

SANPETE COUNTY COMMISSION MEETING

September 15, 2026, 2:00 PM

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

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

Meeting is called to order by Commission Chair Scott Bartholomew.

OPENING PRAYER OR REMARKS AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Prayer is offered by Neil Johnson. Pledge of allegiance is recited by all.

STACEY LYON: APPROVAL OF CLAIMS; APPROVAL OF FINANCES; DISCUSSION AND POTENTIAL APPROVAL TO SIGN THE NORTH VALLEY SCHOOL RESOURCE OFFICER AGREEMENT WITH SANPETE COUNTY; APPROVAL TO PAY NORTH VALLEY PD INVOICE; APPROVAL OF CELL PHONE STIPEND FOR HEIDI SORENSEN.

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 check #364965 through #365045 and EFT's #633-#679. The motion is seconded by Commissioner Cheney. Vote by voice is taken: Commissioner Cheney votes aye, Commissioner Bartholomew votes yes, and Commissioner Bennett votes yes. The vote is unanimous and the motion passes. No questions or concerns are voiced regarding the finances. Motion to approve the finances as of Tuesday, September 15th is made by Commissioner Bennett. The motion is seconded by Commissioner Cheney, and the motion passes. Ms. Lyon states the resource officer agreement being presented is revised and remains in effect until June 30, 2026. The invoice amount is \$20,000.00. Motion is made by Commissioner Cheney to approve to pay the North Valley Police Department invoice for the 2026-2027 school year in the amount of \$20,000.00. The motion is seconded by Commissioner Bennett, and the motion passes. Commissioner Bartholomew raises concern regarding the agreement date of June 2026. There is a discussion regarding the North Valley School Resource Officer agreement dates and when the renegotiation of the contract will be addressed. Commissioner Bennett states the agreement is a revised contract remaining in effect until June 30, 2027; there must be a typo. Commissioner Bartholomew notes the typo on the agreement, stating it ends in 2026 and instructs that it be lined out and corrected to 2027 prior to signing. The board discusses reopening the contract for renegotiation for the 2027-2028 school year with both school districts to determine rates based on a per-student count in the unincorporated areas. Motion is made by Commissioner Cheney to pay the invoice in the amount of \$20,000.00 for the North Valley Police Department; for the SRO (School Resource Officer). The motion is seconded by Commissioner Bennett, and the motion passes. Ms. Lyon requests that Heidi Sorensen, Zoning Enforcement receive a cell phone stipend in the amount of \$38.00 a month, effective today. Motion is made by Commissioner Bennett to approve of the cell phone stipend for Heidi Sorensen, Zoning Administrator, effective September 15th for the amount of \$38.00. The motion is seconded by Commissioner Cheney, and the motion passes.

APPROVAL OF RIGHT-OF-WAY APPLICATION FOR MADSEN EXCAVATION TO BORE UNDER FACTORY LANE WITH 14" CASING FOR PROPOSED 8" WATER LINE AT APPROXIMATELY

500 E. FACTORY LANE, CENTERFIELD.

Commissioner Bennett verifies that this project is for the Centerfield water project. Motion is made by Commissioner Bennett to approve the right-of-way application for Madsen Excavation to bore under Factory Lane, Centerfield. The motion is seconded by Commissioner Cheney, and the motion passes. The right-of-way application is signed by Commissioner Bartholomew and County Clerk Linda Christiansen.

APPROVAL OF RIGHT-OF-WAY APPLICATION FOR POLLY MARTINEZ TO INSTALL A CULVERT FOR FUTURE IRRIGATION LINE ACROSS HER DRIVEWAY AT 8020 S. 7000 WEST, CENTERFIELD.

Garrick Willden representing Jones & DeMille Engineering is present to address all three right-of-way applications. Mr. Willden explains the first application that was approved is for Centerfield City's culinary water project to install a tie-in on a dead-end line to create a loop along Factory Lane near the M&K Ranch. Mr. Willden explains that the Polly Martinez and David Madsen applications are part of a separate project for the Sanpete County Special Service District. The road at Factory Lane and Christianburg Road is currently being torn up for repaving which is a good time to install utilities under the road to avoid cutting the asphalt at a future time. Polly Martinez anticipates needing a pressurized irrigation line in the future and requests to install an HDPE pipe under the road. David Madsen similarly requests to install a 3-to-4-inch utility conduit under the road for future power and communication lines. Commissioner Bartholomew agrees it is a good time to install the lines while construction takes place on the road. Motion is made by Commissioner Cheney to approve the right-of-way application for Polly Martinez to install a culvert for future irrigation line across her driveway at 8020 S. 7000 West, Centerfield. The motion is seconded by Commissioner Bennett, and the motion passes. The right-of-way application is signed by Commissioner Bartholomew and County Clerk Linda Christiansen.

