

Minutes of the Alamosa Board of County Commissioners Meeting

February 25, 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

The contract for Blue 2 Blue was added to the 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 February 11 Regular Commissioner Meeting Minutes, February 11 Public Hearing Minutes Minor Subdivision - D. Wayne and Sandra Cody, and February 11 Public Hearing Minutes Major Subdivision - Angel Rubio Mix

Motion passed unanimously

Approval of Bills and Obligations

General Account Check numbers 170882 through 171074

Public Health Check numbers 37018 through 37033

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

Motion passed unanimously

Public Comment

Cindy New, from Mosca, said that they recently installed the new parking bollards at the playground and now they are working on choosing the playground equipment. She thanked the County for their assistance.

Consent Agenda

Consent Agenda items are Southwest Conservation Corps 2026 Agreement, SLV Church of Christ Special Use Permit Extension Request, and SLV COG and Railroad Letter of Support

The Southwest Conservation Corps 2026 Agreement and the SLV Church of Christ Special Use Permit Extension Request were pulled from the Consent Agenda.

motion/second, Van Ry/Laske motion to approve the SLV COG and Railroad Letter of Support
Motion passed unanimously

Lori Laske asked for clarification on the Southwest Conservation Corps Agreement. She said that she did not see anywhere in the agreement that it indicated only two weeks of scheduled work.

motion/second, Laske/Van Ry motion to approve the Southwest Conservation Corps 2026 Agreement with the addition of a provision limiting the amount of work to two weeks.
Motion passed unanimously

Lori Laske said that it was odd to see an extension request like this one from the SLV Church of Christ, so she hoped to get some more information.

Richard Hubler said that the permit was granted a couple of years ago for the construction and operation of a church, but the permit expired. The developers had some setbacks, but this extension will give them until July to get started again.

motion/second, Laske/Van Ry motion to approve the extension request for the SLV Church of Christ Special Use Permit
Motion passed unanimously

Worksession

Colorado Department of Transportation Access Control Plan Discussion

Appointments

Alamosa County and City Fire Department

Frank Wirth, Alamosa Fire Chief, attended the Commissioner meeting to introduce himself and remind everyone how dry everything is right now. He hopes that everyone uses some common sense and are responsible when it comes to any outdoor burning.

Lori Laske asked how the City of Alamosa was addressing the Wildfire Resiliency Code.

Frank Wirth said the Building Department is basically handling the building permitting process, but the one thing that he will be responsible for is the educational part of it. He understands that it is a controversial issue, but at least for new construction, it may, over time, start to address some wildland fires issues. He knows that the expense is a big concern.

Lori Laske asked about concerns around solar battery storage.

Frank Wirth said he has been frustrated with the lack of communication between the business world and the public safety world as it relates to that. The code related to that is changing every three years because the industry is changing so much. But, he does not see a huge fire hazard as it relates to the

battery storage. It is the electrical hazards that are more of a concern. He said sometimes it is better to just contain it and let it burn. That is not always what they like to do, but sometimes it is the prudent option.

Spanish Cemetery

Katie Dokson and Layla Anzele-Tolian with History Colorado and Charlie Griego on behalf of the Spanish Cemetery Association attended the Commissioner meeting to discuss the possibility of the County taking possession of the Old Spanish Cemetery.

Charlie Griego said that himself and Frank “Boogie” Romero Jr were the only board members left on the Cemetery Board. He thanked the Commissioners for their help in the past with bringing in some gravel and spraying weeds. The City of Alamosa has not been able to help out much because the cemetery does not sit inside of the city limits and it does not belong to the city. A long time ago, the Penitentes were in charge of the cemetery. At that time, only Hispanics were buried there. At some point in time, the association broke apart, records were accidentally burned and it stayed dormant for a long time.

The property used to have an adobe fence in the front that fell apart. More recently, some community members have tried to take care of it, but it is hard to get people involved. Charlie Griego would like to see it taken care of and maybe there could be some grants or some money that could help take care of it.

The County has also used the cemetery to bury some indigent citizens in more recent years.

Lori Laske said that the cemetery is going to probably be more of a legacy type of use and a historical site, but she asked how many plots have been pre-purchased. She is concerned about the type of record keeping that is going to be needed.

