

241546 COMMISSIONER MINUTES

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Rec Fees: \$0.00

Damon Todd, Clerk and Recorder, Ouray County, CO

**Minutes
Board of County Commissioners
Regular Meeting**

March 10, 2026

1. 9:00 - Call to the Public

The "Call to the Public" agenda item is a time when the community members may bring forth items of interest or concern that are not already on the day's agenda. If you would like to speak about an agenda item, please hold your comments until that time in the meeting. The format is presentation, but the BOCC or staff may answer straightforward questions, and the Chair may limit speaker time to 3 minutes. No formal action may be taken on topics raised in Call to the Public due to Colorado Open Meetings Law. Any topics that require back-and-forth dialogue will be referred to commissioners or staff for discussion outside the meeting or placed on a future work session or agenda for action. Written comments can be submitted electronically via our website.

The meeting on March 10, 2026 was called to order at 9:00 AM by the Chair of the Board.

No Public Comment.

9:14 - The Commissioners reopened the call to the public to take Al Lowande's comment.

Al Lowande, Ridgway resident, asked if there would be an additional work session on the Upper Yankee Boy Closure.

Commissioner Niece stated that there was an upcoming work session with the US Forest Service in April.

The Board of County Commissioners continued to item 3a.

2. 9:15 - Consent Agenda

Commissioner Nauer daylighted some expenditures in the Sheriff's budget.

Commissioner Nauer, Commissioner Padgett, HR Director Sherry Peck, County Manager Antonio Mendez and Undersheriff Tammy Stroup discussed dispatch services included in the expenditures.

M/S/P Motion was made by Commissioner Nauer and seconded by Commissioner Padgett to approve the expenditures. Motion Passed (3 - 0).

Commissioner Padgett asked if the county had paid Helitrax.
HR Director Peck stated that she wasn't sure but would check.

9:14 - The Commissioners returned to the call to the public to take Al Lowande's comment.

- a. Request for approval of Expenditures

3. 9:25 - General Business

- a. Request for approval of **Resolution 2026-007** amending the Vegetation Management Fee Schedule:

Presented by Julie Kolb, Ouray County Vegetation Manager.

Commissioner Nauer asked if the San Miguel County fee schedule is the same as Ouray County's fee schedule.

Kolb stated that they did not update their fee schedule this year, but it is similar.

Commissioner Padgett asked if this fee schedule could be tied to the Denver-Aurora-Lakewood inflation index.

County Attorney Leo Caselli stated that this is done with other contracts and could be implemented.

Commissioner Niece agreed with the suggestion and stated that the County should implement this into all fee schedules.

County Attorney Caselli began working on edits and offered to share a redlined version, after the Board continues with General Business.

Commissioner Niece noted the Board would circle back to this item at the end of General Business.

9:59 - The Board returned to this item.

County Attorney Caselli shared his screen with an updated resolution with redlines.

M/S/P Motion was made by Commissioner Nauer and seconded by Commissioner Padgett to approve resolution 2026-007 amending the Vegetation Management Fee Schedule with the updated language shared on the screen. Motion Passed (3 - 0).

- b. Request for approval of **Resolution 2026-008** repealing and replacing Resolution 2025-043:

Presented by Commissioner Niece.

Commissioner Padgett asked how the Board of County Commissioners should determine whether travel is essential.

All three commissioners, County Manager Mendez and County Attorney Caselli discussed Commissioner Padgett's question.

M/S/P Motion was made by Commissioner Nauer and seconded by Commissioner Padgett to approve Resolution 2026-008 repealing and replacing Resolution 2025-043. Motion Passed (3 - 0).

- c. Request for adoption of **Proclamation 2026-002** declaring March 2026 as

Women's History Month:

Presented by Kristin Kelley, Ouray County Public Health Director.

34:47

M/S/P Motion was made by Commissioner Padgett and seconded by Commissioner Nauer to Adopt Proclamation 2026-002 declaring March 2026 as Women's History Month. Motion Passed (3 - 0).

