENY FUNDING COMMITMENT FROM EMERY COUNTY TRAVEL TO FERRON CITY FOR THE REBUILD OF THE LIVESTOCK EVENT CENTER.

AnnDee Mead talked about a commitment letter from EC Travel Bureau to Ferron City for the rebuild of the livestock event center. EC Travel Bureau has budgeted \$1.5 million dollars to have a special projects fund. They have budgeted \$500,000 in TRT funds to Ferron City for this project. EC Travel Bureau Board recognizes the value of this project as a driver of tourism, cultural preservation, and economic vitality for Emery County. The funds will assist Ferron City in their CIB process of procuring \$1 million dollars for the project. Commissioner Jordan Leonard made a motion to move forward with the \$500,000 commitment to Ferron City from the ECTB TRT funds. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Dennis Worwood. The motion passed.

AYE: Jordan Leonard
Dennis Worwood
Keven Jensen

NAY: none

(11)

DISCUSS/APPROVE/DENY AMENDMENT TO KFJ SUBDIVISION

Commissioner Jensen explained that no easements are being removed and all other wording stays the same. Commissioner Dennis Worwood made a motion to approve amendment to KFJ Subdivision. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Jordan Leonard. The motion passed.

AYE: Dennis Worwood
Jordan Leonard
Keven Jensen

NAY: none

(12)

DISCUSS/APPROVE/DENY LEVEL III CONDITIONAL USE PERMIT APPLICATION FOR PACIFICORP'S PLANNED CLAWSON I SOLAR POWER GENERATION AND BATTERY ENERGY STORAGE.

Commissioner Dennis Worwood made a motion to approve a Level III Conditional Use Permit application for PacifiCorp's planned Clawson I Solar Power Generation and Battery Energy Storage. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Jordan Leonard. Commissioner Keven Jensen voted Nay. The motion passed with two Aye votes.

AYE: Dennis Worwood
Jordan Leonard

NAY: Keven Jensen

Commission Meeting Minutes
September 16, 2025

(13)

CLOSING OF BOE

Commissioner Jordan Leonard made a motion to close the Board of Equalization. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Dennis Worwood. The motion was seconded by Jordan Leonard. The motion passed.

AYE: Jordan Leonard
Dennis Worwood
Keven Jensen

NAY: none

(14)

DISCUSS/APPROVE/DENY VETERAN, BLIND AND HOMEOWNER'S TAX ABATEMENTS

Commissioner Dennis Worwood made a motion to approve the Veteran, Blind and Homeowner's Tax Abatements. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Jordan Leonard. The motion passed. Commissioner Worwood asked that everyone keep an eye on the legislature as there have been some legislators who have wanted to terminate this program. We need to encourage them to continue with this program

AYE: Dennis Worwood
Jordan Leonard
Keven Jensen

NAY: none

(15)

DISCUSS/APPROVE/DENY LOW INCOME TAX ABATEMENT FOR RYAN COWLEY, JAMES SMITH, WILLIAM JUSTICE AND BETTY HANSEN.

Low Income Tax Abatement applications were considered for Ryan Cowly, James, Smith, William Justice and Betty Hansen. They have all met the requirements. These applications are Commission Adjustments up to 50% of the tax owing. Commissioner Dennis Worwood made a motion to approve the Low Income Tax Abatements for Ryan Cowley, James Smith, William Justice and Betty Hansen for 50% of the tax owing. The motion was seconded by Jordan Leonard. The motion passed.

AYE: Dennis Worwood
Jordan Leonard
Keven Jensen

NAY: none

Commission Meeting Minutes
September 16, 2025

(16)

DISCUSS/APPROVE/DENY ALLOWING ROBER'S ROOST TRAIL COMMITTEE FROM WAYNE COUNTY TO ADD SIGNAGE AND STICKERS TO THE EXISTING TRAIL MARKERS THAT CROSS INTO EMERY COUNTY AS WELL AS ADDING ADDITIONAL SIGNAGE AS NEEDED.

This was presented during Public Lands. This is the Rober's Roost Trail Committee from Wayne County the ability to put signage stickers on the existing carsonite signs along the portion of the trail that enters Emery County indicating that they are still on the Rober's Roost Trail. The committee will be responsible to maintain the stickers. Commissioner Dennis Worwood made a motion to approve allowing Rober's Roost Trial Committee from Wayne County to add signage and stickers to the existing trail markers that cross into Emery County as well as adding additional signage as needed. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Jordan Leonard. The motion passed.

AYE: Dennis Worwood

Jordan Leonard

Keven Jensen

NAY: none

(17)

DISCUSS/APPROVE/DENY SIGNING OF PARTICIPATION FORM FOR THE NEW NATIONAL OPIOID PURDUE DIRECT SETTLEMENT CL-1737454, INCLUDING RELEASE OF ANY CLAIMS.

Attorney Mike Olsen requested signing of participation form for the New National Opioid Purdue Direct Settlement CL-1737454, including release of any claims. Commissioner Dennis Worwood made a motion to approve Attorney Mike Olsen' request to sign the participation form as presented. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Jordan Leonard. The motion passed.

AYE: Dennis Worwood

Jordan Leonard

Keven Jensen

NAY: none

(18)

DISCUSS/APPROVE/DENY SIGNING OF A COMBINED PARTICIPATION FORM FOR THE NEW NATIONAL OPIOIDS SECONDARY MANUFACTURERS SETTLEMENTS CL-1769253, INCLUDING RELEASE OF ANY CLAIMS.

Attorney Mike Olsen requested signing of a combined participation form for the New National Opioids Secondary Manufacturers Settlement CL-1769253 including release of any claims.

