



CEDAR MOUNTAIN SERVICE DISTRICT

3620 Mammoth Creek Rd
HC 82 Box 1084, Duck Creek Village, UT 84762
T: 435-682-3225 F: 435-682-3206
www.cedarmountainservicedistrict.gov

Cedar Mountain Service District Public Hearing for Fire/EMS Fees Saturday June 7, 2025

Board Members in attendance -

Chairperson Suzy Polnisch - in person

Vice-Chair Paula Bell-Saxton - in person

District Clerk Zach Hascall - in person

Board Member Brent Carter - in person

Treasurer Sheryl Snow - absent

Chairperson Suzy Polnisch called the Public Hearing of the Cedar Mountain Service District to order at 11:34 a.m. and stated the Public Hearing was to discuss the potential for a fee increase for Fire/EMS.

District Clerk Zach Hascall began the Public Hearing with an explanation of how the Fire fee had been increased from \$200 to \$425 in 2023 to accommodate the increase of full time staff and services. A handout was provided to demonstrate the Fire expenses vs Fee income for the past several years back to 2018. He stated that public input was intended to help the Board make a decision.

A history from 2018, which was the last year of operating the Fire department with minimum full time staff and volunteers, to adding EMS/Paramedic transport in 2019-2020 was outlined. After the newly appointed Board took office in 2021 and had the time to evaluate operations over the next year, they recommended that the property owners be responsible for the "bare bones" cost of operating. With minimum full time staffing to provide EMS transport and Fire response it was estimated to be approximately \$2MM and the fee was increased from \$200 to \$425 in 2023.

The result of property owners combining lots, from 4,749 properties in 2019 to 4,555 today, has resulted in decrease of fee income and inflation has increased all expenses. Expenditures such as new equipment purchases have had to be delayed. To maintain the minimum staffing of 4 per shift (3 full time and one part time) the current "bare bones" estimate of operating Fire/EMS is between \$2.2MM - \$2.5MM. With this the recommended fee is between \$475 - \$500 to be decided in the July Board meeting.

CHAIRMAN | SUZY POLNISCH **VICE CHAIRMAN** | PAULA BELL-SAXTON **CLERK** | ZACH HASCALL
TREASURER | SHERYL SNOW **MEMBER** | BRENT CARTER **DISTRICT MANAGER** | KENDALEE COX

Larry Powell of Movie Ranch - Mr. Powell asked a question regarding tourists that was summarized by Suzy Polnisch as "Are we subsidizing all of the tourists?" and then explained that EMS transports were billed by the District and the County provides a grant from TRT income to the District to help offset the cost.

Zach Hascall went on to further explain that income from TRT funds and Kane County Hospital MOU income helps to offset some of the costs but does not fully cover the costs but is a very difficult amount to calculate.

Jim Stevenson of Swains Creek asked for some explanation about lot joining and who pays for it?

Zach Hascall explained that the decrease from 4,749 lots to 4,555 has resulted in a loss of \$12/lot. The fee structure has been addressed in the past and the Board determined that a change did not make sense and regardless of the structure, someone would be angry.

Mr. Stevenson said that he had spoken with the County Treasurer who favored the structure of assessed property value for the fee. Suzy Polnisch replied that it is a lot of work to change to that structure and Zach Hascall also added that communication between the County and the District about joining lots was improving. Member Brent Carter added that at some point there will be an end to how many lots can be joined due to fewer and fewer vacant lots.

Max Baldwin of Strawberry Valley and Utah Hwy Patrol asked why District fee payers are paying for responses outside of the District?

Zach Hascall replied that if there are fires outside of the District, the Cedar Mountain Service District is not responsible for responding, and the County Commission is working on the issue. He further explained that Mutual Aid agreements are in place for Fire response between entities, but EMS response is staffed differently to provide response. Potential District expansion of services has been discussed. Technically, the District is not required to respond to structure fires outside of the District, but ethically, they would. It is a known issue and is currently being considered. The EMS coverage of the District is larger than just the District due to its EMS licensure.

Mr. Baldwin expressed his sincere appreciation for the District's services.

Commissioner Kubeja explained that County wide Fire response did not have a simple solution and the Commission appreciated Cedar Mountain Service District.

Larry Powell of Movie Ranch asked why there was such little attendance for the Hearing?

Max Baldwin replied that he was in attendance representing about 50 different people.

Zach Hascall and Suzy Polnisch both commented about the efforts to notify the Public about the Hearings to gather input which included posting flyers in Duck Creek Village, the Post Office, website and even Duck Creek Village News on Facebook and invited any and all communication to the Board.

Jim Stevenson added that the reduction of lot numbers not only affects District fees but also county taxes and suggested a fee structure using property appraisal and Zach Hascall explained the justification for a flat rate for Fire/EMS services. He tries to see it from all angles and if more people were making an argument for a different structure, the Board would take it into consideration and be happy to discuss.

Zach Hascall asked all of the property owners in attendance if they wanted Paramedic level service and enough firefighters to respond to a house fire and they all replied, yes. He went on to say the level of service has been determined so now the cost needs to be considered.

Commissioner Kubeja added that in the Wildland Urban Interface, the State would begin assessing a fee for Wildland Fire services. There were many unknowns and the timing was yet to be determined.

There were no other comments from the Public.

Zach Hascall made a motion to adjourn the Public Hearing.

Paula Bell-Saxton seconded the motion.

All were in favor, Public Hearing adjourned at 12:29 pm.

Minutes Approved By  July 3, 2025
Paula Bell-Saxton, Vice Chair

Signed copy on file at 3620 N Mammoth Creek Rd, Duck Creek Village, UT 84762