- d. Request for approval and authorization of the Chair's signature on the IGA with the City of Ouray concerning Noxious Weed Management and Control Services:

Presented by Julie Kolb, Ouray County Vegetation Manager.

All three commissioners, County Attorney Caselli and Kolb discussed the fee rate in the IGA in relation to the new fee schedule.

M/S/P Motion was made by Commissioner Nauer and seconded by Commissioner Padgett to approve and authorize the Chair's signature on the IGA with the City of Ouray concerning Noxious Weed Management and Control Services. Motion Passed (3 - 0).

- e. Request for approval and authorization of the Chair's signature on the IGA with the Town of Ridgway concerning Noxious Weed Management and Control Services:

M/S/P Motion was made by Commissioner Nauer and seconded by Commissioner Padgett to approve and authorize the Chair's signature on the IGA with the Town of Ridgway concerning Noxious Weed Management and Control Services. Motion Passed (3 - 0).

- f. Request for Approval of Colorado Department of Local Affairs Local Planning Capacity Grant Incentive Funding Letter (\$50,000) for Early Fast-Track Adoption & Housing Services Administrator Scope Expansion:

Presented by Eva Henson, Ouray County Housing Services Administrator.

Commissioner Niece asked to have all three commissioners' signatures added to the letter.

All three commissioners agreed with this suggested change.

M/S/P Motion was made by Commissioner Nauer and seconded by Commissioner Padgett to approve the Colorado Department of Local Affairs local planning capacity grant incentive funding letter for early fast-track adoption and housing services administrator scope expansion. Motion Passed (3 - 0).

- g. Consideration of the reappointment of Kathryn "Kate" Boehnke to the Planning Commission with a term expiration of March 31, 2029:

Kate Boehnke, Ouray County Planning Commissioner, expressed her excitement to keep working on the planning commission.

Commissioner Niece discussed a public comment that was received from a citizen. Boehnke stated that with new planning commissioners some folks have different experience with meetings and commissions. She said It has been a learning experience but is getting better.

Commissioner Padgett discussed a comment she received about some comments that were made about ORRCA's participation in Land Use issues and asked to meet so they could discuss.

M/S/P Motion was made by Commissioner Nauer and seconded by Commissioner Padgett to reappoint Kate Boehnke to the Planning Commission with a term expiration of March 31, 2029. Motion Passed (3 - 0).

- h. Request for approval of the support letter to the Colorado General Assembly in support of HB26-1115:

Presented by Commissioner Nauer.

M/S/P Motion was made by Commissioner Nauer and seconded by Commissioner Padgett to approve the support letter to the Colorado General Assembly in support of HB26-1115. Motion Passed (3 - 0).

9:59 - The Board returned to item 3a.

4. 9:45 - Nathan McCullough, Chief Paramedic

- a. Discussion of EMS room at Ouray Chalet:

Presented by Devin Bullis, Deputy Chief Paramedic.

All three commissioners and Deputy Chief Bullis discussed the chalet room.

The Board of County Commissioners directed County Manager Mendez to sign the updated lease for the calendar year 2026.

5. 10:00 - The Board of County Commissioners will convene as the Board of Health to consider the following items

The Board of County Commissioners convened as the Board of Health.

- a. Public Health Update:

Presented by Kristin Kelley, Ouray County Public Health Director.

Commissioner Padgett, Commissioner Niece and Director Kelley discussed wastewater data funding.

- b. Submission for awareness and approval of WCPHP Chronic Disease Funding, and to authorize the Chair's signature on the Fiscal Impact Form:

Presented by Kristin Kelley, Ouray County Public Health Director.

M/S/P Motion was made by Commissioner Nauer and seconded by Commissioner Padgett to approve the WCPHP Chronic Disease Funding and authorize the Chair's signature on the Fiscal Impact Form. Motion Passed (3 - 0).

