

Minutes of the Alamosa Board of County Commissioners Meeting

January 28, 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 Letter of Support for the Valley Wide Health System Dental Program 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, Laske/Van Ry motion to approve the January 14 Regular Commissioner Meeting Minutes and the January 14 Public Hearing Minutes 1041 Permit Adapture Haynach Solar Project

Motion passed unanimously

Approval of Bills and Obligations

General Account Check numbers 170461 through 170656

Public Health Check numbers 36970 through 36993

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

Motion passed unanimously

Consent Agenda

Consent agenda items are Liquor License Renewal Mini Mart DBA Loaf N Jug, 2026 Vale Contract, SLV Public Health Partnership Agreement, Mountain View Testing Contract, HUTF Reporting Form Imagine Alamosa Letter of Support, Wall, Smith, & Bateman Engagement Letter, and Valley Wide Dental Program Letter of Support

motion/second, Laske/Van Ry motion to approve the Consent Agenda items

Motion passed unanimously

Ceremonial Agenda

Employees of the Quarter: Sonia Salinas, HR Director read the nominations for Employee of the Quarter.

Willie Squires, Sheriff's Department: Lieutenant Squires consistently demonstrates leadership skills in multiple critical roles. He serves as a Team Leader for the San Luis Valley Regional SWAT Team, where his professionalism, tactical expertise, and calm decision-making skills enhance team effectiveness and safety. In addition, he is the Lieutenant of the Alamosa County Detention Center, where he does an outstanding job overseeing operations, mentoring staff, and ensuring the facility runs efficiently and professionally. Lieutenant Squires also serves as a Task Force Operator with the United States Marshals Service, further reflecting the trust placed in him at both the local and federal levels. He routinely assists patrol deputies with high risk calls and is always willing to step in where ever help is needed, regardless of assignment or schedule. Lieutenant Squires possesses extensive knowledge of law enforcement practices and procedures and is always willing to share his knowledge with others. He consistently makes himself available to answer questions and provide guidance. Lieutenant William Squires commitment, leadership, and willingness to serve above and beyond expectations make him highly deserving of recognition as Employee of the Quarter.

Janelle Santillano, Clerk & Recorder's Office: 1st Nomination: On 12/3/25 the Treasurer and Public Trustee were processing a foreclose auction and sale. The purchaser needed a Spanish translator. We went to the Clerk's Office and Janelle volunteered to assist us. It was a complicated sale and the transaction required a significant amount of time and translation, about an hour. Janelle was very patient with us and the process and did an exceptional job listening to our rules and assisting the customer by translating in detail. This was a perfect example of a team work situation.

2nd Nomination: Janelle was very patient with both the Treasurer's Office staff and with the community member wishing to make the purchase. Janelle took her time in explaining and making sure the bidder understood what was expected during the auction.

Eric Treinen, Emergency Manager: I would like to nominate Eric for Employee of the Quarter for several reasons. As the airport has grown over the last few years, Eric has always stepped up to assist. These efforts range from teaching classes to our staff, leading emergency exercises, testing our ARFF equipment, helping develop procedures that make the airport safer and most recently, he has put a lot of time and effort into helping the Airport prepare to bring the new ARFF truck on line. We are fortunate to have Eric on the team and appreciate the extra time and work he spends in our department outside of his main job duties.

Public Hearings

January 28, Public Hearing Minutes – Resolution 2026 F-2 Supplemental Budget
The Public Hearing ended and the Regular Commissioner Meeting resumed.

motion/second, Laske/Van Ry motion to approve Resolution 2026 F-2 Supplemental Budget
Motion passed unanimously

January 28, Public Hearing Minutes – Liquor License Application Love's Travel Stops
The Public Hearing ended and the Regular Commissioner Meeting resumed.

motion/second, Van Ry/Laske motion to approve the Liquor License Application for Love's Travel Stops
Motion passed unanimously

Appointments

Alamosa County Chamber of Commerce Presentation

Erin Keck, Alamosa Chamber Director gave a presentation on the objectives and goals of the Chamber of Commerce. The Chamber does promotions, advocacy, and community events. They have been around for over 100 years. They have 265 members and are a 501c6 organization. They now have a foundation arm so that they can apply for grants.

Their staff is comprised of three part-time employees, multiple board members, several committees, and a large group of ambassadors. They do networking lunches, Thursday morning coffee, ribbon cuttings, and open houses. They have an annual art and awards gala and Oktoberfest in the fall. The Young Professionals group puts on the Fourth of July Parade each year. One of their really big projects is their 100-year Mural project where they are working on ten different murals that will represent the last 100 years of the community.

Erin Keck said that a couple of concerns that the local business community had right now were around the dark sky legislation and especially with the CDOT traffic corridor plan.

Alamosa County Public Health Update

Jody Kern said that their staffing is still the same, they are still looking for a physical therapist and speech therapist. The total recap of patients for 2025 was 213, and the current number is at 74.

Under the Environmental Health Program, 292 businesses renewed their licenses, and they licensed 50 "no fee" establishments which are non-profits, schools, etc. There were also 62 new licenses or changes of ownerships. The chicken incident and the foodborne illness in Rio Grande County were major events last year. Staff also attended annual training.

