

**MINUTES** of the public meeting of the Uintah County Commission held **September 12, 2022** in the Commission Chambers of the Uintah County Building at 147 East Main, Vernal, Utah. Meeting commenced at 11:00 a.m.

**PARTICIPANTS:** Commissioners Bill Stringer, Commissioner Brad Horrocks, Chair Bart Haslem

**ATTENDANCE:** J C Brewer, Steven Huber, T Mecham, Michelle Zilles, Gennie Bird, Wendi Long, Zeke Atwood, John Laursen, Sonja Norton, Cindy Scott, Jim Oldham, Willis LeFevre, Jaben Carter, Gabby Hawks Blackburn, Tonya Craven, Ken Campbell, Devan Long, Rick May, Susan Horrocks, Travis Campbell, Barbara J. Simper, Ryan Clayburn, Doug Hammond, Brenda McDonald, Sam Passey, Lesha Coltharp, Jeremy Raymond

**Minutes recorded by:** Becky Richards

**WELCOME**

**PRAYER offered by:** Jeremy Raymond

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:** Jaben Carter

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES** – August 22, 2022

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES-** August 29, 2022

*Commissioner Horrocks moved to approve the minutes from August 22, 2022 and August 29, 2022. Commissioner Stringer seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.*

**REPORT OF WARRANTS:** Caleb Hall presented the warrants that were printed on September 01, 2022, in the amount of \$ 152,076.43. Caleb Hall presented the warrants that were printed on September 08, in the amount of \$791,268.27.

**REVIEW AND COUNTER SIGNATURE OF CERTIFIED LIST OF CLAIMS:** Caleb Hall presented four claims:

1. Check 381732, Cache Valley Electric in the amount of \$553.00 issued on 08-16-2022
2. Check 381730, Robert Bryce in the amount of \$6,199.54 issued on 08-31-2022
3. Check 381906, UB Media in the amount of \$1000.000 issued on 8-31-2022
4. Check 381922, V6 Media in the amount of \$712.50 & \$1140.00 issued on 08-30-2022 & 08-31-2022

*Commissioner Stringer moved to approve the review and counter signature certified list of claims as presented. Commissioner Horrocks seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.*

**CEMETERY CERTIFICATES:** Caleb Hall presented the cemetery certificates.

1. Craig Kosoff and Elizabeth Kosoff, located in the Avalon Cemetery, Block C Lot 32 spaces 5-8
2. William Kremin Jr., located in the Maeser Fairview Cemetery, Lot 798 spaces 5 & 6.
3. Nallely Ramirez, located in the Maeser Fairview Cemetery, Maeser Columbarium West Side G8 Double.
4. Jill Workman, located in the Rockpoint Cemetery Phase 2, Block 336 Lot C spaces 27,28,29
5. Rileigh Stone, located in the Rockpoint Cemetery Phase 2, Block 336 Lot C spaces 30-31
6. Kimberly Smith located in the Vernal Memorial Park Cemetery, block H60 Lot 2 Space 3
7. Barbara Meek and Lonnie Meek, located in the Vernal Park Cemetery, spaces 17,18,19

*Commissioner Horrocks moved to approve the Cemetery Certificate as presented. Commissioner Stringer seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.*

**TAX MATTERS:** No tax matters were presented.

**BUSINESS LICENSES:** Gabby Hawks Blackburn presented one Commercial business license for:

1. Ossnie Work, located at 1222 E Hwy 40, Vernal, UT 84078, Serial #05:045:0026. This commercial business license is for a retail store. The Fire Department, Health Department and Community Development performed inspections at the location where everything looked to be in order. Community Development is recommending approval of this commercial business license with the condition that they follow all building, health and fire rules and regulations.

*Commissioner Stringer moved to approve the commercial business license for Ossine Work with the understanding that they comply with all of the Building Department, Health Department and Fire Department code regulations. Commissioner Horrocks seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.*

**DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE BID AWARDING FOR AN ASPHALT SEAL COAT OF THE DRAG STRIP AT THE BUCKSKIN HILLS RECREATION COMPLEX:** Bart Haslem explained that the County is looking at rejecting the bids for the seal coat at the drag strip because none of the seal coats will work with the tacky stick that is being used on the strip.

*Commissioner Horrocks moved to reject all bids at this time for the asphalt seal coat of the drag strip at the Buckskin Hills Recreation Complex. Commissioner Stringer seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.*

**CONSIDER APPROVAL OF CONCEPTUAL DESIGN FOR AIRPORT HANGAR RAMP CONSTRUCTION:**

Ken Campbell explained that the triennial exercise that the Airport is required to have every three years is going to take place on Thursday the 15<sup>th</sup> at 5:00 p.m. This exercise is to simulate an aircraft incident of some sort which will include appropriate leadership within Vernal City and Uintah County. Ken mentioned that the Airport is going to crack seal, recoat and repaint every surface at the entire airport this project requires the runway to be closed on the 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> for 8 hours on the first day and 10 hours on the second day. Ken is not excited about the runway having to be closed but he is excited for the results. Ken orientated the Commissioners to the newly purchased property that is the eastern portion of the old crosswind runway located in a runway protection zone. Ken explained that for the combined money of \$462,355.21 the airport agrees to build five hangars and have a shovel in the ground by springtime. Commissioner Haslem asked Ken Campbell, is this money already budgeted for. Ken answered yes. Ken explained that the airport paid Armstrong Engineering \$139,770 to engineer this project. Commissioner Stringer asked Ken, who will own the hangars? Ken answered that the Airport will lease the space underneath the hangar to the person that builds the hangar on the space. Ken's goal for the Airport in the next decade is to have it cost very little to run the airport.

