

MINUTES OF BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
BUDGET HEARING 2026
MILLARD COUNTY THE 2nd DAY OF DECEMBER 2025
AT THE COURTHOUSE, FILLMORE, UTAH

PRESENT: Trevor Johnson..... Chairperson
Bill Wright..... Commissioner
Vicki Lyman..... Commissioner

Elise Harris..... Interim County Attorney
Marki Rowley..... County Clerk
Bonnie Smith .. County Auditor

ALSO PRESENT: Kristine Camp .. County Treasurer
Vickie Bennett..... County Auditor's Office
Susan Wilcox .. County Assessor's Office
Richard Jacobson, Patrick Bennett, Jerid Bennett,
Lindsay Mitchell, Rob Clark, and Jeff Mitchell. . County Sheriff's Office
Matt Ward Chronicle Progress
James Burr, Michelle Burr, and Terilyn Anderson. Citizens
Kalen Taylor USU Extension Office
Rachel West .. County Tourism Director

PURSUANT TO AN AGENDA WHICH HERETOFORE HAD BEEN PROVIDED TO each member of the governing body, posted at the principal office of the Millard County Commission, posted on the Utah Public Notice Website, and provided to the Millard County Chronicle Progress, a newspaper of general circulation within Millard County, Utah, as required by law, the following proceedings were had:

Commissioner Johnson welcomed the public.

Commissioner Johnson called the meeting to order at 6:01 p.m. and then turned the time over to Auditor Smith.

Auditor Smith covered information relative to the adoption of the 2026 budget. She explained that the 2026 tentative budget was posted on the Millard County website on October 21, 2025 and the updated tentative or proposed budget was posted on November 21, 2025. She explained that it will also be posted on the Auditor's Office website on the digital budget book.

Auditor Smith said that to remain competitive in the labor market, a 2.8% cost-of-living adjustment (COLA) has been included for every employee as well as funding for regular step increases in accordance with the County's current step and grade program and funding for merit increases based on performance evaluations exceeding expectations.

Auditor Smith explained that some grant projects will be carried over to 2026 and may be lower than the projected budget as invoices are paid up until the budget adoption later in December.

Auditor Smith then explained the 2026 personnel additions and restructures:

- One Full-Time Deputy Assessor/Appraiser Trainee for Green Belt
- Two Part-Time to Full-Time Dispatchers (No increase to number of positions.)
- Elected Officials and their chief deputies – proposed 1% per year increase for each year of service. (Excludes Attorney and Sheriff as they were previously restructured and salaries were untethered from the elected official to the chief deputy.)

Auditor Smith also highlighted a few projects for 2026:

- Long Term Planning/Capital Improvement Plan: Approximately seventy projects by have been submitted by departments and offices. Additional information will build on this program. Twenty-seven have been accepted, thirty-six have been deferred, and four have been denied.
- Public Safety Complex repair: pipe lining project estimated at \$700,000.00. This amount is a placeholder pending additional details from the engineering analysis. (Potential connection to future jail remodel.)
- Hwy 57 fencing and culverts in the amount of \$100,000.00
- Countywide software in the amount of \$228,000.00
- Off-Site Server in the amount of \$32,000.00
- Dining Hall Loan Payment in the amount of \$12,000.00

James Burr asked about the increase shown in the general fund income and where that increase came from.

Commissioner Johnson explained that the increase is due to lower rates and continued growth out to the powerplant area.

Mr. Burr then asked whether the Commission anticipates that growth to continue.

Commissioner Johnson responded that the Commission does expect growth to continue, but cannot predict future conditions. He noted that data centers will contribute significantly.

Mr. Burr asked about the tourism funds used for billboards.

Tourism Director West explained that the some of the funding came from grant money she had applied for and received.

Commissioner Wright added that only a small portion of the Tourism budget comes from taxes and went on to explain the different taxes and how they are applied.

Mr. Burr asked about the General Fund transfer to the Recreation Fund.

Auditor Smith explained that transfers must be budgeted from the General Fund to the Recreation Fund, which results in the amount being double-accounted—appearing as an expense in the General Fund and as revenue in the Recreation Fund.

Two items were brought up to possibly be added to the budget:

- A pickleball grant in the amount of \$250,000.00 (approved earlier today)
- An additional holiday for the day after Thanksgiving. She explained that the cost for adding an additional holiday is approximately \$30,000.00. This estimate includes landfill, road, public safety, maintenance, and several other departments where additional pay is budgeted for employees who work holidays. The calculation reflects a 2.8% increase for 2026 and includes associated taxes and retirement contributions for regular public employees.

Following the discussion regarding the budget requests and the clarification of Auditor Smith's questions, Commissioner Johnson thanked the public for attending and for showing interest in the county budget process.

Commissioner Wright noted that the budget has been in development for some time, with extensive discussion and input. He added that the final budget will be approved on December 16, 2025.

WHERE UPON THE MEETING ADJOURNED

Commissioner Lyman made a motion to adjourn the meeting.

Commissioner Wright SECONDED the motion. The voting was unanimous and the meeting adjourned at 6:19 p.m..

Attest: _____ Approved: _____