Grant funding was received for the Public Health Partnership in the amount of \$40,000, and not the \$50,000, as hoped. In Public Health, 218 TB tests were given in 2025, 106 COVID vaccines, 86 influenza, and 237 other vaccines for a total of 647 as compared to 681 in 2024.

Other achievements in 2025 included the hiring of youth interns from tobacco funding, research on vape disposals, Screenagers Under the Influence Movie with the school districts, funding for the chronic disease pilot program, and Stop the Bleed trainings. Director, Jody Kern, was also recently appointed as secretary of the Colorado Association of Local Public Health Officials.

Department of Human Services Update

Catherine Salazar, reviewed the year end financials with the Commissioners as provided in the board packet. Overall, she said that it had been a decent year, and they had come in just slightly over their budgeted projection and ended on a positive note which will help out their fund balance.

In 2025, \$9.1 million was spent in food assistance as compared to \$8.8 million in 2024. Adult Financial cases were 187 and the Colorado Works case load was at 74. The Food Assistance case load is at 2,217 and the Medicaid is at 3,473. One of the big impacts to Medicaid is going to be that the eligibility workers are going to have to recertify the expansion caseload twice a year versus the once a year that's

happening right now.

The Child Welfare and Adult Protection Caseload Report reflected 25 cases that they are overseeing. They have 99 adoption subsidies with Medicaid and 75 with non-subsidy, Medicaid only. There were only four adoptions this year, which was low compared to previous years. On the Adult Protection side, they had 31 referrals, six guardianships, and one conservatorship. In Child Welfare, they had 434 referrals.

On the Recovery Collection Report, year to date collections was \$89,416.34 which was a 20% increase over 2024. Alamosa County was recognized from the state of Colorado for SNAP application processing timeliness.

Centennial State Liquid Investment Pool

Ben Mendenhall said that he has been serving Alamosa County in one capacity or another for the last 15 years and he now works closely with County Treasurer, Amy McKinley, constantly monitoring the county's investments, cash flow needs, and investment policy. It is a best practice to review the investment policy on an annual basis. This year, they did notice that it was time to modernize it and also include a lot of best practice language internal controls, as well as clearly define the allowable investments under CRS 24-75-601, as well as the pooling statute under 24-75-701. He believes that the current document is more robust than the previous investment policy.

Lori Laske asked about Section 9 where it referred to the authorized financial institutions, depositories and brokers, to the extent practical, that the county treasurer will do a bid process whenever possible.

Ben Mendenhall explained that language was designed for when a county was to work with a broker, an individual that sells securities to the county, or also looking at investment advisors and banking institutions. It just provides a road map if a County Treasurer were to choose to go that route.

Amy McKinley added that she does go through a process of her own whenever a CD or time deposit is coming due, she looks at all of the rates available. She attempts to keep money local and works very well with the County's main operating bank. They contact her often to give her updates on rates and vice versa.

Vern Heersink said that they do a great job of keeping the County's money safe and making it work, and that is a benefit to all of the people of Alamosa.

motion/second, Laske/Van Ry motion to approve Resolution 2026 F-1 Adoption of Investment Policy Motion passed unanimously

Resolution 2026 G-2 Resolution and Notice Appointing Alamosa County Surveyor

At the last Commissioner worksession, the Commissioners discussed appointing Tony Martin as the County Surveyor. Tony Martin has expressed interest in the appointment. A resolution and notice of appointment have been prepared and if he accepts it, arrangements can be made to get him sworn into office.

Tony Martin was agreeable to a contract that would say he would do two plat reviews of the same plat

at \$75 per review, and after that, it would be \$50 per review for the same plat. If he were to be appointed as surveyor, he would be stepping into the shoes of the previous surveyor until the next general election in November. Any decisions made about the contract would be separate from approving the resolution and appointment.

motion/second, Van Ry/Laske motion to approve Resolution 2026 G-2 Resolution and Notice Appointing Alamosa County Surveyor

Motion passed unanimously

District Attorney Salary Discussion

Lori Laske said that the District Attorney is doing a fabulous job and is truly exceptional compared to what the office had in the past. But, even though the County would love to pay more right now, there are financial constraints. Because of it being a tight fiscal year and the County having to count every penny, she said that she is leaning toward approving the pay increase to begin in July and not immediately.

Vern Heersink agreed that it is by no means a reflection of the job that the DA is doing. He thinks she is also doing an exceptional job and is grateful to have her in that position. However, the County needs to be fiscally responsible. He said that he believed the Commissioners were all in agreement to fund the additional portion beginning in July but he asked for clarification on the numbers and the statute guidelines.

Jason Kelly said that Alamosa County could increase their proportional share and it would not bind any other county from doing the same, Alamosa County would only be obligated to the amount that they committed to just the same as if any amount were approved at budget time.

Roni Wisdom will communicate with the District Attorney's office about the decision of the Commissioners to provide additional funds as of July 1. Once they send their quarterly invoices after July 1, a supplemental budget can be prepared to reflect the budget changes.

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.