

Minutes of the Alamosa Board of County Commissioners Meeting

January 14, 2026 8:30 am Commissioners Chambers

Alamosa County Services Center, 8900 Independence Way, Alamosa CO 81101

Members Present:

Vern Heersink, Chair

Arlan Van Ry, Vice Chair

Lori Laske, Commissioner

Jason Kelly, County Attorney

Roni Wisdom, County Administrator

Jamie Greeman, Deputy Clerk

Invocation

Pledge of Allegiance

Approval of Agenda

A Disaster Declaration Letter of Support for Rio Blanco County was added to the Consent Agenda.

motion/second, Laske/Van Ry motion to approve the agenda as amended

Motion passed unanimously

Approval of Minutes

motion/second, Van Ry/Laske motion to approve the December 19 Regular Commissioner Meeting Minutes, December 19 Public Hearing Minutes Resolution 2025 F-11 Supplemental Budget, December 19 Public Hearing Minutes Brandon Beiriger, Minor Subdivision, December 19 Public Hearing Minutes Reactivate CO Development Stanley Rd Solar 1041 Permit, and December 19 Public Hearing Minutes Reactivate CO Development Rd 116 Solar 1041 Permit

Motion passed unanimously

Approval of Bills and Obligations

General Account Check numbers 170029 through 170460

Public Health Check numbers 36918 through 36969

motion/second, Laske/Van Ry motion to approve the bills and obligations

Motion passed unanimously

Consent Agenda

Consent agenda items are; IGA for Environmental Health, IGA for Emergency Preparedness and Response, Treasurer's December Fund Report, Treasurer's Semi-Annual Fund Report, Fourth Quarter Public Trustee Report, Resolution 2026 G-1 Reorganization of the Board of County Commissioners, 2026 Public Health Lease Agreement, and a Disaster Declaration Letter of Support for Rio Blanco County.

The Disaster Declaration Letter of Support for Rio Blanco County was pulled from the Consent Agenda for discussion.

motion/second, Laske/Van Ry motion to approve the remaining Consent Agenda items
Motion passed unanimously

The Disaster Declaration Letter was in support of Rio Blanco’s appeal to the state for a major disaster declaration request related to the August 25 Lee and Elk fires and subsequent mud slides and debris flows.

motion/second, Van Ry/Heersink motion to approve the Disaster Declaration Letter of Support for Rio Blanco County
Motion passed unanimously

Ceremonial Agenda

Chief Dingfelder from the Alamosa Police Department attended the Commissioner’s meeting to recognize two members of the Alamosa Sheriff’s Department.

Chief Dingfelder read the following recognition of Lieutenant William Squires: *On June 23, 2024 Sergeant William Squires supervised on duty officers from the Alamosa Police Department who responded to a shooting at the Sunset Motel. Upon arrival, officers discovered three shooting victims, two deceased and one in critical condition. Sergeant Squires promptly assumed command, coordinating the investigation, hospital security, and deployment of numerous officers from multiple agencies. Shortly after the initial call, an additional call reported a crash southwest of Alamosa, followed by an attempted carjacking. It was swiftly determined that the shooting suspect was also responsible for the attempted carjacking. After securing the hotel scene and implementing appropriate resources, Sergeant Squires now Lieutenant Squires, proceeded to the crash and attempted carjacking scene, assuming command of the search for the suspect on foot. Over the subsequent 14 hours, Sergeant Squires, with minimal rest, commanded and participated in an extensive manhunt for a dangerous fugitive in the San Luis Valley. Due to his persistence, dedication, coordination with multiple agencies and officers, the suspect was apprehended without further violence following the prolonged foot pursuit. Sergeant Squires is commended for his professionalism, dedication, and unwavering commitment to apprehending this dangerous fugitive and ensuring the community's safety. Because of the exceptional work of Sergeant Squires in the initial stages, the suspect was convicted in July of 2025 and sentenced to two consecutive life sentences in prison.*

Chief Dingfelder read the following recognition of Sheriff Robert Jackson: *On May 7, 2025 the Alamosa Police Department was notified of a shooting that had occurred in 300 block of Eighth Street. Alamosa Police Sergeant Tate Kindschuh, and Alamosa County Sheriff Robert Jackson, were the first law enforcement officers to arrive on scene. Sheriff Jackson found a man in the parking lot with a gunshot wound to the chest, and immediately began administering first aid. This was done without cover or concealment while the shooter remained at large inside of a nearby apartment. Sergeant Tate Kindschuh arrived shortly after and positioned himself to shield Sheriff Jackson and the victim aware of the ongoing threat and exposure of the victim and Sheriff Jackson. Sergeant Kindschuh proceeded towards the apartment. Sergeant Kindschuh approached the upstairs apartment, where the shooter exited despite the shooters tactical advantage. Subsequently, the suspect came out and was apprehended by Sergeant*

Kindschuh and Sheriff Jackson without further incidence. Their actions demonstrated exceptional courage and the significant personal risk for the safety of the victim and the public. Sheriff Jackson is commended for initially stabilizing the incident and assisting the Alamosa Police Department with this critical incident. This suspect was also convicted in December, but is yet to be sentenced.

Public Hearings

January 14, Public Hearing Minutes – 1041 Permit Final Hearing - Adapture Haynach Solar PV and BESS project

The Public Hearing ended and the Regular Commissioner Meeting resumed.

