

MINUTES of the public meeting of the Uintah County Commission **September 13, 2021** in the Commission Chambers of the County Building at 147 East Main, Vernal, Utah. Meeting commenced at 11:00 am.

PARTICIPANTS: Commissioners Bill Stringer, Bart Haslem, Brad Horrocks. Bart Haslem will Chair

ATTENDANCE: Mike Wilkins, J C Brewer, Dan Dilsaver, Heidi Lundberg, Cindy Scott, Melanie Scott, Zeke Atwood, Wendi Long, Steven Huber, Jordan Murray, Steve Labrum, Wayne Simper, Jess Herman, Jeremy Raymond, Barbara J. Simper, Doug Hammond, Cheryl Meier, Dustin Cheshire, Scott Gessen, Sharity Schultz, Irene Brown, Sonja Norton, Tonya Craven, Christina Higgins

Minutes recorded by: Becky Richards

PRAYER: offered by: Carl Morton

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE: led by: Jon Stearmer

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: August 30, 2021

Commissioner Stringer move to approve the minutes from August 30, 2021, Commissioner Horrocks seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

APPROVAL OF SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES: August 24, 2021

Commissioner Stringer stated he had not had a chance to review the minutes the meeting was to finalize the agreement. After the meeting Stringer stated that he had followed through with what was discussed at the meeting. Commissioner Stringer moved to approve the minutes from August 24, 2021. Commissioner Horrocks seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

AMENDMENT TO APPROVED MINUTES: AUGUST 23, 2021, Jon Stearmer

Jon Stearmer looked at the e-mail from Karina Valencia, he remembered that some corrections needed to be made. Jon Stearmer stated, remember when we were doing the Taylor Mountain Acceptance of the Rights of Way and there was a whole packet of different rights of way. There was an additional right of way associated with another owner on one of the parcels. The following needs to be inserted in the portion of the minutes from August 23, 2021, in between Shirley Merkley, serial number 03:073:0001 and Joanna Wilkins and Cleona Merkley and Warren Merkley, serial number 03:073:001. References can be found on the audio from the minutes 39:47 and 39:56. Also on Joanna Wilkins, the serial number is just missing a one on the end. The minutes needed to be amended so it actually reflects what was presented in the meeting. Commissioner Stringer moved to approve the amended minutes from August 23, 2021 with the change presented by Jon Stearmer. Commissioner Horrocks seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

REVIEW AND COUNTER SIGNATURE OF CERTIFIED LIST OF CLAIMS: Mike Wilkins

Burdick Materials for a claim in the amount of \$128,330.00. Mike Wilkins recommends this be approved by the Commission. Commissioner Stringer move to approve the Certified List of Claims as presented by Mike Wilkins. Commissioner Horrocks seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

CEMETERY CERTIFICATES: Mike Wilkins.

Correction on Gordon Wayne Sorensen and Judith Sorensen. This is just a spelling correction on a certificate from a few weeks ago from Judigh to Judith, Lot 863 Space 3, located in the Maeser Fairview Cemetery.

Nada Hatch, Lot 175 A Space 2, located in the Maeser Fairview Cemetery

Dan Labrum and Patricia Labrum, Lot 214 Space 25, Lot 223 Space 32, located in the Vernal Memorial Park Cemetery

Greg Cochran and Karen Cochran, Lot 202 Spaces 20 & 21, Lot 202 Spaces 6 & 7, Lot 203 spaces 26-28 Vernal Memorial Park Cemetery

Commissioner Stringer move to approve the corrected cemetery certificate and the cemetery certificates as presented by Mike Wilkins. Commissioner Horrocks seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

APPROVAL OF UPDATED CERTIFICATE OF CREATION ON SSD#1: Mike Wilkins

We received the revised certificate of creation from the Lieutenant Governors office. Calling it Special Service District #1, located in Uintah County. This is here before the Commission for the approval of the corrected name.

Jon Stearmer stated for the record that the effective date is retroactive to July 26, 2021.

Commissioner Stringer moved to approve the updated revised certificate of creation on SSD#1, dated July 26, 2021. Commissioner Horrocks seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

TAX MATTERS: None

BUSINESS LICENSES: None

BID OPENINGS COMMERCIAL WASHING MACHINE: Mike Wilkins

Bid from Alliance out of Salt Lake City for one commercial washing machine in the Jail for the amount of \$28,950.00. Second bid from Alliance is bid for two commercial washing machines in the amount of \$55,020.00.

