

August 19, 2025
5:30 pm
Town Hall Meeting
Location: Big Water Town Hall
60 Aaron Burr
Big Water, UT 84741

Minutes

Attending: Commissioner Celeste Meyeres, Commissioner Gwen Brown,
Commissioner Patty Kubeja

Call to Order: Commissioner Celeste Meyeres

Commissioner Kubeja provides an overview of the situation regarding the expansion of the Church Wells fire protection boundaries, as well as a brief overview of Church Wells. The Commission explains about the protest period and process if any citizens would like to submit a formal protest regarding the expansion of the district boundaries. They also briefly update the audience on the countywide fire feasibility study approved by the Commission.

The meeting is moved to an open question and answer period between the audience and the Commission.

George Blommer: If Paria is included in the boundaries, would fire trucks be responding to the fire?

Kristie Allen: Speaks to this question and mentions about fire hydrants. Inquires about billing and costs regarding what Paria residents would pay if included in the district.

Audience member: What is the benefit of being included in the district? Is the money being paid going to insurance companies or the county?

Commissioner Meyeres clarifies that the money would not go to the county or the insurance company. The money would be paid to Big Water Fire and would be used to prove that property would have fire response should the property start on fire.

Dusty Hardy: What fire responses exists today?
Big Water Mayor, David Schmuker speaks to this question.

Kristie Allen: Is there another location in Kane County that has a similar situation?

Commissioner Kubeja speaks briefly to the fairness issue that has been seen in Kane County regarding fire response.

The commission and the audience discuss the cost that would be charged to each property if the district expounded its boundaries. The commission and Mayor Schmuker clarify questions as they arise from the audience.

Janette Nielson, the Church Wells Special Service District Chair, addresses the current pricing system of the district and emphasizes the importance of fire protection.

Greg: Inquires if some kind of mobile operation like a water truck would be feasible as intermediary measure since the response time from Big Water is so long.
Mayor Schmuker and Chairwoman Nielson speak to this question.

Alicia Allen: How old do you have to be to complete the fire training?
Mayor Schmuker replies the age of requirement for the training is 18 to be on the crew.

Audience Member: Asks if it would be possible for New Paria residents to install a fire hydrant and purchase fire hoses to use themselves before the fire department arrived at a fire.
Mayor Schmuker informs them about the fire hydrant installation process through the Kane County Water Conservancy District and all inquiries need to go through them.

Susan Gibason: Concerns about receiving notices and issues concerning informed dispatchers.
The Commission and Mayor Schmuker briefly speaks to this comment.

Scott Plunkett: Wonders if there is a possibility of paying the potential fee per lot rather than by property value.
Commissioner Kubeja states this decision is made by the Church Wells administrative control board, and not by the commission.

Dusty Hardy: Asks the audience members if any of them had ever experienced issues with insuring their properties.

George Blommer: Inquires if there is a difference between Clark Bench, New Paria, and Church Wells.

A discussion regarding a new MOU (memorandum of understanding) between Church Wells Special Service District and the Big Water Fire Department ensues between Chairwoman Nielson and Commissioner Meyeres.

Kristie Allen: Who maintains the fire hydrants in New Paria if the residents protest to be added into the district? Will it remain the Kane County Water Conservancy District?
Mayor Schmuker responds yes, the KCWCD will continue to maintain the hydrants.

Elizabeth Folks: Wonders about the new MOU.

The Commission speaks to the MOU concern and also provides insight into the process of changing the proposed boundaries if necessary.

Audience Member: Inquires about the protest voting system.

The Commission addresses how the protest system works, they also state the protest period ends on September 22, 2025.

Randy Coates: Asks if there is a way to find out if people are protesting, and if the protest can only go through if the reasons are the same.

The Commission clarifies further about the protest process.

Janette Nielson: What is the alternative if [the residents of Clark Bench and New Paria] don't want to join into the Church Wells SSD?

Commissioner Meyeres addresses this question.

Kristie Allen: Concerns and questions about receiving notifications regarding public meetings.

The Commission directs the audience to the Utah Public Notice website and subscribe to the different entities, i.e. Kane County Commission or Church Wells Special Service District. They also mention the newsletter and the Kane County website.

Dusty Handy: Where is the information regarding the proposed boundary changes located?

Commissioner Kubeja briefly addresses payment of EMS and how it relates to the residents.

Mayor Schmuker thanks the commission for their interest in Big Water.

Susan Gibason: Expresses concern that dispatch didn't know the location of Church Wells and also explains her understanding of the purpose of the meeting.

The Commission speaks to her concerns and promises to relay them to the sheriff.

Motion to adjourn.

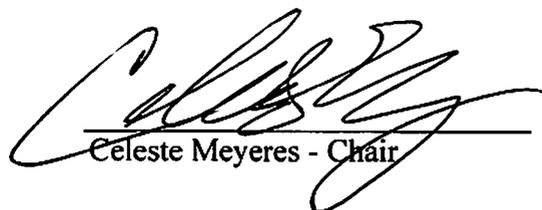
Motion: Celeste Meyeres

Motion passed unanimously.

Meeting adjourned at 6:50 pm



Chameill Lamb - Clerk



Celeste Meyeres - Chair

