

MINUTES of the public meeting of the Uintah County Commission held **February 6, 2024** in the Commission Chambers of the Uintah County Building at 147 East Main, Vernal, Utah. Meeting commenced at 3:00 p.m.

PARTICIPANTS: Commissioners John Laursen, Sonja Norton, and Brad Horrocks.

ATTENDANCE: Mike Wilkins, JC Brewer, Cheyenne Reid, Natasha Holtmeyer, Wendi Long, Jon Stearmer, Tonya Craven, Willis LeFevre, Danette Brooks, and Barbara Simper.
Minutes recorded by Tai Duncan.

WELCOME: Commissioner Laursen welcomed everyone to the meeting.

PRAYER offered by Michael Wilkins.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE led by Tonya Craven.

1. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES** of the January 22, 2024 work session and January 23, 2024 Commission meeting and January 29, 2024 work session and January 30, 2024 Commission meeting.

Commissioner Horrocks moved to approve the minutes as presented. Commissioner Norton seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

2. **REPORT OF WARRANTS** – Mike Wilkins, Clerk-Auditor, presented warrants dated February 1, 2024 in the amount of \$333,868.96. There was nothing of note.

3. **REVIEW AND COUNTER SIGNATURE OF CERTIFIED LIST OF CLAIMS** – None

4. **TAX MATTERS** – None

5. **USU EXTENSION COOPERATIVE AGREEMENT** – Cheyenne Reid, USU Extension, thanked the County for the continued support of the Extension office. This is an amendment to the cooperative agreement between USU and the County as per the budgets agreed upon in December. The Extension helped nearly 25,000 last year with a lot of successful programs. Those participating in the Master Gardener program, 26 individuals, must have 40 community service hours. They helped agriculture producers with grasshoppers and crickets. They have done Naloxone training and passed out Narcan for overdoses. Natasha Holtmeyer took a moment to review numbers associated with the 4-H program. The 4-H program focuses on the six C's of positive youth development: Competence, Character, Connection, Caring, Confidence, and Contribution. Only 63% of our 4-H youth demonstrated connection, but all the others were 75% or more. The kids participating have more than just these six to focus on; they also learn career skills. They have done portfolio, cover letter, and resume workshops; reviewing 88 of them. They have worked on interviews and public speaking, particularly with the teen council. There are 12 members and they have done over 150 hours of community service this last year. They ended the year with 344 registered youth and 55 registered volunteers. These volunteers don't include judges and others participating in one day events. There are 18 clubs with more expected this year. They visited all but two schools. They take the STEM program to these schools focusing on problem solving in agriculture. The planetarium star lab was taken to several schools. The Blender Bikes are used to teach them healthy living; including the new edible water bottles. Science is cool and they need to develop their problem-solving skills. They also have an entrepreneur series, Clover bud, Survivor Club, and livestock knowledge, which had 88 participants. The small animal series is growing, from 12 kids to 50 last year. Fly tying and Adulting 101 are new. They served more than 5600 youth this year and contacted over 10,000 youth with the help of volunteers. These volunteers are greatly appreciated and necessary.

The Commission expressed their gratitude for what the Extension does for our community and our youth. Commissioner Norton asked if they were doing anything about screen time awareness. Natasha noted the portfolio prompt from the State this year is about screen time, mental health, and well-being. The Teen Council goes into more detail. Last year, our teen council only had four individuals with phones.

They also ask all participants to put their phones away during events and activities. It's important to recognize the limits and boundaries and will be a big state-wide focus this year. Commissioner Norton also asked Cheyenne about the amendment and if it reflects the shift in the staff budget. Cheyenne confirmed it does. The amendment reflects the budget that was approved by the County through the discussions.

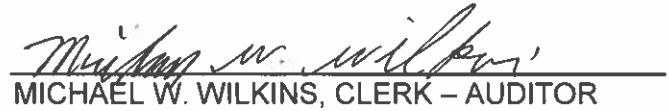
Commissioner Norton moved to approve Amendment #3 to the cooperative agreement between USU Extension Services and Uintah County as presented. Commissioner Horrocks seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

6. PUBLIC COMMENT - None

ADJOURN: The meeting adjourned at approximately 3:12 pm.



JOHN LAURSEN, CHAIR



MICHAEL W. WILKINS, CLERK - AUDITOR

