

**Grand County Emergency Medical Services Special Service District**  
**520 East 100 North**  
**Moab, Utah**

**August 19, 2025**  
**9:00 a.m.**

1. The Grand County Emergency Medical Services Special Service District met in regular session on the above date and time at the Grand County EMS SSD station located at 520 E. 100 N., Moab, Utah. Chair Elizabeth Tubbs called the meeting to order at 9:03 a.m. In attendance were GCEMS Board Members Dr. Lionel Weeks, Taryn Peterson, Rani Derasary, and Melodie McCandless. Board Member Jason Taylor joined at 9:20am. Board Member Jim Webster was excused. Also present were Executive Director Andy Smith, Administrative Coordinator Jennifer Williams, and Administrative Assistant and Clerk Mandy Turner.
2. **Welcome Public Comment:** Chair Tubbs opened the floor for public comment; none was offered.
3. **Presentation from Auditors:** Ron Stewart of Gilbert and Stewart presented the board with the results of the 2024 financial audit, as well as the process used to conduct it. The audit concluded that GCEMS's financial statements meet the required standards, have effective internal controls, and are compliant with state regulations.
4. **Approval of Minutes:**  
Rani Derasary moved to approve the minutes of the May 20, 2025, regular meeting and July 8, 2025 special meeting with corrections as described; Melodie McCandless seconded. The motion carried unanimously (5-0).
5. **Updates:**
  - a. **Chair Report:** Elizabeth Tubbs announced that the Grand County Commission unanimously passed the Healthcare Sales Tax resolution to place the question of increasing the Rural Healthcare Sales Tax from 0.5% to 1% on the ballot, with revenue to be split between Grand County EMS, the Moab Valley Fire Protection District (MVFD), and the Rural Health Care Special Service District (CHC SSD). She mentioned that a public information campaign is being launched.
  - b. **Treasurer Report:** In the Treasurer Report, Jennifer Williams reported the account balances as of August 19, 2025: \$130771.84 in combined Mountain America accounts and \$519,469.63 in the PTIF savings account.
  - c. **Board Member Reports:**
    - i. Melodie McCandless provided an update from the Grand County Commission, including that they are working on a Request for Proposals (RFP) for an auditor for the county and all of its component units. The use of the selected auditor by the component units will be voluntary. She also noted that the Rural Healthcare Sales Tax special ballot is again on the Commission's agenda this evening to clarify language regarding the CHC SSD.
    - ii. Dr. Weeks reported that Castle Valley is planning to replace the culvert on the main road, possibly in October of this year. Shaffer Lane will need to be used during the construction.
    - iii. Taryn Peterson gave kudos for the recent uptick in GCEMS social media posts and noted that positive and informative content is being shared.

Jason Taylor updated the board on the progress of paving on Uranium Ave. and 100 E. He also noted that Moab City is investing significant effort into the upcoming Winter Sun Festival, scheduled for the first weekend in December.

- d. **Administrative Staff:** Mandy Turner informed the board that a meeting was held with members of MVFD, CHC SSD, GCEMS, and the Moab Healthcare Foundation (MHF) to discuss messaging between the entities regarding the Rural Healthcare Sales Tax special ballot. MHF has stepped up to provide advocacy for the proposal while the entities provide public information.
- e. **Director Report:** Andy Smith delivered a six-month report for GCEMS covering call volume, staffing, vehicles, wildland fire deployments, education, training, building maintenance, and finances, including how billing and payments are recorded as income. Andy also provided a legislative and policy update regarding a controlled substance bill and HB 301. Please see “public information handouts” for more details. During this report, the recording mechanism experienced a malfunction, resulting in a short time of lost audio.
- f. **Committee Reports:**
  - i. **Evaluation Committee** – No report.
  - ii. **Policy Committee** – Policy committee will schedule a meeting to complete policies before end of the year.
  - iii. **Executive Committee** – No report.
  - iv. **Budget/Audit Committee** – Budget committee will meet soon to begin 2026 budget

**6. Discussion/Action Items:**

- a. **Ratification of Payment of 1<sup>st</sup> Quarter Bills – Discussion/Action:**

The Board reviewed payment of \$1,139,401.03 for expenses from April 1 to June 30, 2025. Motion by Rani Derasary, seconded by Taryn Peterson, to ratify bill payments; approved unanimously, 6-0.
- b. **Medical Director Contracts – Discussion/Action:**

This agenda item was deemed unnecessary because the Medical Director contracts automatically renew each year unless a party requests changes or non-renewal.

**7. Future Considerations:**

- a. Sales Tax Messaging Meeting – Thursday August 21, 2025 at 9am.
- b. Rani suggested adding the Medical Directors to the agenda once or twice a year for an update.
- c. Liz requested an update to the board on the progress of the sales tax initiative in October. Melodie requested a review of which board positions may expire at the end of the year so that the County can advertise the vacancies as needed.

**8. Closed Meeting:** There was none.

**9. Adjournment:** The meeting adjourned at 10:59 a.m.