

**RICH COUNTY COMMISSION
MINUTES
JANUARY 7, 2026**

The Rich County Commission Meeting was held on January 7, 2026, at the County Courthouse in Randolph, Utah, beginning at 10:00 a.m. Chairman Simeon B. Weston, Commissioner William E. Cox, Commissioner Jonathan B. Lee, and Clerk Anneliesa Peart were present.

Commissioner Cox moved to approve the January 7, 2026, agenda with one addition: an executive session with the Sheriff to discuss personnel matters. Commissioner Lee seconded the motion, and the vote was unanimous.

Blair Stringham, Utah Division of Wildlife Resources, presented the annual PILT (Payment in Lieu of Taxes) payment of \$1,156.21 to the County. He provided wildlife statistics, including deer and elk collaring programs, buck-to-doe ratios, and survival rates.

Clayton Webb, American Legion Randolph Post Commander, requested permission to create a veterans memorial display in the courthouse. The display may include a 48-star flag and framed photographs of Rich County veterans. The Commissioners approved the use of wall space on the left as visitors enter the courthouse. The American Legion will fund the project and will return with specific plans.

Travis Hobbs, Fire Warden, with Tracy Swenson, Area Manager, and Bonnie Black, Office Manager, presented the House Bill 48 Wildfire Risk Assessment map. Approximately 400 structures in Rich County are in the high-risk Wildland Urban Interface zone, primarily near Garden City. Property owners will pay between \$20-\$100 annually based on square footage of their buildings for the first two years, with fees likely increasing after 2028. Properties start at the highest risk level until inspected, with inspections requested through the state website. Discussion included the need to adopt the 2006 Utah Wildland Urban Interface Code, which is required for CWS (Cooperative Wildfire Systems) participation. Mr. Hobbs will work with the county attorney and planning administrator to incorporate the code into the development ordinances.

The Commissioners approved Mr. Hobbs providing fire inspections for Randolph, Woodruff, and Laketown at no charge to those municipalities. Discussion included adding county road

equipment to the state contract for fire response and providing fire training for road department employees so they can be deployed and reimbursed during fire emergencies.

Mitch Poulsen, Planning & Zoning Administrator, Samantha Coontz, Bear Lake Regional Commission, and Bob Peterson, Azora Software, presented an update on the short-term rental permit system. Of the original 88 permits, 45 have successfully renewed. The current renewal window extends to March 31, 2026, but the team recommended changing future renewal windows to September 1 through December 31 to align with permit expiration dates. Approximately 50 properties have never submitted applications and will receive their first noncompliance letters by the end of January, with 30 days to begin registration. Mr. Poulsen will prepare ordinance amendments for Planning Commission review.

Commissioner Cox moved to grant business licenses to Darren Eastman and Rick Rosser for their online advertising businesses at the in-home business rate of \$25. Commissioner Lee seconded the motion, and the vote was unanimous.

Commissioner Cox directed that a request from the Rich County Ambulance Board for bill forgiveness or payment plan assistance be placed on the February agenda to explore billing options. A discussion of late ambulance payments included using the National Association of Counties' income tax garnishment program to collect outstanding ambulance bills.

Commissioner Cox moved to approve the December 10, 2025, minutes. Commissioner Lee seconded the motion, and the vote was unanimous.

The Commissioners reviewed the Randolph annexation map showing the recently completed annexation of property adjacent to the sawmill for a finished-products facility.

Commissioner Cox moved to approve the December 2025 expenditures. Commissioner Lee seconded the motion, and the vote was unanimous.

Commissioner Cox moved to go into executive session to discuss personnel matters with Sheriff Stacey. Commissioner Lee seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous with Commissioner Cox: Yes; Commissioner Lee: Yes; and Chairman Weston: Yes.

The Commission returned from executive session. With no further business before the Commission, Commissioner Cox moved to adjourn the meeting. Commissioner Lee seconded the motion, and the vote was unanimous.

Approved: _____
Simeon B. Weston, Chairman

Attest: _____
Anneliesa Peart, Clerk