- c. Request for approval and authorization of OCPH Director's signature on CRN Government Entity Agreement and CRN Participation Agreement and the Chair's signature on the Fiscal Impact Form:

Presented by Kristin Kelley, Ouray County Public Health Director.

County Attorney Caselli addressed the confidential markings on the document.

M/S/P Motion was made by Commissioner Nauer and seconded by Commissioner Padgett to approve and authorize the Ouray County Public Health Director's signature on the CRN Government Entity Agreement and CRN Participation Agreement and the Chair's signature on the Fiscal Impact Form. Motion Passed (3 - 0).

6. 10:30 - 15 Minute Break

10:34 - The Board of County Commissioners recessed for a break.

7. 10:45 - Ty Barger, Road and Bridge Superintendent

The Board reconvened as the Board of County Commissioners.

- a. Road and Bridge Update:

Presented by Ty Barger, Ouray County Road and Bridge Superintendent.

Commissioner Nauer expressed concern about whether the seasonal high-country operator position would be able to be filled.

All three commissioners and Superintendent Barger discussed the position request for a seasonal high-country operator.

Commissioner Padgett suggested allowing high-country roads to melt open. She also asked how much the County paid Helitrax for the Avalanche Mitigation in February as referenced in the report.

Road and Bridge Superintendent Barger stated that the County did not pay, and that Helitrax worked with Thorin Resources for the project.

Commissioner Padgett and Superintendent Barger discussed avalanche forecasting practices for the department.

Kelly Ryan, Ridgway resident, stated that this is an important topic that deserves more time and a specific discussion labeled on the agenda. She suggested that county

employees should receive annual avalanche training and should always be equipped with avalanche safety gear. She also commented about opening the roads and suggested letting the roads melt open. She asked where the traffic counters were located on County Road 361 and suggested that the data could be skewed if the counter isn't high enough on the road.

Superintendent Barger offered clarification on his data points regarding the seasonal traffic increase during the summer and fall.

Angela Hawse, Ridgway resident, agreed with Ryan and thanked Superintendent Barger and the Road and Bridge department for their work keeping the roads safe. She also commented about the report and requests being confusing and wondered if the request was to open the high-country earlier than normal. She expressed concern with the traffic data shared and suggested more analysis of road usage.

Commissioner Niece clarified the position request.

All three commissioners discussed the position request.

County Attorney Caselli discussed a potential ordinance for vegetation management.

Commissioner Niece asked Superintendent Barger to submit a work session request for this topic.

Commissioner Nauer and Commissioner Padgett discussed allowing roads to melt open.

8. 11:15 - Tanya Ishikawa, Uncompahgre Watershed Partnership

a. Presentation on Restoration of Ironton Park:

Presented by Tanya Ishikawa, Uncompahgre Watershed Partnership and Jake Kurzweil, Mountain Studies Institute.

Commissioner Padgett asked if there was a different scope for the B2E project.

Kurzweil explained the scope of the restoration project.

Ishikawa stated that she doesn't have the map but thought it was the same.

Commissioner Padgett encouraged them to work with the City on one of the restoration locations in case they use it to access the Full Moon Dam at Crystal Reservoir. She also asked if beavers would be a low-tech process for the project or other similar projects.

Kurzweil confirmed that beavers could be useful, but had ethical concerns about moving the beavers to this area.

b. Request for approval and authorization of the Board's signatures on the support letters to the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation and the Colorado Water Conservation Board:

No action was taken on this item.

9. 11:45 - Preston Neill, Town of Ridgway Manager

a. Discussion regarding the need to open County Road 5 early for Town of Ridgway:

Presented by Preston Neill, Ridgway Town Manager.

Superintendent Barger, Commissioner Niece and Town Manager Neill discussed the request.

Commissioner Niece proposed that the town make sure the road is in good enough shape to handle public traffic.

Commissioner Nauer agreed with the suggestion.