Commissioner Dennis Worwood made a motion to approve Attorney Mike Olsen's request to sign a combined participation form as presented. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Jordan Leonard. The motion passed.

AYE: Dennis Worwood
 Jordan Leonard
 Keven Jensen

NAY: none

(19)

DISCUSS/APPROVE/DENY SIGNING THE NATIONWIDE OPIOID LITIGATION
 AUTHORIZATION TO VOTE VIA MASTER BALLOT REGARDING PURDUE/SACKLER
 BANKRUPTCY.

Attorney Mike Olsen requested signing the Nationwide Opioid Litigation Authorization to vote VIA Master Ballot regarding Purdue/Sackler Bankruptcy. Commissioner Dennis Worwood made a motion to approve Attorney Mike Olsen's request to sign the Nationwide Opioid Litigation Authorization as presented. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Jordan Leonard. The motion passed.

AYE: Dennis Worwood
 Jordan Leonard
 Keven Jensen

NAY: none

(20)

DISCUSS/APPROVE/DENY A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE FILING OF
 CROSS-APPEALS FOR THE 2025 CENTRALLY ASSESSED PROPERTIES FOR URBAN OIL
 & GAS GROUP.

Attorney Mike Olsen requested approval of a Resolution authorizing the filing of Cross-Appeals for the 2025 Centrally Assessed Properties of Urban Oil & Gas Group. Commissioner Jordan Leonard made a motion to approve Resolution 9-16-25, a resolution authorizing the filing of Cross-Appeals for the 2025 Centrally Assessed Properties for Urban Oil & Gas Group. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Dennis Worwood. The motion passed.

AYE: Jordan Leonard
 Dennis Worwood
 Keven Jensen

NAY: none

(21)

DISCUSS/APPROVE/DENY ALLOCATING \$42,000 OF SOLAR REVENUE FUNDS TO
 NORTH EMERY WATER USERS SSD FOR FLOOD RECOVERY.

North Emery Water Users had a flood event at their treatment plant damaging their equipment. They are requesting that Emery County use solar revenue to pay what their insurance would

Commission Meeting Minutes
September 16, 2025

pay (\$42,000) so they don't have to file an insurance claim which would save them from a rate hike in their insurance premium. NEWUSSD does not collect taxes. They do have PILT revenue which has depleted to nearly nothing. Commissioner Leonard indicated that he has visited with Brenda Tuttle about this issue and she suggested using our flood mitigation funds or PILT funds for this since this has not been budgeted for in solar revenue. He indicated he would like to see if we can find another revenue source that has been budgeted. Commissioner Jordan Leonard made a motion to approve allocating \$42,000 to NEWUSSD to assist in their recovery efforts, using available budgeted funding revenue. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Dennis Worwood. The motion passed. Commissioner Jensen suggested that if we can't find a budgeted source then we use solar funds.

AYE: Jordan Leonard
Dennis Worwood
Keven Jensen

NAY: none

(22)

DISCUSSION REGARDING RURAL ECONOMIC BLUE PRINT DRAFT PLAN.

August Grant, Governor's Office of Economic Development Opportunity provided an overview of what the Center For Rural Economic Development does. Their purpose is to advise on the development of an Economic Plan. He outlined strategies for economic development for the future and set goals for growth and development. August indicated that they will take all the input they have received from the municipalities and the county to create the document that will be presented for approval. They will make sure that they have all the pieces in place before moving forward with a plan for consideration. Patsy asked where the funds will come from for this project. They use the County's current general plan as a model.

(23)

DISCUSSION REGARDING RILDA CANYON LOWER GATE.

This was brought up a few times in Public Lands. NEWUSSD has a treatment plant in the canyon. Commissioner Jensen asked that we wait until NEWUSSD has voted on a decision before we make a decision.

(24)

DISCUSSION REGARDING ORDINANCE ENFORCEMENT

There are people who want the county to enforce ordinances. Commissioner Jensen indicated that in his opinion, if we enforce an ordinance we should enforce it for everyone. Attorney Olsen Commented that there are probably crimes that we don't know about. We will make a determination based on evidence presented as to whether to present a case for prosecution.

Make sure everyone is compliant with an ordinance. Commissioner Leonard indicated that we need to get on the same page with enforcement or do away with the ordinance. The ordinance needs to be clear. Commissioner Worwood felt that some ordinances are vague by nature.

(25)

DISCUSS/APPROVE/DENY DECREASING THE SALARY OF THE EMERY COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

Commissioner Jensen had a concern with losing authority and wondered if we are worth our salary. We need safeguards so that grants can not be pursued without Commission approval. We do not have to give away our authority so that we are overrun by special interest groups. It disturbs me that a Commissioner can bring up a 10 billion grant that would fundamentally change our county should have Commission approval. Commissioner Worwood stated he did not see what our salary has to do with grants. Commissioner Worwood indicated he is willing to discuss this during the budget process. Discussion continued to ensue. Commissioner Leonard made a motion to deny the request to decrease the salary of the Emery County Commissioners. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Dennis Worwood. Commissioner Jensen voted NAY. The motion passed.

AYE: Jordan Leonard
Dennis Worwood

NAY: none

(26)

ELECTED OFFICIAL REPORTS

Sheriff Huntington reported on a recent rescue of a transient on the Green River during a heavy rainstorm.

(27)

ADJOURN

Motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Commissioner Dennis Worwood, seconded by Commissioner Jordan Leonard, and the motion passed.

AYE: Dennis Worwood
Jordan Leonard
Keven Jensen

NAY: none

ATTEST: Brenda Jensen COMMISSIONER: 7/9/