*Commissioner Stringer moved to approve the Conceptual Design for Airport Hangar Ramp Construction as presented. Commissioner Horrocks seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.*

**CO-OP AGREEMENT FOR AIRPORT PROJECT 3-49-0037-038-2020:** Michelle Zilles with Grants and Purchasing Department explained that this is a co-op agreement for the airport project 3-49-0037-0038-2022 between the State of Utah Department of Transportation Aeronautical Operations Division. Jon Stearmer's office has reviewed this agreement and stated it looks good and is ready for signatures.

*Commissioner Horrocks moved to accept the Co-op Agreement for Airport Project 3-49-0037-038-2020. Commissioner Stringer seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.*

**GRANT AGREEMENT FOR AIRPORT PROJECT 3-49-0037-045-2022- SEAL RUNWAY 17/35 PAVEMENT SURFACE, SEAL TAXIWAY A PAVEMENT SURFACE, SEAL COMMERCIAL APRON PAVEMENT SURFACE, AND SEAL GENERAL AVIATION APRON PAVEMENT:** Michelle Zilles with Grant and Purchasing Department explained that this agreement is for the airport project 3-49-0037-045-2022 to seal runway 17/35 payment surface, seal taxiway a pavement surface seal commercial apron pavement surface and seal general aviation apron pavement surface. Jon Stearmer has reviewed this grant agreement and said it looks good for signatures.

*Commissioner Stringer moved to approve the grant agreement for the airport project 3-49-0037-045-2022 as presented. Commissioner Horrocks seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.*

**CO-OP AGREEMENT FOR AIRPORT PROJECT 3-49-0037-045-2022:** Michelle Zilles with the Grant and Purchasing Department explained that this is the agreement with the State of Utah Department of Transportation

Aeronautical Operations Divisions for Airport project 3-49-0037-045-2022. Jon Stearmer has reviewed this agreement and stated that it looked good and is ready for signatures.

*Commissioner Horrocks moved to accept the Co-op Agreement for the Airport project 3-49-0037-045-2022 as presented. Commissioner Stringer seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.*

**NONCOMPLIANT BUILDINGS:**

**1. Building Division- Requesting authorization to record a certificate of noncompliant building or structure on property located at 4051 S Vernal Ave Vernal Utah; Serial Number 06:032:0091.** Matt Cazier with Community Development explained that the property owners had a garage with doors and wanted to convert this space into additional living space. The structure was posted with a notice and at that time the inspector did speak with the property owner but since the notice was posted there has been no contact with the owner. The property owner did not meet the specified date on the notice that was posted on the home. Community Development did send a certified letter to the property owners but no correspondence has been received from them.

*Commissioner Stringer moved to approve authorization of the certificate of noncompliant building or structure on the property located at 06:032:0091. Commissioner Horrocks seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.*

**2. Building Division- Requesting authorization to record a certificate of noncompliant building or structure on property located at 1656 S 1400 W Vernal Utah; Serial Number 05:103:0006.** Matt Cazier from Community Development explained that the awning has been removed from the property so no action needed and the property owner is currently in compliant status.

*Commissioner Haslem will strike this item off of the agenda based off of the recommendation from Matt Cazier's office.*

**3. Building Division- Requesting authorization to record a certificate of noncompliant building or structure on property located at 1630 W 500 N Vernal Utah; Serial Number 04:094:0041.** Matt Cazier explained that this is a shed that is under 200 square feet and therefore does not require a building permit but the structure was built too close to the property line so it doesn't meet the required setbacks. Matt spoke with the property owner prior to this meeting where he was shown pictures that the shed was in the process of being moved. Matt is recommending that the property owner have 30 days to get in a compliant status with Community Development.

*Commissioner Horrocks moved to request authorization to record a certificate on noncompliant building or structure at 1630 W 500 N, Serial number 04:094:0041 after 30 days. Commissioner Stringer seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.*

**ORDINANCE AMENDMENT: Ordinance 08-08-2022, O1- An ordinance amending section 17.33.020 Additional Regulations, adding storage of construction materials to subsection 1 in the Uintah County Code.** Matt Cazier displayed the ordinance on the monitor and explained that the ordinance was previously discussed where no action was taken, but there were some recommended changes to the ordinance which Matt has tried to incorporate into the ordinance. The first change is in regards to the amount of material that can be stored on the property. 25% of the property to be used for storage of construction materials which include materials inside of buildings or outside. The other change to the ordinance places a time limit of two years, in any three year period and all construction materials must be removed from the property by the date the conditional use permit expires.

