



PUBLIC HEARING MINUTES
WEBER FIRE DISTRICT - BOARD OF TRUSTEES
AMENDED
NOVEMBER 11, 2025

Residents wishing to participate electronically, did so using – <https://tinyurl.com/2n2bsjka>.

Weber Fire District Board of Trustees - Hearing Agenda:

Board Members in Attendance:

Kevin Ward, Chair	Y	Michael Hancock, Vice Chair	Y	Boyd Ferrin, Treasurer	Y
Gordon Cutler	Y	Val Heiner	Y	Ryan Hill	Y
Jim Truett – arrived at 5:36	Y	Scott Van Leeuwen	Y	Rob Vanderwood	Y
David Yonan	Y				

Administration Members in Attendance:

Britt Clark, Chief	Y	Jared Taylor, Deputy Chief	Y	David Reed, Deputy Chief	Y
Cody Draheim, Div. Chief	Y	‘Andrea Fiske, FSM/Clerk	Y	Jolene Whipple, Office Mgr.	Y
Amy Hugie, Attorney	Y				

1. Call to Order – Kevin at 6:00 p.m.
2. Pledge of Allegiance - Kevin

Public Hearing for the Intent to Increase Property Taxes

3. Presentation of information regarding the intent to increase property taxes.
 - Increase of \$2,956,000 in property taxes
 - Purpose of the increase:
 - Addition of One New Fire Station in West Haven
 - Replacement of Station 63 to a New Location/Station in Hooper
 - Addition of a Training Tower and Training Facility with supporting offices in Farr West (located behind Station 61)
 - Apparatus and equipment necessary to equip the new fire stations and new training facility. Where appropriate, equipment at Station 63 will be moved to the new location.
 - Approximate percentage increase for an average Weber County home value of \$676,000 is 23.58% or \$94.95 per year.
 - Approximate percentage increase for an average Weber County business value of \$676,000 is 23.58% or \$172.63 per year.
 - If the proposed budget is approved, Weber Fire District would increase its property tax budgeted revenue by 23.58% above last year’s property tax budgeted revenue excluding eligible new growth.

- Presentation of Combined Ad with Weber 911 and Weber Fire District – it was noted that both entities are seeking a tax increase.

4. Public comments –

- Jay Whimpey – Looking for more data, would the locations of the new stations make a difference, are the stations fully utilized, why the training facility on 12th Street isn't adequate, why response time matters, and do shorter response times make a difference.
- Bob McEntee – Asked why we are holding the meeting on Veteran's Day, it looks shady, and if there an old bond going away, and there is a new one, what is the difference.
- Brian Fritschke – Asked about the new property tax of the subdivisions going in, and if that new property tax would offset the tax of current residents, and if the staffing for the new station would require another tax increase.
- Kent Meyerhoffer – Retired, fixed income. Commented that we should set the Impact Fees higher, that roll-back taxes should help increase the taxes. Questions why taxes are going up. Why don't the fire departments in Weber County consolidate? There would be savings.
- Gary Haas – He opposes the new training facility, WFD should use the training station in Ogden, it's not used. The West Haven station is needed.
- Jeremy Crowton – Attended the Open Houses that clarified the subject and reasons for what is being done. He applauds the foresight and preparing for the growth, the training facility is vital to a response-ready department, poor training facilities = poor training. Station 63 needs to be replaced, it's a dump. The Open Houses also showed responsible planning as the amount has been reduced.
- Nancy Hachmeister – Retired, fixed income, everything is increasing. WFD should share training facilities. The increased property taxes can be a burden to those on fixed incomes.
- Mike Grange – What year was the last TNT, why are all the projects being done at once, growth should be providing revenue to pay for this.
- Lacy Richards, Gus and Sharon Bolos, and Clayton Berg were online, but had no comments/questions.

Responses:

- It was noted that there was a printed packet at the back of the room with FAQs and answers.
- The station locations have been determined by call volume and anticipated future growth. One will be in Hooper on about 5500 W. and 5500 S. to replace the aging station (built as a home in the 1960s) on 4000 S. One will be in West Haven off Midland Dr. and 3600 S.
- There will be no tax increase for the staffing of the new station (3 firefighters).
- There have been attempts to consolidate the training in this area for the last 15+ years. The facility on 12th Street can no longer be used for live-fire training and is owned by Ogden City. Training outside of the tower can be done. With 110 firefighters that need training, and they need live-fire training, the new training facility is necessary. The facility can be used by other departments within the county. The station will be behind Station 61. Question why it was decided that the 12th Street facility couldn't be burned in? – city engineers would have made that determination (in our

understanding). All firefighters need a number of certifications that can be obtained by utilizing our own facility. New facilities can last for many decades. Entities that use facility could use it for no cost if they are participating in inter-operability, if an entity wanted to use it for their own training purposes, there would be options to charge fees.

- The reason for doing all of these projects now is the need, prices are only increasing, and by combining them, there is a cost savings, so now is a good time to get these completed.
- All WFD stations will utilize the training facility for the training; training has consisted of using acquired buildings that are being torn down and training in shipping containers. Not ideal, but better than nothing.
- An Impact Fee analysis was just completed, and the fees are increasing to the maximum that the analysis allows. Impact Fees were used to buy the properties that the new stations will be located. Impact Fees were used in the past to pay off the bond early, and they will be used to help offset the costs of the new bond.
- Specific call data was requested to determine if a reduction in call time would make a difference. Risk is created in the community whenever lights and sirens are activated, but sometimes it is not known what the call actually is.
- Asked if all firefighters were EMTs – yes, EMTs and Paramedics
- The bond that was taken out in 2005 had an average cost of \$13/year and has been paid off. The term of the new bond is going to be 20 years; the term had a lower interest rate and would not extend so far into the future that there would be the potential of having overlapping bond needs. The initial bond interest rate was calculated at 4.426%, and the initial bond requirement was calculated at \$40M for an average property tax increase of \$94.95/year. Now calculating based on \$35M, the average property tax increase would be \$85.26/year, the interest rate won't be determined until the bonds are sold.
- Consolidation has always been available, but WFD cannot force consolidation. The cities can make the request to consolidate, but mayors and councils must make the determination to do it. Agreed that it is a good idea.
- We have had a developer donate two acres for a fire station when the development proceeds.

Motion to adjourn the public hearing made by Scott

Second by Mike

5. Set Public Hearing on December 9th, 2025, at 6:00 p.m. for:

- Presentation, discussion and approval of the 2025 Amended Budget
- Presentation, discussion and approval of the 2026 Tentative Budget
- Motion to approve by Boyd
- Second by Scott
- All in favor, none opposed.

6. Adjournment

- Motion to adjourn by Scott
- Second by Val
- Adjourned at 6:59 p.m.

The next Regular Meeting is Tuesday, December 9th, 2025, at 5:30 p.m.

Kevin Ward, Chair

Boyd Ferrin, Treasurer