APPROVAL OF RIGHT-OF-WAY APPLICATION FOR DAVID MADSEN TO INSTALL CONDUIT ACROSS CHRISTIANBURG ROAD AT THE LOCATION SOUTH OF POLLY MARTINEZ (8020 S. 7000 WEST) CENTERFIELD.

Motion is made by Commissioner Cheney to approve the right-of-way application for David Madsen to install conduit across Christianburg Road at the location south of Polly Martinez (8020 S. 7000 West) Centerfield. The motion is seconded by Commissioner Bennett, and the motion passes. The right-of-way application is signed by Commissioner Bartholomew and County Clerk Linda Christiansen.

KYLIE GARFF: APPROVAL OF CHILDREN'S JUSTICE CENTER BUDGET.

Kylie Garff presents the Children's Justice Center budget. Ms. Garff specifically addresses the County's contribution in the amount of \$45,667.00. She is unaware of any changes to the previous budget. County Attorney Kevin Daniels states he has reviewed the agreement and has spoken with the Attorney General's office, noting no changes and expressing support for Ms. Garff's fantastic work. Motion is made by Commissioner Bennett to approve the Children's Justice Center Budget for the County's portion in the amount of \$45,667.00. The motion is seconded by Commissioner Cheney, and the motion passes.

JENNY WILLIAMS: APPROVAL OF AN AIR CONDITIONER IN THE SERVER ROOM AT THE SHERIFF'S OFFICE; APPROVAL OF A LAPTOP FOR GARY LARSEN AT THE SHERIFF'S

OFFICE.

Jenny Williams presents the IT agenda items. Mike Tillack was able to obtain three quotes for the server room air conditioner, but the Peterson quote did not include full installation costs. Desert Development has done the county's AC work previously, but Commissioner Cheney notes the county is transitioning to BCS for building maintenance and suggests having BCS provide a quote. Commissioner Bennett states the County was released from the contract with Desert Development as of today. Motion is made by Commissioner Cheney to table the bid for the air conditioning in the server room at the Sheriff's office. The motion is seconded by Commissioner Bennett, and the motion passes. Ms. Williams requests to replace an old laptop for Gary Larsen. She recommends a Toughbook quote from Computech for \$2,899.00 plus \$25.00 for shipping. Motion is made by Commissioner Bennett to approve of the laptop for Gary Larsen at the Sheriff's office, in the amount not to exceed \$3,000.00. The motion is seconded by Commissioner Cheney, and the motion passes.

SHERIFF JARED BUCHANAN: APPROVAL TO PURCHASE A F350 FROM MURDOCK FORD FROM HOMELAND SECURITY; APPROVAL TO PAY VISA CHARGE TO HAMPTON INN FOR JAIL TRAINING; APPROVAL TO PAY MOUNTAINLAND TRUCK OUTFITTERS FOR THREE INVOICES FOR PATROL VEHICLES; APPROVAL TO APPLY FOR, SIGN AND EXPEND JAG GRANT; REQUEST TO IMPLEMENT DISPATCH SUPERVISOR PAY SCALE.

Sheriff Jared Buchanan and Josh Allsop present the first agenda item. Josh Allsop explains the county was awarded \$50,460.00 in 2024 Homeland Security grant money. Search and Rescue offered up to \$10,000.00 to cover the remaining balance. The purchase includes trading in the 2002 truck for \$6,000.00. The truck will be stationed on the north end of the county to pull heavy hazmat and Search and Rescue trailers, as the current 2002 F250 is incapable of safely towing the new four-place snowmobile trailer. The grant money has to be spent by January 2027. Motion is made by Commissioner Bennett to approve of the purchase of a 2026 Ford F350 in the amount of \$50,460.00 out of Homeland Security and up to \$10,000.00 out of Search and Rescue; including the trade-in of the 2002 in the amount of \$6,000.00. The motion is seconded by Commissioner Cheney, and the motion passes. The Sheriff is informed by Commissioner Bartholomew that the fire chief offered the use of a room at the Indianola Fire Station with a desk and internet, and he is encouraged to follow up. Sheriff Buchanan states the next agenda item is for approval of expenses to send two deputies to certified trainer training in Wyoming. Motion is made by Commissioner Cheney to approve of the Visa payment in the amount of \$2,530.04 for the Hampton Inn hotel stay for jail deputy training. The motion is seconded by Commissioner Bennett, and the motion passes. Sheriff Buchanan explains the three invoices to Mountainland Supply are to outfit three new patrol vehicles with emergency equipment. While radios and radars are reused, new low-profile light bars and back-seat setups are required due to changing vehicle models and advancing technology. Motion is made by Commissioner Bennett to approve of the three invoices to Mountainland Supply in the amount of \$81,502.80. The motion is seconded by Commissioner Cheney, and the motion passes. The next agenda item is regarding JAG grant funds that will be used for a computer in the jail pod office, a central control computer, replacement printer cartridges, and a Motorola speaker. Motion is made by Commissioner Bennett to approve the signing and expend of the JAG grant in the amount of \$7,500.00. The motion is seconded by Commissioner Cheney, and the motion passes. Sheriff Buchanan requests the implementation of the Dispatch Director pay scale, bringing the PSAP Director's wage to \$52.65 an hour. The increase aligns the position with other PSAP directors in the state and compensates Director