Jess Hermann from Uintah County Facilities stated that both of the current washing machines need to be replaced and have had issues in the past. He suggested that both of them be replaced at the same time to save money. They are operating on one washing machine right now.

Steve Labrum mentioned that the money for one of the washing machines is in the budget, and was planning on getting the other one after the first of the year.

Discussion regarding identifying the monies for the second washing machine and making sure that policies are being kept, Decision was made to take in advisement and table the bid for the commercial washing machine until next commission meeting.

BID OPENINGS FOR 911 REMODEL PROJECTS: Mike Wilkins

Bid from Morton Electric in the amount of \$26,000.00. Mike Wilkins stated that this is an incomplete bid, this was just for the electrical portion of the remodel project. Discussion regarding why there were no complete bids and that this bid will probably expire before the next bids are received. Decision was made that this will just have to be placed back out for bid. Commissioner Horrocks move to reject the bid. Commissioner Stringer seconded the motion.

VERNAL OILERS CONTRACT FINAL DRAFT APPROVAL: Melanie Silcox

Vernal Oilers have approved this final draft. The main item in the agreement is that the ice rental for season 2021-2022 at \$120.00 per hour for ice rental and that both parties can renegotiate at the end of the season if anything needs to be changed. Commissioner Haslem asked if the people involved are aware and onboard with this agreement. Melanie stated that they had had a meeting with Ashley Valley Amateur Hockey Association (AVAHA) and that they agreed with everything. In the contract it was stated that they had to get prior approval to use AVAHA's equipment. Melanie talked with AVAHA and they did approve that, but they were to work on an amendment between those two for the agreement of that.

Jon Stearmer discussed that this is not in our current fee schedule. He is recommending that as we address our fee schedule in the future we build in what those costs would be, just like other rentals that we have on the county facilities. Jon recommended to change the agreement to show the correct term to reflect April 2022 and not April 2021, this can be address by the Chair. Discussion of the excitement this will create for the community.

Commissioner Stringer move to approve the contract with the Vernal Oilers LLC including the authorization of signatures, including the change of date to reflect the term ending April 5, 2022. Commissioner Horrocks seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

RESOLUTION 9-13-2021 R1-PUBLIC HEARING 2021 BUDGET INCREASE: Mark Caldwell

The general fund is in need of a budget increase in the road department for fuel due to the increase in fuel costs this year of \$150,000. That revenue will come from sales and use tax sales which is running well ahead of what we budgeted. In the past through grants department, there's a CIB grant for \$600,000 that the County received, that we need to record in the budget that will be spent for equipment and it'll be administered out of the grants department. The Economic Development Department received a grant of \$18,750. It to be used for economic development that was through UBAG. In fund 11, the municipal services Fund, the Sheriff's Department needs a couple of increases. There was an increase of Central Dispatch, the cost is charged to the County for the fiscal year 2022 to \$15,000, approximately \$15,500, so about half that'll hit our budget this year, which is \$7,741. They're also in need of a \$50,000 increase in the fuel cost. And that also will come from an increase in sales tax of \$57,741. In the library fund, they requested to purchase two new servers, and they want to take one of those servers out of their fund balance and the other server would come out of their current year budget. That's 24,000. The Drug Curt would like to increase their budget by \$3,000 and use fund balance for training and education. Few years ago, they received a donation from the Vernal Haunt which was not fully used, and have a remaining fund balance. They've come to me and said they want the community to know that's how they're using the money, which is for training and education. In fund 28, Emergency 911 services, the board for the 911 call center met and approved the million-dollar budget opener. Mark stated that he budgeted the 4 Million of the 911 funds that the County holds. This is for the build out for 911 Dispatch Center and he is not sure how much will be used, but that's what their board approved. In the Capital Projects Funds, its need to budget \$1,550,000 for airport construction, that will be coming from airport grants.

Commissioner Haslem opens for public comment

Mike Wilkins stated that the \$600,000 grant from CIB, and needs to be reflected in Fund 43 the MBA the Municipal Building Authority, or otherwise, you're putting \$600,000 of PILT money in jeopardy, because that grant was to the Municipal Building Authority, not Uintah County, two separate legal entities. So that should not be reflected in the general fund.

Commissioner Haslem opens for any other comment.

