

County Commission Update: Working Hard for a Better Tooele County

We're frequently asked by curious citizens what the job of a Tooele County Commissioner entails. So we thought we'd take this opportunity to answer those questions by explaining our combined and individual responsibilities as Commissioners.

The County Commission consists of three members, one of which serves as Chair. The members are elected to serve four year terms. Although the office is designated as part time, we have chosen to make the commission a full-time job, to better serve the residents of Tooele County.

The County Commission is the legislative and administrative bodies of county government. The commission approves laws and ordinances in Tooele County. This is done officially in the bi-monthly County Commission Meetings, after weeks of research and review of each new ordinance.

The County Commission has final approval of budgetary matters for the county. We approve the payment of bills and certain tax adjustments. We are the contracting authority as well.

We are also involved with planning for new infrastructure, new facilities, zoning, expanded government services, economic development, and increased recreation opportunities.

We are engaged in the current renovation and remodel project of the County Administration Building. We are improving access by installing a new, larger elevator; improving the HVAC, electrical, and plumbing systems; giving the building a facelift with new paint and carpeting; and expanding work space for most of the departments.

Another focus of our attention is our involvement with discussions and other actions regarding Rocky Mountain Power's new transmission line project. We are trying to uphold the county's best interests during completion of this controversial project.

As Commissioners we have oversight of Tooele County Government, with each Commissioner responsible for various county departments. Jointly we meet with all county elected officials and department heads in a monthly coordination meeting. We give support to all elected officials.

Naturally, we attend many and various government and civic meetings. We hold seats on numerous local and state boards. We each have a seat on the Council of Governments, the Wendover Airfield Board, and County Fair and Stock Show Board. Jointly we have oversight of the Wendover Airport and Deseret Peak Complex.

Commissioner Colleen Johnson is in her second term in office. She was elected by Commissioners Bruce Clegg and Jerry Hurst to serve as Chair of the County Commission.

Commissioner Johnson's responsibilities include conducting Commission meetings, serving on the Tooele County Chamber of Commerce Advisory Board, Board of Health, Radiation Control Board, and Children's Justice Center Advisory Board. She is also on the following committees: Tourism, Valley Mental Health, Work Force Services, Tooele Valley Community Coop, and Local Homeless Coordination.

Commissioner Johnson has oversight of the following county departments: Airport, Auditor, Clerk, Human Resources, Landfill, Public Safety, Recorder, Relief Services, Food Bank, Surveyor, and Treasurer. She is proud of her accomplishments of acquiring and renovating the old JCPenney's Building, establishing the Relief Services department, and making the land trade in which Tooele County acquired the property where the Deseret Peak Complex and Miller Motorsports Park are located.

Commissioner Bruce Clegg is serving his first term in office. His responsibilities include serving on the Deseret Chemical Depot Restoration Advisory Board, Governor's Citizen's Advisory Commission on Chemical Weapons, Grantsville Soil Conservation District Board, and Weed Board. He participates on the following committees: Mosquito Abatement, Council of Aging, Trails, and Joint Highway.

Commissioner Clegg has oversight of the following county departments: Aging, Assessor, Economic Development, Emergency Management, Engineering, and Courts. He is proud of his oversight of the construction of the new, state-of-the-art Tooele County Emergency Management Building and the level of emergency preparedness maintained in Tooele County, making building improvements at the Tooele and Grantsville Senior Citizens Centers, and making the land trade in which Tooele County acquired the property where the Deseret Peak Complex and Miller Motorsports Park are located.

Commissioner Jerry Hurst is also serving his first term in office. His responsibilities include serving on the Utah State University Extension Board, Vice Chair of Community Development Block Grants Board, Utah County Insurance Pool Board of Directors, and Water Users Board of Directors. The committees he is on include: Bookmobile/Library, Public Lands, Trails, and Joint Highway.

Commissioner Hurst is over the following county departments: Attorney, Maintenance, Information Technology, Parks and Recreation, Roads, USU Extension Service, and Health. His is proud of the Convention Center addition to the Deseret Peak Complex, the progress being made in building a shooting range in Tooele County, building a new Ophir campground, and the new county-wide Trails System, including the new Adopt-a-Trails program.

We enjoy serving the citizens of Tooele County as Commissioners. If you ever have any questions, feel free to contact us at 843-3150 or at commissionupdate@co.tooele.ut.us.