

Wasatch County Fire Board of Directors Meeting

Tuesday, October 14, 2025

Meeting held at 25 N Main Street, Heber City, Utah 84032 @ 3:30 PM MST

Those in Attendance:

Mark Nelson

Erik Rowland

Colleen Bonner

Fire Board Vice Chair Karl McMillan

Kendall Crittenden – not present

Luke Searle

Fire Board Chair Spencer Park

Chief Eric Hales

Assistant Chief/Fire Marshal Clint Neerings

Kierstan Smith, CPA

Lindsey Beckstrom, Human Resources

Stacy Carpenter, Deputy Chief Financial Officer

Councilmember Park called the Wasatch County Fire Protection Service District Board Meeting to order on Tuesday, October 14, 2025, at 3:53 pm.

APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES

A motion was made by Vice Chair Karl McMillan to approve the minutes from the September 9, 2025, fireboard meeting. It was seconded by Councilmember Bonner, and it passed unanimously.

APPROVAL OF WARRANTS

Warrants totaled \$2,106,540.50. Chief Hales reported that the most notable piece is the three (3) payrolls and the first large payment to Wasatch County IT for the period of January 2025 through August. And it also included the upfit of our new station, which wasn't included in our original plan. So, that was about \$120,000. So, that's why we're at a little higher than normal.

A motion was made by Councilmember Rowland to approve the warrants as presented. The motion was seconded by Vice Chair McMillan and it passed.

RESOLUTION 25-02 WILDLAND URBAN INTERFACE LANDSCAPE INSPECTIONS: DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE APPROVAL

Councilmember Rowland asked about the landscape bond release. Chief Hales reported that prior to this past legislative session, in May, we were able to collect a landscape bond for those individuals who couldn't complete their wildland-urban interface landscape prior to their building season. The District collected a bond of surety, basically, that they would complete landscape by the next building season, or thereafter. This last legislative session was House Bill 368, which was a land use bill, that would not permit any agent, any municipality, or county agency to bond for landscape. Chief Hales reported that Assistant Chief Fire Marshal Clint Neerings will be discussing the resolution. This resolution will allow the District to sign off new homeowners to receive a certificate of occupancy, so they can get into their home and then allows the District to make sure that their landscapes are compliant within the wildland-urban interface.

Assistant Chief Fire Marshal Nearing stated that House Bill 368 restricts government entities from requiring a landscape bond for private landscaping. In 2017, the District would run into problems when tasked with enforcing the wildland code during the winter months when a homeowner needed to get into their home but couldn't because they were unable to plant trees when the ground was frozen. The District implemented a \$5,000 landscaping bond. The homeowner would pay for the bond and in the following planting season the District would inspect the landscaping and release the bond. Since House Bill 368 prevents the District from implementing a landscape bond, the District now requires a homeowner to submit a landscape plan when they apply for a building permit.

Resolution 25-02 is a corrective action agreement that references the County Code 140104, #5, 150201, which basically gives a mechanism for enforcement of the code. When Homeowners sign this corrective action agreement, it allows the District to require a compliance deadline. The District selected a \$50 a day penalty that accrues every day until the homeowner is compliant. Once the homeowner is compliant the District will waive the fees since this is an enforcement

and an insurance mechanism to encourage homeowners to come into compliance as soon as possible. If the homeowner does not comply, a notice of noncompliance or a notice of violation is placed on the property. The accrued penalty fees are forfeited, and the funds go to prevention efforts.

A motion was made by Councilmember Rowland to approve Resolution 25-02 and adopt the Wildland Urban Interface Code Enforcement Policy for the Wasatch County Fire Protection Special Services District. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Nelson, and it passed unanimously 6-0.

CHIEF'S REPORT:

Chief Hales presented to the Board

- 2025 Year to Date – September: The monthly call numbers for September were down significantly, which were about 120 calls.
- The District did have some significant incidents, quite a few traffic accidents. One was very notable, where an 18-year-old female was impaled with an object on Highway 189, and she was pinned in her vehicle by a large cement stake. We were able to extricate her from the vehicle, transport her down with our paramedics and AirMed team, to Utah Valley Hospital, where she went immediately into surgery and had that stake removed. She is progressing quite well.
- In Midway, a forklift contacted live wires, and it caught the forklift on fire. It was a joint effort with Heber Light and Power to de-energize the wires so the fire could be extinguished. The operator was able to get off the forklift before it caught fire.