Commissioner Stringer move to approve the Resolution 9-13-2021 R1 with the change to move the CIB Grant 10 to Fund 43 and authorization of signature. Commissioner Horrocks seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

APPROVAL OF LOCAL MATCHING GRANT APPLICATION: Zeke Atwood

Application from the Utah Governor's Office of Planning and budget has put out a COVID-19 local assistance matching grant program. The County has three projects that they would like to apply for They do include matching funds that we would like the Commission's approval on the projects as well as the matching fund commitment. This grant program is to allow rural counties to leverage their funding from ARPA funds to create projects to help the community deal with the recovery of COVID-19 pandemic. The first project that we have up is the softball complex. The total contract, total complex project cost is \$5 million. The Breakdown would be two and a half million asked for in the grant. 1 million will use ARPA funds, the County is receiving 1 million of that to be with us for revitalization funds. And then we've had some interest in private donations, and we're estimating that to be around \$500,000. The second project is the Sheriff's office and Fire District and both need radio upgrades. That total project is around \$915,000. We're applying for that on a 50/50 match. \$457,500 grant and \$457,500 ARPA funds to be used with that. And then the third one as a street sweeper. This one is also 50/50 match total project around 250,000, \$125,000 grand \$125,000 ARPA funds. The application is due Wednesday so this is just the approval of the project and matching funds.

Jon Stearmer discussed that the documents we are going off of is from the State and they already have the types of categories of funding for ARPA funds.

Zeke explained that the requirements for the application projects are the same as the ARPA finding rules, and they have interim rules that they put out for what's approved and not.

Commissioner Stringer moved to approve the Local Matching Grant Application as presented by Zeke Atwood including authorization of signature. Commissioner Horrocks seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

VOCA GRANT ACCEPTANCE-ATTORNEY'S OFFICE: Zeke Atwood

Uintah County received approval of the Voca Grant, which is the Victims of Crime Act, and pays partial salary of for the victim assistance coordinator, as well as three other individual salaries. A total grant for year one is \$167,532.50, and year two \$159,233, even for a total grant of \$326,765.50. And that grant will run through 2023. Zeke stated that they do give the option for an electronic signature.

Commissioner Stringer move to approve the Voca Grant as presented by Zeke Atwood, including authorization of the electronic signatures. Commissioner Horrocks second the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

MEMORANDUM OF AGREEMENT WITH FEMA IPAWS AND UINTAH COUNTY: Heidi Lundberg

This was a contract that was signed back in June 2019. We are just updating Heidi Lundberg as the new Emergency Manager. This is a program that FEMA has that allows us to send out mass alerts and so we can use code red software.

Commissioner Stringer moved to approve to update Heidi Lundberg as the new Emergency Manager for IPAWS. Commissioner Horrocks second the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

FY2020 EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT PERFORMANCE GRANT EXTENSION ACCEPTANCE AND SIGNATURES: Heidi Lundberg

This is just an extension for the emergency management performance grant for 2020 fiscal year. There are more items that we can get reimbursed for, so they are extending until December 31, 2021.

Commissioner Stringer move to approve the extension of the emergency management performance grant to December 31, 2021. Commissioner Horrocks second the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

FY 2021 EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT PERFORMANCE GRANT ACCEPTANCE AND SIGNATURE: Heidi Lundberg

The emergency management performance grant is to provide qualifying jurisdictions with supplemental financial assistance and technical expertise in establishing maintaining and enhancing an effective emergency management program. This grant will be for the period of July 1 2021, through June 30 2022 in the amount of \$55,000. And this grant is 50/50 match.

Commissioner Stringer moved to approve emergency performance grant. This covers the period from July 1, 2021 through June 30, 2022 as presented by Heidi Lundberg including authorization for signatures. Commissioner Horrocks seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

SUBDIVISIONS

- 1. Nick Richens- Requesting approval of the final plat application for a 3-lot subdivision located at 321 West 3500 North, Vernal, Utah; Serial Number 03:094:0032**

Matt Cazier asked that this be tabled.

APPROVAL OF COOPERATOR AGENCY STATUS FOR THE NINE MILE CANYON TRAVEL MANAGEMENT PLAN THAT THE BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT (BLM) IS PREPARING. THIS WILL INCLUDE SIGNATURE OF A MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING WITH THE BLM: Matt Cazier

Matt Cazier stated that this is a form that states that we do want to be a cooperating agency with the BLM and this Travel Management plan and we also need to submit two representatives.