Commissioner Stringer explained that he is comfortable with the changes Matt has presented because the ordinance contains better standards.

*Commissioner Stringer moved to approve the Amendment to the Ordinance 08-08-2022, O1 as presented.*

*Commissioner Horrocks seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.*

**MOONLAKE ELECTRIC CONTRACT FOR AN EASEMENT FOR UTILITIES AT BUCKSKIN HILLS**

**GUNRANGE:** Leshia Coltharp with Travel and Tourism Office explained that an easement is needed for the electric gate at the Buckskin Hills gun range and for the drag strip at Buckskin Hills. She explained that Moonlake needs an easement so that they can get on Uintah County's property in order to maintain their power lines for both of these electrical facilities. There was some confusion regarding whether the easement was for the gun range or the drag strip. Because of the confusion Jon Stearmer advised that it be noted that both items were talked about and discussed making sure the intent was clear.

*Commissioner Horrocks moved to enter into a contract with Moonlake Electric for an easement for the utilities at the Buckskin Hills Complex. Commissioner Stringer seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.*

**2022 WELLNESS FAIR: VENDOR LIFEHEALTH:** Tonya Craven from the Human Resource Office explained that

she has been gearing up for the yearly Wellness Fair on November 3<sup>rd</sup>. Every year she tries to bring in a new vendor and continually increase the benefits for the employees at Uintah County. This year there is an opportunity to bring in Lifehealth to handle all of the biometric screenings. By utilizing Lifehealth we can integrate with our provider so that the information is able to be synced into the employees medical records and then utilized by the employee. The County does not have access to their personal information but can gain analytics to help drive the wellness program at Uintah County. The certification of compliance release to the vendor needs to be signed so that Lifehealth can bill Cigna directly. All employees can go down and participate in the biometric screenings that will be directly billed to Cigna.

***Commissioner Stringer moved to approve the authorization for vendor Lifehealth to bill Cigna directly for the screening for biometric screening as presented including authorization of signatures. Commissioner Horrocks seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.***

Tonya noted that because of the great participation in the wellness program this year from the employees at Uintah County we received a 3% renewal discount for the upcoming year. Next year there is a possibility of a 6% total discount for the renewal.

**BOARD APPOINTMENTS:** Commissioner Stringer explained that there are a couple of Library Board appointments that are overdue and presented Linda Nay for a four year term, beginning July 1, 2022 and running through June 30, 2026 and Heather McKee for a four year term beginning July 1, 2022 through June 30, 2026.

***Commissioner Stringer made the motion to reappoint Linda Nay for a four year term beginning July 1, 2022 running through June 30, 2026 and Heather McKee for a four year term beginning July 2, 2022 running through June 30, 2026. Commissioner Horrocks seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.***

**DISCUSSION – FEELINGS ARE NOT FACTS:** Commissioner Haslem placed this item on the agenda hoping to clear the air regarding the payoff of the GO bond. He stated some of the facts regarding the payoff of the bond and explained where the county sits financially. Commissioner Haslem and Commissioner Horrocks both expressed that a lot of thought was placed into the decision to pay off the bond and it was not taken lightly. Commissioner Stringer expressed concern regarding where all the false information is coming from and is not concerned about the county having enough money to run the day to day businesses. Commissioner Stringer is still in favor of paying off the GO Bond.

**PUBLIC COMMENT: Commissioner Haslem opened the meeting for a public comment period.** JR Bird, Roosevelt City Mayor and Ryan Claiborne, Roosevelt City Manager were both present. JR Bird explained that there was some confusion because he thought he was on the agenda today but asked to be placed on the agenda for the next commission meeting. He explained that Roosevelt City is trying to fund a sports complex and is seeking financial support from surrounding areas. The reason they are asking for support is because Roosevelt City approached the CIB Commission and they decided to place the project as a 92% loan, 8% grant split. Because of the location of the sports complex the CIB is asking Roosevelt City to seek participation from Duchesne County and Uintah County. Roosevelt City has tracked their facilities usage and recorded a 60/40 split. Facility usage is 60% from people that are outside Roosevelt City and 40% inside city limits.

JC Brewer, public citizen explained that facts are not important and perception is everything. Perception is everything and expressed that the Commissioners have done a poor job at controlling public perception.

Steve Huber, concerned citizen and Democrat candidate for county commissioner explained that he is serving the County Clerk with a notice of intent to make a claim against the official oath and bond for Commissioner Bart Haslem, Commissioner Bill Stringer and Commissioner Brad Horrocks. Steve Huber read out loud portions of the claim. Steven Huber's three minute ran out so Tammie Mecham publicly gave her three minutes to Steve Huber and voiced her concerns regarding the Commissioners but used her three minutes.

Jon Laursen, public citizen expressed his displeasure regarding some of the comments from the current commissioners. He also brought out some concerns regarding the logistics of housing of the federal prisoners at the County jail.

Commissioner Haslem answered some of the public comments and concerns and then closed the public portion of the open meeting.

*Commissioner Horrocks made a motion to adjourn.*

**ADJOURN: There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 12:24 p.m.**



BART HASLEM, CHAIR



MICHAEL W. WILKINS, CLERK - AUDITOR