Commissioner Padgett asked where in the settlement agreement with the County Road 5 HOA, does it say the county is responsible for the portion of the road that the HOA deals with.

County Attorney Caselli offered to share the agreement.

Commissioner Padgett expressed support for opening the road for this project.

Commissioner Niece asked that if the area gets snow, that the road remain open.

Kelly Ryan thanked Commissioner Niece for keeping the public in mind for this request. She stated that the road has been dry long before the gate has opened in previous years.

Superintendent Barger asked if he was to open the gate for the season when it is opened for the contractor.

Commissioner Niece stated the gate should be open to the public once the contracting work is done.

All three commissioners and Superintendent Barger discussed the timing for this gate opening in previous years.

10. 12:15 - Fairgrounds and Event Center Decision

Presented by Antonio Mendez, Ouray County Manager.

All three commissioners and County Manager Mendez discussed the Fairgrounds and whether a Fairgrounds Manager was the best option to move forward.

M/S/P Motion was made by Commissioner Padgett and seconded by Commissioner Nauer to create the Fairgrounds Manager position pending the details in the job description. Motion Passed (3 - 0).

- a. Public Comments:

11. 12:30 - Position Requests

- a. Fairgrounds Manager:

All three commissioners, County Manager Mendez and County Attorney Caselli discussed the job description.

M/S/P Motion was made by Commissioner Padgett and seconded by Commissioner Nauer to formally approve and direct the County Manager to move forward with announcing the opening of the position and follow through with posting and recruiting as directed. Motion Passed (3 - 0).

Commissioner Niece asked County Manager Mendez to explain the timeline for filling the position, and when events can be expected to be held at the 4H Center.

County Manager Mendez described the goal to have someone hired by mid-April and begin events in May.

b. Finance Director:

Presented by Antonio Mendez, Ouray County Manager.

Commissioner Niece expressed support for this position description.

Commissioner Padgett expressed concern about the qualification requirements.

Commissioner Nauer asked to reorganize so that the Interim County Manager function is more prominent.

County Attorney Caselli asked if the board wanted to have emergency functions included in the description.

All three commissioners, County Manager Mendez and County Attorney Caselli discussed changes to the job description.

M/S/P Motion was made by Commissioner Padgett and seconded by Commissioner Nauer to approve the filling of the Finance Director position as anticipated in the 2026 Budget and direct County Manager Mendez to modify the presented job description to include references to having or being able to acquire the CPA or CPFO designation, pass a background check and add the emergency and disaster duties as read into the record. Motion Passed (3 - 0).

Commissioner Niece asked about the timeline for this position.

County Manager Mendez described the timeline for the position.

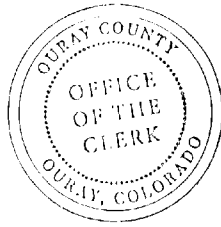
1:04 - With no further business, the Board of County Commissioners adjourned.

The Board of County Commissioners met in a regular session on March 10, 2026. Those present for the session were Commissioner Padgett, Commissioner Niece, Commissioner Nauer; Antonio Mendez, County Manager; Leo Caselli, County Attorney; Robert Perry IV, Deputy County Attorney; Jennifer Peterson, Public Information Officer; and Eli Holmes, Executive Assistant I and Deputy Clerk to the Board.

These Minutes were approved on June 9, 2026

Commissioner	Yes/Aye	No/Nay	Abstain	Absent
Niece	X			
Nauer	X			
Padgett	X			

Attest:



Signed by:

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be "Eli Holmes", written over a horizontal line.

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Damon Todd, Clerk and Recorder
By: Eli Holmes, Deputy Clerk of the Board

Board of County Commissioners of Ouray County,
Colorado

Signed by:

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Jake Niece, Chair

Signed by:

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be "Michelle Nauer", written over a horizontal line.

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Michelle Nauer, Vice-Chair

Signed by:

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Lynn Padgett, Commissioner Member