Katie Dokson said there might have been 10-20 pre-purchased lots bought a very long time ago. There is a book of records of who has been buried there and who has purchased them. They have not cross checked the exact number, but she believes that most of the plots that have been purchased have somebody already buried in them.

Vern Heersink said that he would prefer that the County would still be able to bury indigent citizens in the cemetery.

Jason Kelly said that would be possible, and if the County were to do it as an operation, an advisory board would need to be set up.

Lori Laske said she doesn't think it would be prudent to do a motion at this time but she is interested in finding out more and moving forward towards it being an operating cemetery, especially since the County is able to bury indigent citizens there. She understands there's more to do, but is interested in continuing forward on this path.

The existing Spanish Cemetery Association will need to appoint additional board members in order to

have a quorum so that they can conduct the needed business to transfer the property and dissolve the association if that is what they are wanting to do. They also need to do a title search as a condition of the property donation agreement.

Jason Kelly will coordinate with Katie Dokson and the Cemetery Association concerning the next steps and bring it back to the Commissioners for further discussion and direction.

CDOT Grant

Reyna Martinez-Ramirez said that this three-year grant is coming to an end in September. She is asking the Commissioners for their approval to apply for the grant again. The grant will focus on traffic safety, bicycle safety, and pedestrian safety. They are collaborating with the Colorado State Patrol who are providing them with car seats and they will be doing safety awareness doing safety checks this summer.

motion/second, Laske/Van Ry motion to approve to have Reyna Martinez-Ramirez apply for the CDOT grant.

Motion passed unanimously

Blue 2 Blue

Reyna Martinez-Ramirez explained that Blue 2 Blue was established due to some of the requests and goals that they had under the Peace Officer Mental Health grant. The money with that grant kept getting cut, so another way that they were able to keep some of the services was to create a peer support program. They noticed that a lot of their first responders were really using the peer support.

Lori Laske asked if Blue 2 Blue was a separate 501 c3. She said that she does not understand the agreement and how the County is contracting with Blue 2 Blue.

Reyna Martinez-Ramirez said that Blue 2 Blue has certified, peer support members for all first responders to use under the mutual aid from the mental health grant.

Jason Kelly thought that there might need to be some slight changes done to the contract just to make it clear in terms of the funding and what the term of the contract is.

The Blue 2 Blue Contract will be brought back to the Commissioners with amendments so no action was taken on the contract.

Colorado Wildfire Resiliency Code

Richard Hubler, Land Use Director, and Eric Treinen, Emergency Manager, showed the map that the state of Colorado adopted and how it does not make any sense at all as it does not identify the Zapata area as a concern, but it does identify the San Luis Lakes area which is not a high-risk area. Richard Hubler identified several other inconsistencies.

Arlan Van Ry said that the State is trying to bully everyone into passing this code. They said that insurance companies would not cover homeowners if this code was not passed, but that is false.

Vern Heersink asked if Richard Hubler and Eric Treinen were recommending that the County not adopt the State's map.

Richard Hubler said that their recommendation is that if the County wants to adopt a map, it needs to be amended.

Lori Laske asked what the benefit would be to adopt the map versus not adopting a map at all.

Ryan Handy, Wildfire and Land Use Planning Specialist, said that an alternate map to consider is produced by the US Forest Service by some of the most sophisticated and experienced fire risk modelers in the country. It is a very legitimate source and very reputable one. She said that by adopting this proposed map that Richard Hubler showed, the fire intensity in Alamosa County is lower, which means that the level of regulations Alamosa County would have to comply with is either nonexistent, or the lowest level possible.

Vern Heersink asked if the County's proposed map was sent to the State and they agree to it, there would be no increase in cost per building for anybody outside of the yellow color on the map.

Richard Hubler said that Alamosa County would only have to enforce the WRC in regards to the properties that are colored yellow or orange on whatever map is adopted. Basically, that would be the Mt. Blanca and Zapata area and not the rest of the County where there is not any color.

Eric Treinen said that another reason for submitting this map, is that it provides for some local control over what is happening with the fire code.

Vern Heersink suggested that the County submit the map recommended by Richard Hubler and Eric Treinen to the State for their consideration. Lori Laske said that is where she was leaning towards to see what they say and that the County can still choose to not adopt the map.

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.