Neil Johnson for absorbing necessary GIS duties required for the new state-mandated CAD system, saving the county from hiring a separate GIS employee. Sheriff Buchanan understands that the County is working on implementing a new pay scale for next year. There are available monies in the 911 budget to cover the pay increase the remainder of the year. Motion is made by Commissioner Bennett to approve of the implementation for the PSAP Director to go to the new pay scale (PSAP Director only) in the amount of \$52.65. Commissioner Bartholomew expresses concern that raising the wage from \$34.42 to \$52.65 is a substantial jump to implement all at once and suggests a phased approach. Sheriff Buchanan argues that the position is being considered for the pay scale increase; not the person and it is competitive with other jurisdictions. Commissioner Bartholomew is not arguing Mr. Johnson is not deserving of the raise; he feels a twenty dollar an hour raise all at once is extreme. Discussion continues between Commissioner Bartholomew and Sheriff Buchanan in regards to the agenda item. Sheriff Buchanan counters that the rate is competitive for the position and necessary to prevent losing trained personnel to other agencies. Commissioner Bennett spent many hours working on the proposed pay scale and he feels he went conservatively with the suggested pay adjustments. Commissioner Bartholomew states on the record that he disagrees; he feels the pay scale is flawed and the twenty dollar an hour increase can't be justified. Commissioner Bartholomew recognizes that Commissioner Bennett made a motion. The motion is seconded by Commissioner Cheney. Vote by voice is taken: Commissioner Cheney votes aye, Commissioner Bennett votes aye, and Commissioner Bartholomew votes no (for the reasons he stated). The motion passes 2 to 1.

BRENT CROSBY REPRESENTING MANTI LA SAL KOA: DISCUSSION AND POTENTIAL APPROVAL OF LANGUAGE TO BE ADDED TO COUNTY CODE.

This agenda item is temporarily delayed until Zoning Administrator Heidi Sorensen can be present. She is currently unavailable. They skip ahead to the Robert Weidner invoice. Heidi Sorensen has arrived in the meeting. Brent Crosby addresses the Commission regarding development along Pine Creek Road and the proposed Heritage Hills area. He references the June 16th moratorium and concerns highlighted by the recent Black Canyon fire, which threatened subdivisions where Pine Creek Road is the only access point. Mr. Crosby proposes adding language to the County Code stating the county will not transfer roads, grant access permits, or sign service agreements for a new municipality until there are two independent public access routes and until sponsors pay for an engineer's traffic study and land use plan approved by the board. Commissioner Bartholomew questions whether the suggested language has been presented to the Zoning Administrator, Heidi Sorensen. Ms. Sorensen has not seen the proposed language until now. Kevin Daniels states Mr. Crosby emailed him on the 4th of September with a more in depth request of the language proposal. Commissioner Bartholomew notes he was in a meeting earlier and it was stated that they are actively in discussions with landowners to acquire right-of-ways for a preferred second public roadway. A traffic study has already taken place on the current roadway. Commissioner Bennett stated that this proposed language would not impact the current Heritage Hills incorporation proposal, even if passed, as the incorporation process has already begun. Heidi Sorensen is willing to present the proposed language to the Planning Commission for consideration. County Attorney Kevin Daniels clarifies that due to the ex post facto clause, any new code would not retroactively apply to the Heritage Hills incorporation process which has already started, though it may be a good policy for future development. Commissioner Cheney believes that any resident in the area should be supportive of a solution to the limited access of the area; specifically the evacuation issues

experienced when a wildfire occurred. The board recommends the proposed language be referred to the County Attorney and the Planning Commission for review.

APPROVAL TO PAY INVOICE FOR ROBERT K. WEIDNER REPRESENTING RURAL PUBLIC LANDS COUNTY COUNCIL.

Commissioner Bartholomew states the invoice in the amount of \$12,000.00 is for the County's representative in Washington D.C. The invoice amount has not increased for several years. Motion is made by Commissioner Bennett to approve of the invoice for Robert K. Weidner representing Rural Public Lands County Council in the amount of \$12,000.00. The motion is seconded by Commissioner Cheney, and the motion passes.