Discussion regarding bringing the memorandum back to the Commissioners for review and signatures, but for today the Commission needs to decide if Uintah County would like to be a cooperator agency for the Nine Mile Canyon Travel Management Plan or not. More discussion regarding the area that it would cover. Decision was made that Mike Cook and Matt Cazier were to be listed as the two representatives.

Commissioner Stringer move to approve to enter into cooperator agency status for the Nine Mile Canyon Travel Management Plan that the BLM is preparing. Commissioner Horrocks seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

NON-DISCLOSURE AGREEMENT WITH/GBS/CIGNA/CIGNA LIFE: Tonya Craven

This is a standard form Jon Stearmer has already gone through it. It's a non-disclosure signature requirement because GBS uses a vendor Deerwalk for their analytics, and this agreement allows them to have access to that information. Commissioner Stringer asked who is requiring the agreement. Tonya answered "Cigna".

Commissioner Stringer moved to approve the Non-Disclosure Agreement with GBS/CIGNA/ CIGNA Life as presented by Tonya Craven. Commissioner Horrocks seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously

DISCUSSION AND DECISION OF PURCHASING TWO LEASED SHERIFF'S VEHICLES: Commissioner Haslem

A few years ago, we started looking into different avenues. If it was better to lease or purchase vehicles, which we've done it on graders for the road department, we've done it on a couple different bunches of vehicles from the Sheriff's Department. Two of the vehicles we have are due to be turned back to the bank. We have the option as a County to purchase those vehicles. At a price that was no negotiated at the beginning of the contract. There's two of them that's available right now that I feel like we'd be fools to turn them back. The one is a 2019 Ford 350 diesel pickup which has 10,600 miles on it. It's brand spanking new. I've checked with a couple dealers, and they're easily a 72 \$73,000 vehicles, we can buy that vehicle today for \$58,602.26. The other one is 2020 Chevrolet Silverado 1500, That one only has 3000 miles on it. The dealer said it would sell for 52 to \$55,000, we can buy it for \$39,853.66. This is one of the reasons that we did these leases on some of these programs, as we could see that the residual was going to be cheap, a lot less than we were able to buy some vehicles. inexpensive, and if something went wrong, we could turn them back and not be committed to it. Commissioner Haslem suggested that we purchase those vehicles, and the Black vehicle be placed into the fleet vehicles.

Discussion regarding the where the funds were coming from and not turning in the vehicles back, one as a replacement for one of the pool vehicles, and one to potentially another organization.

Commissioner Stringer move to make the motion to retain those vehicles in the short term, and until the money is identified to purchase the vehicles. The motion to include that the vehicles will be retained and paid for or sold and the money go towards paying off the price and more of the pool vehicle. Commissioner Horrocks seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

DISCUSSION AND DECISION OF SHERIFFS DEPARTMENT PUBLIC SAFETY ADJUSTMENT TO PAYSACLE: Tonya Craven

HR Department has been working with the Sheriff's Office, and they have presented a stepping program where you're going to put in the salaries, try and bring our officers up to as close to market as we possibly can. The salaries that are being requested today are not at market, we're still below market, but we're trying to get closer. Starting the base salary at higher

and then building up from there, allowing The Sheriff's Office to initiate having what our policy already states as a performance, having the ability to test every year, and increase their salaries as they go from deputy one to two, to three, to corporal and have that opportunity for advancement. Then their salaries would match that progression.

Commissioner Haslem stated it was tried to be implemented in 2005. Tonya explained that the research she found showed a spreadsheet of some advancements and increases in salary, but somewhere along the line it stopped happening and we are now just trying to get this addressed and get them back on track. More discussion regarding the why and when, but Tonya counted up to 40 officers that were missing out on that opportunity.

Commissioner Haslem stated that we need to take a serious look at this and try to get this addressed. These jobs are hard and people don't want to do them. Looking across the state and starting salaries, it shows that our officers have been abused. He realizes that we can't fund it to where the state averages are, but working with Mark, we feel like we have the money to go to this level and get them closer. It is tough when you have your bigger agencies starting wage, so much higher than ours. The County pays for the post, and they're here for the two years, and then they leave. Haslem feels like the County is losing out on a lot. Commissioner Haslem feels comfortable with this adjustment and would like to have a program in place so our officers can come here, see where they can increase and where they can be at the end of their career. This will hopefully help keep some experience here.

