

COMMISSION MINUTES

July 13, 2026

Minutes of the regularly scheduled meeting of the Sevier County Commissioners held this thirteenth day of July 2026. Meeting commenced at 1:30 p.m. with Commissioners Scott Johnson, Ralph Brown, and Greg Jensen in the Commission Chambers of the Sevier County Administration Building, 250 North Main, Richfield, Utah. Clerk/Auditor Steven C. Wall and County Attorney Casey Jewkes were also present.

Executive Director Malcolm Nash was excused.

Commission Business:

Commissioner Jensen reported that this is the one year anniversary from the start of the Monroe Fire last year. Discussion followed concerning the current Cottonwood fire in Beaver and Piute Counties, as well as concerns about the rains that are coming. The Cottonwood Fire is approximately 97,500 square miles and is 77% contained, but they are now concerned about the possibility of flooding.

Commissioner Johnson then reported that the BLM is considering changes to their grazing rules after the fire, and there may also be changes to the Forest Service grazing rules when administration moves to the State.

Commissioner Johnson then discussed the drought and the effects it is having on the livestock producers. He said that the government is talking about providing some help to allow the producers to keep going.

Commissioner Brown then reported that the County is preparing for the Fair, and also that President Trump had signed the executive order reducing the size of two national monuments, including Bears Ears, and opening that land back up to the public.

Clerk/Auditor Steven Wall then reviewed a Fraud Risk Assessment for the County with the State Auditor reporting that the County falls into the Moderate Category, and that we do comply with the basic separation of duties. After review and discussion, Commissioner Johnson did sign the Assessment.

Clerk/Auditor Wall also reviewed an updated Tax Sale report noting parcel 3-192A-51 had been sold but not paid for. Mr. Wall indicated that his office had worked with the next few bidders with little success, and based on the advice of the County Attorney the parcel would be added to the 2027 Tax Sale. The Commission thanked him for the information.

Minutes of the June 22nd Worksession, Commission Meeting, July 6th Canvass approved:

Minutes of the June 22nd Worksession and Commission Meeting and the July 6th Canvass of Election were reviewed and approved on a motion by Commissioner Brown, second Commissioner Jensen, unanimous.

Payment Approval Report for June approved:

The Commission then reviewed and approved the Payment Approval Report for June on a motion by Commissioner Jensen, second Commissioner Brown, unanimous.

Items declared surplus, authorized for disposal:

The Commission then reviewed a personal property surplus list of items no longer being used by the County. After discussion, Commissioner Brown moved to declare the items as surplus and authorize their disposal as indicated, second Commissioner Jensen, unanimous.

Jones & DeMille Assignment Order for Sand Ledges Trailhead approved:

The Commission then reviewed an Assignment Order with Jones & DeMille Engineering for the 2026 Sandledges Trailhead Design and Improvements Project and noted that the project manager will be Parker Vercimak. After discussion, Commissioner Jensen moved to approve the Assignment Order with Jones & DeMille Engineering, second Commissioner Brown, unanimous.

Caselle Cloud Agreement approved:

Clerk/Auditor Steven Wall then reviewed with the Commission an agreement with Caselle who provides our financial software for the County. We are looking at moving to a cloud based system, which would allow remote access from anywhere and would reduce costs of servers, etc. to run the platform. He said the cloud based system would be hosted and backed up by Caselle. He reported that there was a 20% discount on the annual platform fee for moving to the cloud based system which would be ongoing if signed in June. Commissioner Brown asked if there was sufficient funding in the budget, and Clerk/Auditor Wall indicated there was. After discussion, Commissioner Brown moved to ratify the agreement with Caselle, second Commissioner Jensen, unanimous.

2026 Utah State University Extension Services Cooperative Agreement approved:

Ethan Gillim, USU Extension, then reviewed with the Commission the 2026 Cooperative Agreement for Utah State University Extension Services in Sevier County, outlining the responsibilities of each party and including the budget for the current year. Mr. Gillim then updated the Commission on the programs that they are doing in the County, as well as the work he is doing with the grazing activities as grazing was not allowed on the mountain this year. Commissioner Johnson noted that they are also pursuing grants to keep Natalie Fullmer working with the schools. After discussion, Commissioner Jensen moved to approve the Cooperative Agreement with Utah State University for Extension Services, second Commissioner Brown, unanimous.

Assessor Adjustments approved as recommended:

Assessor Terri Hartle then reviewed recommended Assessor Adjustments on six parcels for corrections to details on the parcels. After discussion, Commissioner Brown moved to approve the Assessor Adjustments as recommended, second Commissioner Jensen, unanimous.

Tourism Advisory Board Recommendations approved:

Tourism Director Amy Myers then reviewed the recommendations from the Tourism Advisory Board from their last meeting on July 7th. After discussion, Commissioner Brown moved to approve the expenditures as recommended, second Commissioner Jensen, unanimous.

Placer.ai Contract for services approved:

Ms. Myers then reviewed an agreement with Placer.ai, noting this was a two year agreement that is terminating at the end of October, and she is recommending renewal. She said the program tracks visitors to the area, where they are from, and their activities to help them plan activities in the area. She recommended renewing for an additional two years as it has helped substantially in the work she is doing to promote our area. After discussion, Commissioner Jensen moved to approve the renewal of the Placer.ai agreement, second Commissioner Brown, unanimous.

Amendment to Utah Contract for Children's Justice Center approved:

County Attorney Casey Jewkes discussed with the Commission an amendment to the State of Utah Contract for the Children's Justice Center, which would renew the agreement for another year. Attorney Jewkes recommended its approval. After discussion, Commissioner Brown moved to approve renewal of the Contract with the State of Utah to extend the Children's Justice Center services, second Commissioner Jensen, unanimous.

Ordinance 2026-7-1 adopted to temporarily prevent Data Center Applications:

County Attorney Jewkes then reviewed with the Commission Ordinance 2026-7-1 to adopt a temporary land use regulation prohibiting accepting or processing applications for data centers, power plants, and solar power plants for a period of 180 days. He reported that no one has approached the County at this point, but with all of the concerns expressed over data centers throughout the State, he is recommending the Commission adopt the ordinance allowing the County to put in place some procedures and requirements for these types of development to ensure it complies with the parameters of our General Plan. Discussion followed that this is a temporary ordinance for 180 days, and that because it is temporary it is exempt from the usual notice requirements. After discussion, Commissioner Jensen moved to adopt Ordinance 2026-7-1 placing a moratorium on data center applications, second Commissioner Brown, unanimous.

Information on Nuclear Energy to be presented at Fall Festival:

Brock Jackson, R6 Regional Council, reviewed with the Commission that they are in the planning stages with the Utah Energy Division to have education events throughout the State to provide information concerning nuclear energy. Discussion followed concerning possible time frames, combining with other events, etc. to try to make more people aware of the possibility of nuclear energy coming to the State. Mr. Jackson said there is a possibility of a nuclear energy site in Emery County, and the public needs to be aware of safety concerns. He said they could possibly combine this with the Fall Festival. The Commission thanked him for the information.

There being no further business to come before the Board, meeting adjourned at 2:31 p.m.