

MINUTES of the public meeting of the Uintah County Commission held **August 11, 2026** in the Commission Chambers of the Uintah County Building at 147 East Main, Vernal, UT 84078 at 3:00 pm.

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

ATTENDANCE: Sheri Allen, Soni Snow, Tessa Barton, Jazel Burman, Windy Barton, Shane Burman, Margie Shewell, Chery Bolton, Angela Hawkins, Elizabeth Olsen, Ashley Olsen, Danette Brooks, Jeremy Raymond, Brenda McDonald, Matt Cazier, Tara Burman, Mike Wilkins and Wendi Long
Minutes by Leasha Williams

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

PRAYER by Chery Bolton.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE by John Laursen.

Commissioner Laursen noted one correction to the agenda: item #5 is the Secure Rural Schools Act allocation from the U.S. Forest Service, replacing the previously listed Allocation of Mineral Lease Funds of State Off State Lands.

The Commission introduced two new employees: Heather Barnes, the new Executive Assistant in the Commission office, and Maury Burgman, the new Comptroller at the Clerk-Auditor's Office.

1. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES:** August 4 Commission Meeting, August 5 Work Session and August 6 Special Public Hearing

Commissioner LeFevre moved to approve the minutes for August 4,5 and 6, 2026. Motion passed unanimously.

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

Warrants dated August 6, 2026 in the amount of \$2,066,221.51. Payments of note \$58,460.00 for a Uintah County Sheriff's Office vehicle, \$586,703.00 for a Uintah Basin Association of Governments (UBAG) grant pass-through for the Lucky Acres Subdivision, and equipment purchases for the Road Department totaling \$400,870.00 (\$262,000.00 and \$138,870.00).

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

3. **TAX MATTERS:** none

4. **MISS UINTAH COUNTY VOLUNTEER, TESSA BARTON; TEEN VOLUNTEER, JAZEL BURMAN; and VOLUNTEER PRINCESS, ASHLEY OLSEN**

Commissioner Laursen introduced Miss Uintah County Volunteer Tessa Barton, Teen Volunteer Jazel Burman, and Volunteer Princess Ashley Olsen. He congratulated them on their roles and invited each representative to approach the microphone to discuss their platforms and upcoming initiatives with the Commission.

Miss Uintah County Volunteer Tessa Barton presented her "Takedown Project" service initiative, which aims to establish equipment lockers in local high schools and middle schools. Drawing from her experience as an athlete and wrestling official, she highlighted the financial barriers students face in obtaining proper gear. Her goal is to provide necessary equipment to ensure all interested students can participate in wrestling regardless of their financial situation. Tessa also reported that she successfully raised \$1,200 through a recent bingo night to help initiate this project.

Teen Volunteer Jazel Burman presented her platform, "Confidence Through Motion," which aims to encourage physical activity for all age groups. Her goal is to promote active lifestyles by organizing accessible fitness activities at local recreation centers and senior living facilities, emphasizing that physical activity positively impacts emotional and physical well-being.

Volunteer Princess Ashley Olsen presented her platform, "Read to Lead," which focuses on fostering a love of reading among elementary school students. Her initiative aims to encourage literacy beyond basic reading skills by engaging students in ways that cultivate enthusiasm and deep comprehension.

Following the presentations, photographs were taken of the representatives with the Commissioners. Commissioner Norton, having previously served as First Attendant for Miss Uintah County, shared brief reflections on the responsibilities of the role.

5. ALLOCATION OF MINERAL LEASE FUNDS OFF OF STATE LANDS

The Commission determined the matter requires additional review and elected to table the item until next week.

6. RESOLUTION #08-11-2026 R1: Centrally Assessed Cross Appeals - Mike Wilkins, Clerk-Auditor

Mike Wilkins, Clerk-Auditor, presented Resolution #08-11-2026 R1 regarding centrally assessed property appeals. He explained that centrally assessed properties—those crossing county or state lines—are assessed by the state property tax division. To contest these assessments, the county must file a cross-appeal. This resolution authorizes the county to cross-appeal the assessments for the following five companies: Mid America Pipeline LLC, Ramsey Hill Exploration LLC, Chapita Processing LLC, Raven Ridge Pipeline, and SM Energy Company.

Commissioner Norton moved to approve Resolution #08-11-2026 R1 as presented by Mike Wilkins. Motion passed unanimously.

ANNOUNCEMENT: Commissioner Laursen announced upcoming public hearings regarding the proposed change of county government. The next hearing will be held on Thursday, August 13, 2026, at the Tridell Fire Station. The second hearing will occur on Monday, August 17, 2026, in the Commission Chambers and will be televised. Residents are encouraged to attend to ask questions or provide comments. This item will appear on the ballot.

PUBLIC COMMENT : none

ADJOURN: The meeting adjourned at approximately 3:20 pm.



JOHN LAURSEN, CHAIR



MICHAEL W. WILKINS, CLERK – AUDITOR