Arlan Van Ry said that he has had a lot of comments from people in the area that do not care for the solar developers because they are from out of state. He thinks there are a lot of unanswered questions about the construction of this project.

Lori Laske said that she has always had concerns with fire with the battery storage. But, she does think that particular area is suitable for solar. There has been information provided that there will be an economic benefit and they will protect the water and address the glare.

Vern Heersink said that he would like to specify a condition on the height of the panels if the project were to be approved.

Jason Kelly provided Condition 18, “The maximum height of any installed panel shall not exceed 20 feet from ground level.”

motion/second, Laske/Van Ry motion to approve the final 1041 Haynach Solar Project with all 18¹ conditions

Motion passed unanimously

Appointments

Resolution to Adjust the Salary of the 12th Judicial District Attorney

Megan Bagwell reminded the Commissioners of Senate Bill 24 013 will be going into effect in July of this year which will increase DA Anne Kelly’s salary. However, their 2026 budget request did not include the increase. She is attending the meeting today to ask for an increase in the budget to cover the increase that will start in July and she is also asking the Commissioners to considering increasing the budget enough to cover the increase beginning in January. She presented a breakdown of the numbers and showed what the contribution would be for each scenario and what each county would be asked to contribute.

Currently, DA Kelly is one of the lower paid District Attorneys in the state. If the Commissioners decided to increase the funding for the DA’s office, a supplemental budget and a Public Hearing will have to be held. Megan Bagwell will also be talking to the other counties and will present the request

¹ This condition was incorrectly referred to as Condition 18 and will be corrected to say Condition 19 at the January 28 County Commissioner Board meeting.

at the all valley commissioner meeting on January 26th. Each county would have to decide on their own if they would increase their funding to the DA's office.

Denver Air Connection

Jon Coleman presented an update from Denver Air Connection. He shared some of the differences between his company and his competition, Sky West. He believes that some of the things that Sky West says are misleading. Denver Air Connection has recently developed their own app that they are really proud of. They have a Mile High Elite Program where someone could get a free flight after flying six times. They did not charge baggage fees in the past, but had to start charging because the other airlines were charging them.

Jon Coleman share their arrival and departure time statistics. And he showed the difference in the schedule change that happened in November which has been a positive change. The Commissioners shared concerns about ticket pricing especially when booking tickets when Denver was not the final destination.

Veterans Service Office Report

Craig Rauwolf, shared the fourth quarter numbers from his office with the Commissioners. He pointed out that 37% of the veterans that his office met with were not from Alamosa County. Part of that was due to the fact that Costilla County was without a VSO for some time and he thinks there might still be some communication issues happening in Conejos County. The survey numbers have definitely gone up because they were not being done at all prior to him working in the office. Also, the new phone system has helped him track the number of phone calls a lot better.

There is possibly a need for a part time assistant to help with filing and administrative duties. It would be good if they were a veteran in order to start training them to become a second VSO if needed.

Land Use Regulations Update

Richard Hubler showed the Commissioners a copy of the presentation that he gave to the Planning Commission last month. The first issue was regarding agricultural subdivisions and how to make those as easy as possible for farmers and that the process can be done administratively instead of through a public hearing. The draft language will be presented at tonight's Planning Commission meeting.

The next issue concerned replats and plat vacations and they would like to fix some of the language in the code. Lastly, the Land Use office has several legislative cleanup items to address. There were some very topic specific issues, but also some minor things that did not apply to all jurisdictions. Alamosa County is subject to issues on residential occupancy limits, nonfunctional turf, accessory dwelling units, local housing needs assessments and local growth limits. Parking limits, transit-oriented development and multifamily single-stair, up to five stories, buildings do not apply to Alamosa County.

Arlan Van Ry asked what would happen if these regulations were not complied with.

Richard Hubler said that DOLA has told him that if Alamosa County was not in compliance with DOLA requirements, then the County would not receive DOLA funds or possibly other state or federal funds.

Vern Heersink said his biggest concern was the perceived difference in the code across the counties in the valley and why some people think there are differences if it is all the same code. And he asked if there is ever any flexibility in the code because the hurdles just seem to be getting higher and higher.

Richard Hubler said that everyone has the same building code across the valley except for Saguache and Mineral who chose not to adopt any building codes at all. He said the 2018 building code seemed to be the best bet because it was the least restrictive, easiest to do and least expensive. It is cheaper to build a home under the 2018 code than the 2015 code. Richard Hubler said staying with the 2018 code is still the best option because if any changes were made, it would also require implementing the Colorado Energy Code.

Board & Staff Updates

There being no further business, the Regular Meeting of the Board of Alamosa County Commissioners was adjourned.

ATTEST:

Jamie Greeman, Deputy Clerk

Vern Heersink, Chair

Arlan Van Ry, Vice-Chair

Lori Laske, Commissioner

Note: These minutes summarize the final decision made by the Board at the referenced meeting. This meeting was also audio recorded and that recording is available for review. In the event there is confusion as to what the final decision of the Board is, the Board will rely on the audio tape to interpret the Board's intent. The audio tape shall act as an official record of these proceedings for any necessary purpose when, in the opinion of the Board, the minutes are in any way insufficient. An audio copy of the Board of County Commissioners' proceedings is available by contacting the Deputy Clerk to the Board located at the Alamosa County Service Center, (719) 589-4848, or [Email to Jamie Greeman](mailto:jgreeman@alamosacounty.org) jgreeman@alamosacounty.org.