



LONE PEAK PUBLIC SAFETY DISTRICT AGENDA

Tuesday, September 30, 2025

7:30 am

Approved November 19, 2025

Highland City Hall, 5400 West Civic Center Drive, Highland, Utah 84003

7:30 AM WORK SESSION

Call to Order: Chair Kim Rodela

Invocation: Board Member Brent Rummler

The meeting was called to order by Chair Kim Rodela as a regular meeting at 7:33 am. The meeting agenda was posted on the *Utah State Public Meeting Website* at least 24 hours prior to the meeting.

PRESIDING: Kim Rodela, Chair

BOARD MEMBERS: Brittney P. Bills - present
Kurt Ostler – present
Carla Merrill – present
Jason Thelin – absent
Brent Rummler – present

STAFF PRESENT: LPPSD Executive Director Erin Wells, LPPSD Assistant Executive Director Shane Sorensen, Fire Chief Brian Patten, Police Chief Brian Gwilliam, Recorder Stephanie Cottle, Finance Director David Mortensen, Attorney Rob Patterson

OTHERS PRESENT: Darci Brunson, Doug Cortney

1. DISCUSSION: PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO CITIES' ALLOCATIONS FOR FIRE DEPARTMENT FUNDING

The Board will review and discuss proposals from each City for potential amendments to the cost allocation formula charged to each City for the Fire Department that is currently outlined in the interlocal agreement (ILA). The Board will provide direction on next steps from this discussion.

Executive Director Wells summarized discussions that have been ongoing the last several months regarding the funding allocations charged to each city for the Fire Department; each City has agreed to bring a proposal to the Board at large to discuss. She summarized the current formula and stated the data that was used by each city to develop their proposal, which included population, equivalent residential units (ERUs), taxable value, market value, and call volume. Alpine has provided two proposals, one that considered ERUs, call volume, and taxable value and the other that considered market value. Highland provided just one proposal that was based upon taxable value. Administration needs direction from the Board regarding whether to pursue one of the three proposals and formulas. Any change to the formula used to determine each city's assessment must come from the Board and be approved by both cities. Due to municipal elections held this year, there will be some changes in the makeup of this Board; there are just a few Board meetings left in the year, and the same is true for both the Alpine and Highland City Councils and if the Board desires to see something done this year, it should be done as quickly as possible.

Board Member Ostler asked if it is appropriate for the Board to come up with a proposal they can agree upon and then take the suggestion back to the respective city councils. Ms. Wells stated that she believes that is the best approach; she feels the proposal should be driven by and supported by the Board, but the decision ultimately lies with the City Councils of Alpine and Highland. Board Member Merrill stated that any proposal must have the support of at least four Board Members before being referred to the city councils. Board Member Ostler stated that means that a unanimous vote would be required since the Chair is a member of the Board but does not vote. There was some debate about the rules governing a change to the Interlocal Agreement and if it would require a vote of four Board Members before the proposal is sent to each City.

Board Member Merrill asked that each of the City Administrators, Ms. Wells and Mr. Sorensen, summarize the proposals from their respective city.

Assistant Executive Director Sorensen summarized Alpine's position; the proposals from Alpine bring a combination of parameters into the funding formula. Below is a summary of the considerations that were made in developing the proposals:

- ERU's: With ERU's, commercial building is part of the equation. Alpine has very little commercial and doesn't anticipate much commercial development in the future. Highland is in a different situation with commercial development being actively constructed right now. Both Alpine and Highland are affluent cities, and both have large homes.
- Call Volume: Call volume will vary, but using a 5-year rolling average should provide a good number for the formula. The difference in development trends within each city could make a difference with respect to call volume. The type of call also makes a difference with respect to time commitment per call. For example, a fire alarm call with no fire versus a traffic accident would have a different time commitment for the department.
- Property Taxable Value: While there is an argument that the funding formula should be based on property taxable value because that is how a district would operate if it were a taxing entity, the argument the other direction is that not everyone wants to treat the district as such with respect to staffing.
- Population: There is a significant difference between Alpine and Highland with respect to what density is allowed. Smaller homes on smaller lots could still house the same size family as a larger home on a larger lot. Higher population will likely generate more calls.