Commissioner Stringer asked Sheriff Shawn Labrum to speak about the recent meeting.

Sheriff Labrum stated that he was told, the Counties need to step up and start taking care of their deputies and officers across the state, because the State is going to raise the wages of the State Police, which obviously needs to happen. Sheriff Labrum stated that in some of the meetings he attends it is a fight between all the sheriffs and all the police chiefs across the state and across the nation. It seems they are all pitted against each other because the wages are low in rural areas and so your bigger communities and some of your smaller communities are now pitching in and they're giving signing bonuses that are pushing upwards of 10 grand. Then, the standard rate that you get when you transfer agencies is two and a half percent per year, some are even higher, some areas are adding on PTO and sick time, sweeten the deal. Sheriff Labrum stated that going off of his own experience in law enforcement which is about 26 years these games have been going on for a long time. We are way behind and he feels like if we stick with this program, with the progression, it will help our recruiting, and our retention is going to be a lot higher.

Tonya Craven stated that for whatever reason our documentation shows, when have deputies that have been with the County five years and are still at Deputy one. They should have progressed to deputy two. Some revising of job description had to be done. Instead of two years, it goes to a year and ½ and from four to three and ½. This progression is not just time related, there is also testing that relates to the progression.

Sheriff Labrum stated that the turn around is very high, especially at the Jail.

Tonya Craven stated it was 2 percent, per year then when they changed to rank it went to 3 percent, that is how it was built in the spreadsheet.

Sheriff Labrum stated that every position has its standard increase, but basically it is a 2.5 percent per year based on their testing. If you move into a supervisor land, then you would be on that lane of adjustment.

Discussion regarding the importance of trying to get this starting wage where it needs to be for the Department.

Tonya Craven is asking that this be requested to be retro to August 22, 2021.

Jon Stearmer communicated that you're either wearing an executive hat, or you're wearing a legislative hat. This, adoption would be under executive functions. Saying we're adopting a policy on the executive and how we hope to be able to compensate employees. Jon stated, he doesn't know what's happened in the past There was spotty record of what the intent was over the past decade or so. But it didn't seem to be zero down to any actual adopted policy by the County executive. Jon Stearmer's advice was this needed to get on the Commissioners agenda. But the key is to remember this is an executive function, nothing can bind a future legislative body to fund something that the executive has put into place. This happens in contracts all the time. It's pretty standard thing. So I just want to make sure that it's clear on the record. Everybody knows

up front, that if a future County Commission says here is the funding for the Sheriff's office for the Clerk Auditor's Office for the Recorders, office, certain departments, that becomes the new funding, it doesn't matter what other policy executive policies are put in place, the legislature sets what the budget is actually going to be, the amount of money. Stearmer wanted to make sure that was that was clear that everyone understood exactly what was being done in today's meeting and what legal effect it would have in the future, and everything is subject to available funding in future years.

Commission Stringer clarifies that the funding is a separate issue, but the Sheriff's Office can use whatever money they have for that calendar year.

Commissioner Stringer moved to adopt and approve the plan as presented by Tonya Craven. Commissioner Horrocks seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously

PUBLIC COMMENT:

DISCUSSION: High school mountain biking this upcoming weekend, everything will be super busy. This event is a great economic impact into our community.

DISCUSSION REGARDING PHENOMECON : Bridgett Lake

We had over 500 people register and from 24 states. This turned out to be a great event and had a great turn out and plan to attend next year. Just the overwhelming great feedback they received, some stated that it was in the top 10 of all the conferences they have ever attended and loved the community. Great economic impact into our community.

Commissioners want to do a COVID update. Delta variant is highly contagious. The hospitals are getting close to the max capacity. Commission advising to be careful. Commissioners had a news release Friday regarding COVID. Jon Stearmer stated that they are working closely with Tri County Health Department and our hospitals to make sure we get the information out to the public.

Commissioner Haslem gave a shout out to Landfill and to the Community for the 9/11 National Day of Service. A lot of areas were cleaned up and there was a great turn out.

Commissioner Stringer motion to adjourn

ADJOURN: 12:23 p.m.





BRAD HORROCKS, CHAIR



MICHAEL W. WILKINS, CLERK-AUDITOR