Heidi Sorensen has not arrived to the meeting yet. The Commissioners proceed to the approval of the minutes.

SUSAN MANNING REPRESENTING WE THE PEOPLE: DISCUSSION AND POTENTIAL APPROVAL TO COMMENT ON ANY AGENDA ITEM DEEMED NECESSARY; DISCUSSION AND POTENTIAL APPROVAL OF MAKING PUBLIC COMMENT PART OF EVERY COMMISSION AND PLANNING COMMISSION MEETING.

Susan Manning, representing We The People, addresses the Commission. Ms. Manning reads a formal notice outlining the rights of the people of the 50 American states to peacefully assemble, freely communicate thoughts, and consult for the common good, quoting the Constitution. She expresses frustration that citizens are not given sufficient time to prepare or request an agenda item due to the 24-hour agenda posting timeframe. Ms. Manning states if she were allowed to comment on every agenda item; she would have spoken up regarding a police officer making only \$34,000.00 a year. Ms. Manning requests the establishment of a dedicated public comment section in every County Commission and Planning Commission meeting so citizens can speak without being on the agenda. Commissioner Bartholomew clarifies for Ms. Manning that the earlier approved \$52.65 dispatch pay was an hourly rate, not a yearly salary of \$52,000 as she had assumed during her remarks. Commissioner Bartholomew addresses Ms. Manning's suggestion of public comment for every agenda item and refers to the time it takes. Commissioner Bartholomew states the Commissioners have always answered their phones and listen to the people when they reach out. Public hearings are held specifically to receive public comment regarding county decisions when required by State Code, depending on the proposed action. Commissioner Bartholomew explains the County's process for placing agenda items on the meeting agenda and the issues that occur by not having a set deadline. County Attorney Kevin Daniels counters that while the Constitution is the foundation of government, statutes and case law form the structure. He explains that under current administrative and legislative guidelines, it is a policy decision for the Commission to set meeting rules, and they are legally permitted to limit public comment to specific public hearings rather than having an open public comment period. Kevin Daniels offers Ms. Manning an opportunity to continue the discussion in more depth. Commissioner Cheney agrees the public should have a time to comment. Motion is made by Commissioner Cheney to table the discussion for public comment until January and at that time make a decision whether this is something they want to do. The motion is seconded by Commissioner Bennett, and the motion passes. Commissioner Bartholomew states the other Commissioners have made the motion for him because he is leaving at the end of the year. Commissioner Bartholomew delays the Brent Crosby agenda item one last time.

JO ZSEMBERY: DISCUSSION AND POTENTIAL APPROVAL OF PUBLIC COMMENT ISSUE.

Jo Zsemary distributes a letter to the Commissioners. Ms. Zsemary reads the letter. Her letter states her support for public comment being integrated into the meetings. Ms. Zsemary appreciates the work that the County has done in addressing Data Centers so far. She expresses concern regarding Data Centers and the false information that is given to County's. Commissioner Bennett questions whether the Constitution addresses property rights. The reason for his question is to show that if a property owner wants to allow a Data Center on their land and it meets the laws of the land; they have rights too. Discussion ensues regarding property rights and Data Centers. Commissioner Bartholomew speaks to his knowledge of Data Centers and states there is a lot of false information being distributed. Commissioner Cheney again states he is in favor of public comment but when the same statement is read over and over it is unwanted. Commissioner Bennett agrees. Commissioner Bartholomew reiterates the decision to limit comments is due to the repetitive nature of most public commenting in previous meetings. They return to the final agenda item that needs to be addressed which is Brent Crosby.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM AUGUST 18TH AND SEPTEMBER 1ST MEETINGS

Motion is made by Commissioner Cheney to approve the minutes from August 18th Commission meeting. The motion is seconded by Commissioner Bennett, and the motion passes. Motion is made by Commissioner Cheney to approve the minutes from the public hearing on August 18th. The motion is seconded by Commissioner Bennett, and the motion passes. Motion is made by Commissioner Bennett to approve the minutes from the September 1st Commission meeting. The motion is seconded by Commissioner Cheney, and the motion passes.

Commissioner Bartholomew addresses Brent Crosby and requests that they wait a little longer for Heidi Sorensen to be in attendance before they address his agenda item. The next agenda item addressed is Susan Manning.

CLOSED SESSION

No closed session was needed. Kevin Daniels states litigation updates and strategies will be discussed at the next commission meeting.

Motion is made by Commissioner Bennett to adjourn at 3:25. The motion is seconded by Commissioner Cheney, and the motion passes.

The meeting is adjourned at 3:25 P.M.

ATTEST: 
Linda Christiansen
Sanpete County Clerk

APPROVED: 
Scott Bartholomew
Commission Chair