With all of these parameters being factors in the demand for fire and EMS services, it makes sense to include them in the funding formula. There are multiple ways that the parameters could be weighted. In the proposal where ERU's, Call Volume, and Property Taxable Value are equally weighted, Alpine's assessment would increase by \$131,692 and Highland's assessment would decrease by the same amount. In the proposal where Population is also added as a variable, Alpine's assessment would increase by \$68,621 and Highland's assessment would decrease by the same amount. Proposal number one is a three-way split between ERUs, call volume, and taxable value with each city paying based upon the percent allocated for each parameter. Proposal number two is a split four ways between ERUs, call volume, taxable value, and population with each city paying based on percentage allocated for each parameter. Board Member Merrill stated she does not believe that taxable value should be relied upon solely for determining the assessment; she argued that call volume, population, and ERU influence costs directly. This led to debate among the Board regarding the real cost of housing and staffing a fire station in a community; they also compared the LPPSD service model with service models used by other public safety districts.

Board Member Ostler stressed his belief that a district's funding should not be based upon call volume because there is not sufficient revenue attached to call volume. Board Member Rummler argued the funding should be based upon population. Board Member Ostler stated that will not cover the base cost. Ms. Wells suggested

to set a base cost for each City based upon population, with adjustments based upon call volume. This led to continued debate of the appropriate factors upon which to base the assessment formulation as well as appropriate staffing levels of the Fire Department. Chief Patten discussed the appropriate staffing levels for responding to different types of emergency calls in the community. Chair Rodela facilitated debate among the Board regarding the factors that should be utilized to develop the assessment formula; the Board Members representing Alpine City indicated they have not had clear enough discussions with the entire City Council of Alpine, and they need more time to discuss the financial implications of a potential formula adjustment. Board Members representing Highland City expressed frustration that those discussions have not yet taken place given that this issue has been a major topic of discussion for the Board dating back to spring 2025.

Ms. Wells presented a spreadsheet that could be adjusted in real time by increasing or decreasing the percentage weighted to each factor in the formula; Board Member Ostler supported a 50/50 split in costs based upon three data points: population, call volume, and taxable value. Board Member Merrill indicated a desire to also use the ERU data point to calculate the formula; if a 50/50 split dramatically increases Alpine's assessment, it may be more appropriate for Alpine City to withdraw from the District and manage its own public safety service. The group engaged in continued debate of the matter, with a focus on the different factors that must be considered when determining the appropriate level of public safety service for the area covered by the district. Board Member Merrill stated she needs to take the matter back to the Alpine Council. Chair Rodela stated it is important for the Alpine Council to understand that 81 percent of the costs of the Fire Department are related to staffing and Highland City is willing to bend and take on more than half of those staffing costs in order to keep the District intact. Ms. Wells asked if the pending decision on a potential amendment to the assessment and interlocal agreement is specific to the Fire Department or if it should also encompass the Police Department and District Administration. Chair Rodela stated she feels the current focus is the Fire Department and it would be difficult to address the Police Department at this time. Board Member Merrill stated that she would like to consider the Police Department at the same time as the Fire Department; however, given the timing of the issue, it may be necessary to make a final decision on the Fire Department before proceeding to consideration of adjustments relative to the Police Department. Board Member Ostler agreed.

The Board concluded to convene in a special LPPSD meeting on October 28 to continue the discussion and hopefully make a decision on the matter; the regularly scheduled October 8 meeting will be cancelled.

ADJOURNMENT

Board Member Kurt Ostler MOVED to adjourn the regular meeting and Board Member Carla Merrill SECONDED the motion. All voted in favor and the motion passed unanimously.

The meeting adjourned at 10:15 am.

I, Stephannie Cottle, Recorder, hereby certify that the foregoing minutes represent a true, accurate and complete record of the meeting held on September 30, 2025. This document constitutes the official minutes for the Lone Peak Public Safety District Board Meeting.



Stephannie Cottle, CMC, UCC
LPPSD Recorder

Scheduled Meetings

- Tuesday, October 7 – Highland City Council
- Tuesday, October 21 – Highland City Council
- Tuesday, October 28 – Lone Peak Board
- Tuesday, October 28 – Alpine City Council
- Tuesday, November 11 – Alpine City Council
- Wednesday, November 12 – Lone Peak Board
- Tuesday, November 18 – Highland City Council
- Tuesday, December 2 – Highland City Council
- Wednesday, December 10 – Lone Peak Board