

Minutes of the Commission Meeting of the Board of Commissioners, Carbon County, State of Utah, held Wednesday, August 19, 2026 in the Commission Room of the Administration Building, Price, Utah, commencing at 4:30 p.m.

Those present: Tony Martines, Commission Chair
Larry Jensen, Commissioner
Jared Haddock, Commissioner

Also present: Christian Bryner, County Attorney
Geni Hawk, Commission Secretary
Seth Marsing, (Excused)
Soleil Marrelli Chief Deputy Clerk
Caitlin Giraud, Deputy Clerk
Kellie Payne, HR Director
Jeff Wood, Sheriff

Commissioner Martines welcomed everyone to the meeting and led the Pledge of Allegiance.

1) Approval of Minutes

Commissioner Haddock made a motion to approve the July 15, 2026 Commission Meeting minutes. Commissioner Jensen seconded. Motion carried.

Unscheduled Public Update

Commissioner Jensen said they have lifted a long-standing non-disclosure agreement (NDA) to provide an economic update. They announced that Georgia Pacific has canceled plans to build a \$600 million wallboard factory on county-owned land due to rising project and escalation costs.

The proposed facility would have employed 160 people, utilizing a gypsum mine in Emery County, and shipping finished sheetrock throughout the West using daily rail service.

The strict NDA was necessary to protect the company's plans, as the new facility would have resulted in the closure of two active factories in California.

2) Employee of the month - Kellie Payne

Kellie Payne introduced Tristan Thomas of the County Attorney's Office as the Employee of the Month.

Janeyl Breinholt from the court spoke on behalf of Tristan's nomination, praising his work implementing Utah's Traffic Online Dispute Resolution (Traffic ODR) pilot program.

Carbon County is one of only three courts in the state testing this pilot system, which allows eligible drivers to negotiate non-criminal traffic citations directly online via a "My Case" account.

Since the program launched on April 28, Tristan has successfully negotiated 95 traffic cases online, saving an immense amount of administrative time for the courts, law enforcement, and prosecutors.

Tristan said he is always happy to help.

3) Super Service Award - Tina Grange

Tina Grange from the Office of Tourism presented the Super Service Award to Abigail Safford of Beans & Brews based on nominations from the general public.

The nomination praised Abigail's exceptional customer service, highlighting her positive attitude, her dedication to learning regular customers' names, and her habit of preparing their drinks before they even order.

Abigail, who recently relocated to the community in March, expressed her gratitude for how warm and welcoming local residents have been.

4) Open Sealed Bids for Heavy Haul Transport Trailer - Daniel Luke Road Department

Kellie Payne and Soleil Marrelli opened 7 bids.

One Nation Distribution, LLC - Rogers brand heavy haul transport: \$198,898.00
Holden Industries - HPD60 Holden hydraulic lowboy trailer: \$160,067.00
Globe Trailers - GTBN60 HGG: \$114,121.00
Diesel Depot/Landoll Company, LLC - 2027 86053CE: \$187,847.83
Diesel Depot/Felling Trailers, Inc. - XF1203 HDG: \$123,806.51
Diesel Depot/Trail King Industries, Inc - TK120HDG advantage plus hydraulic: \$158,025.00
Wheeler Machinery Co. - 2027 TK120HDG: \$203,182.00

Commissioner Haddock made a motion to have commissioner Jensen and Daniel Luke review and acknowledge the bids and select the best trailer for the county. Commissioner Jensen seconded. Motion carried.

5) Consideration and possible approval of a Proclamation by the County Commissioners of Carbon County, Utah, proclaiming September 2026 Suicide Prevention and Awareness Month

Amanda McIntosh presented the request to designate September 2026 as Suicide Prevention and Awareness Month.

Amanda shared a major local incident where the post office lost hundreds of Hope Squad sponsorship letters and monetary donations. Despite the resulting budget deficit, the local community inundated her with private donations to ensure their initiatives continue.

The proclamation was read into the record, stating that Utah has consistently ranked among the top states for suicide deaths since 2012 (currently 11th nationally compared to 7th in 2025) and that Carbon, Emery, and Grand counties lead the state in per capita suicide deaths. Statistics show that suicide is the first leading cause of death among Utahns aged 15 to 24 and the second leading cause for ages 25 to 44, with the highest overall rate occurring in the 55 to 64 age brackets. The proclamation highlighted life-saving warning signs, means-restriction techniques (safe firearm and medication storage), and local, state, and national resources (including the 988 lifeline).

Amanda outlined several upcoming prevention events, including a "Talk Saves Lives" training on August 20, candlelight vigils on World Suicide Prevention Day (September 10) in Huntington, Price, and Moab, the 13th Annual Walk in Price on September 19, and the 2nd Annual Moab Walk on September 26.

Commissioner Jensen made a motion to approve the proclamation by the County Commissioners of Carbon County, Utah, proclaiming September 2026 Suicide Prevention and Awareness Month. Commissioner Haddock seconded. Motion carried.

6) Consideration and possible approval of a donation to Opioid & Substance Use Coalition's Light to Remember event - Ashley Yaughner

Commissioner Jensen addressed the funding request for the coalition's upcoming "A Light to Remember" event.

Commissioner Jensen clarified that because the county's allocated funds are fully committed to Four Corners and the health department, and a private donor has stepped forward to cover the event's cost, county funds would not be used.

Commissioner Jensen made a motion to deny the request for a donation to the Opioid & Substance Use Coalition's Light to Remember Event. Commissioner Haddock seconded. Motion carried.