STATION UPDATES

- **STATION 56:** Chief Hales highlighted the progress on the Station 56 project. The District is working closely with AJC Architect, the contractor, Hogan, the Town of Hideout and UDOT. The temporary fire station is located on Recreation Drive, which is off Shoreline in Hideout Town. Station 56 will be moving to a parcel that's just off Highway 248. There are some elevation challenges, but the District is working with UDPOT and our civil engineer to position the station on the property. The building would ultimately be able to staff up to 6 responders at the station. When the station is open, by the end of next year, the goal is to staff it with three responders and then cross-staff an engine and an ambulance out of that station. The interior renderings look similar to the layout of Station 51. The exterior of the building has a modern feel so that it fits in with the community, and it will be built out of CMU, a concrete block. The living quarters will be built by a company called Extreme Cubes out of Henderson, Nevada. It's modular, and it's 90% assembled. The final assembly will happen once it's delivered.

- **STATION 57:** This map represents where the property is located in the Benlock Ranch, Victory Ranch area that is just off Highway State Road 32. The plan is to use the same model of CMU Bay, the same type of layout of the bay, and then the living quarters will be built by Extreme Cubes.
- **TRAINING TOWER:** Chief Hales discussed the possibility of working towards a training facility next year. The property in Heber has a dirt pad and it was always the intent to have a training facility there. The rendering shows the Training Tower as a prefabbed building that represents a single-family dwelling, multi-family stacked units and a stairway. This gives the firefighters different training elements and creates different scenarios/conditions for training purposes.

PHYSICAL ABILITY TEST POLICY 703: DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE APPROVAL OF WASATCH PHYSICAL ABILITY TEST

Chief Hales reported that this physical ability test policy codifies what the District has been doing for the last few years with the annual exam for our fire suppression staff and any new hires. The exam basically goes through the different stages from climbing stairs to pushing, pulling, crawling, dragging and all the different steps that are required for the job. All incoming candidates will be required to pass this test before they can move onto the next phase of hiring. The District incumbents actually wear full turnout gear, e.g. helmet, bunker gear, and tank, to take the test. If the incumbent employee(s) do not pass the test, they will be given 90 days to retake and pass the test. After 90 days, and they still do not pass the test, they will be given another 90 days, so a total of 180 days to pass the test. If they are unable to pass, they may be reclassified to another position. Councilmember Nelson asked if the test itself is defined somewhere else. Chief Hales reported there is a test guideline, along with a video that is shown to all new incumbents and new recruits.

A motion was made by Councilmember Rowland to approve the Physical Ability Test Policy 703 as presented for the Wasatch County Fire Protection Special Services District. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Searle, and it passed unanimously 6-0.

IMPACT FEE ANALYSIS AND IMPACT FEE FACILITIES PLAN: REVIEW AND DISCUSSION OF FEE UPDATES

Chief Hales reported that several months ago there was discussion about the possibility of increasing the District's impact fees. There was a bunch of information, including updated call information, and updated pricing for our stations and apparatus to Susie Becker at Zions Bank. She provided a draft for the impact fee analysis and impact fee facilities plan, which is included in the Board packet. Susie Becker was able to determine what the capacity of fire stations per square foot needed to maintain the District's current level of service. The District cannot use

impact fees to increase our level of service; however, the District can use impact fees to maintain our levels of service. Susie Becker determined in her report that over the next 10 years, we're going to need somewhere between 13,000 - 14,000 square feet more of the fire station. In her proposal the new impact fee for single-family would be \$1,058.34, multi-family would be \$1,067.88 and the price per square foot on non-residential commercial would be \$1.95. It was decided to schedule the Impact Fee Analysis and Impact Fee Facilities Plan public hearing for Wednesday, November 5, 2025, at 6:00pm.

A motion was made by Councilmember Searle to schedule the Impact Fee Analysis and Impact Fee Facilities Plan Public Hearing for Wednesday, November 5, 2025, at 6:00pm for the Wasatch County Fire Protection Special Services District. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Bonner, and it passed unanimously 6-0.

ADVISORY COMMISSION UPDATE

There were no updates from the Advisory Commission.

RESCHEDULE THE WASATCH COUNTY FIRE PROTECTION SERVICE DISTRICT BOARD MEETING ON NOVEMBER 11TH (VETERANS DAY HOLIDAY)

The Wasatch County Fire Protection Special Services District Board meeting needs to be rescheduled as November 11, 2025, which is the Veteran's Day holiday. It was decided to move the meeting to November 12, 2025, at 2:00pm.

A motion was made by Councilmember Bonner to reschedule the Wasatch County Fire Protection Special Services District Board Meeting for Wednesday, November 12, 2025, at 2:00pm. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Searle, and it passed unanimously 6-0.

ADJOURN MEETING

A motion was made by Councilmember Bonner to adjourn the October 14th meeting. The motion was seconded by Councilmember McMillan, and it passed.