7) Consideration and possible approval of donating Parcel 1A-1377-0000 to Helper City to create an All Wheels Park – Mayor Lenise Peterman

Helper City Mayor Lenise Peterman requested the donation of county-owned parcel 1A-1377-0000, located on Cemetery Road, to serve as parking for a proposed community "All Wheels Park" featuring a pump track, skate park, and children's BMX route.

Commissioner Haddock noted that they have identified this parcel and it is no longer needed for any other particular use.

Carbon County Attorney Christian Bryner indicated that the transfer could be completed using a quitclaim deed.

Commissioner Haddock made a motion to donate the parcel 1A-1377-0000 to Helper City to create an All Wheels Park which would be a benefit to the health, welfare and well-being of Carbon County citizens. Commissioner Jensen seconded. Motion carried.

8) Valor Atomics presentation

Max Ukropina and Corey Gardner from Valor presented an update on their nuclear energy company, Valor Atomics, operating at the San Rafael Energy Lab in Orangeville.

They relocated to the region from California two years ago and successfully turned on their reactor in June 2026, making them the only private company founded since the Manhattan Project to generate nuclear electricity.

The shipping-container-sized high-temperature gas-cooled reactor utilizes graphite as a moderator and helium for cooling instead of water, making it "walk-away safe" and highly compatible with Nvidia's waterless cooling requirements.

The company has actively hired local residents from closed coal assets and announced plans to host a public town hall in Price and a reactor open house within the next 30 to 45 days to educate the community. They stated they have an open-door policy and are always happy to answer questions from the public.

Commissioners praised the safety record of nuclear transport and highlighted the tax benefits the plant will bring to reduce local residents' personal property taxes.

9) Consideration and possible approval of a Consulting Agreement between Carbon and Emery Counties and Utah Public Affairs Consulting

The commissioners reviewed a joint \$60,000 consulting agreement with John Cox of Utah Public Affairs Consulting to identify and secure economic development opportunities across coal, natural gas, nuclear, and advanced manufacturing sectors.

The total cost is split 50/50 (\$30,000 each) between Carbon and Emery counties.

Carbon County's portion is fully covered by unused funds in the existing Economic Development consulting budget, which has transitioned from a flat yearly fee to an hourly rate.

Commissioner Haddock made a motion to approve the consulting agreement between Carbon and Emery Counties and Utah Public Affairs Consulting, contingent upon Emery County's approval. Commissioner Jensen seconded. Motion carried.

10) Review and possible approval of FY 2027 Predator Control Contract with the Department of Agriculture and Food

Commissioner Jensen said this is a cooperative effort between the Utah Department of Agriculture and Food, which enters into this agreement with Carbon County annually to hire individuals who help with the predator control.

The \$8,400 contract cost is split equally between the Department of Agriculture and the county to support local stockmen by managing coyote and mountain lion populations.

Commissioner Jensen made a motion to approve the FY 2027 Predator Control Contract with the Department of Agriculture and Food. Commissioner Haddock seconded. Motion carried.

11) Adjourn as Carbon County Board of Commissioners and convene as Carbon County Board of Equalization

Commissioner Haddock made a motion to adjourn as Carbon County Board of Commissioners and convene as the Carbon County Board of Equalization. Commissioner Jensen seconded. Motion carried.

12) Consideration and possible approval of changes to property values recommended by the Assessors department

Chief Deputy Assessor Keven Ewell remotely presented 70 property value adjustments for approval. These adjustments included 60 parcel cleanups following a state audit revealing that 59 commercial parcels had been incorrectly receiving primary residential exemptions (129 parcels were reviewed in total), plus one homeowner requested their property be removed from primary residential to secondary residential status.

The list also included 6 homeowner stipulations (one of which was a misplaced 2025 appeal approved in January and recently found) and 4 escape properties from mid-year 2025 transactions where the 100% tax penalty was waived because there was no willful nondisclosure.

Keven Ewell reported that the office is managing 58 active property appeals within a strict 60-day resolution window. He emphasized that the deadline for property owners to file an appeal is September 15, 2026, at 5:00 PM. If you feel that your property value is inaccurate, please fill out an appeal application. Valid appeals require six components: property identification, current value, estimated value, supporting documentation, owner's signature, and timely submission. Six incomplete applications lacking documentation have already been dismissed.

Please note that when an appeal is dismissed due to the lack of a valid application, it is not brought before the Board of Equalization. However, this dismissal does not end the property owner's appeal rights; they still have until September 15th to appeal. Before a dismissal occurs, a 10-day notice letter is sent to the property owner requesting additional documentation. If the required information is not received within those 10 days, the appeal is then dismissed.

Commissioner Jensen made a motion to approve the changes to the property values that were appeals, assessor initiated, and the 4 escaped properties that were represented by the assessor's office. Commissioner Haddock seconded. Motion carried.

13) Adjourn as Carbon County Board of Equalization and Reconvene as Carbon County Board of Commissioners

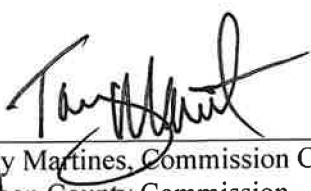
Commissioner Jensen made a motion to adjourn as the Carbon County Board of Equalization and reconvene as the Carbon County Board of Commissioners. Commissioner Haddock seconded. Motion carried.

14) Review and approval of Departmental Reports

Commissioner Jensen made a motion to adjourn.

The meeting adjourned at 5:42 p.m.




Tony Martines, Commission Chair
Carbon County Commission

ATTEST:


Seth Marsing, County Clerk/Auditor

