



GRAND COUNTY COMMISSION SPECIAL MEETING / WORKSHOP

**Grand County Commission Chambers
Hybrid virtual participation on Zoom
Moab, Utah**

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MINUTES 9 December 2025

The Grand County Commission met in a special budget workshop meeting on December 9th, 2025. The meeting was held in-person in the Grand County Commission Chambers, with hybrid virtual participation also available via Zoom. It was also broadcast and saved on YouTube. Attending the meeting in-person were Commission Chair Bill Winfield, Commission Vice-Chair Melodie McCandless and Commissioners Brian Martinez, Jacques Hadler, and Mike McCurdy, Trish Hedin and Mary McGann. Also attending in-person were Commission Administrator Mark Tyner, Associate Commission Administrator Quinn Hall, and Clerk/Auditor Gabriel Woytek.

9:30 a.m. Chair Winfield called to order the Budget Workshop

The workshop opened with a discussion regarding the projected draw from general fund. Updated calculations discussed during the meeting brought the projected draw closer to ~\$1.118M in the most recent budget document. TRT/TRCCA projections were also discussed: TRCCA ~1.53M; TRT mitigation ~4.56M — total ~6.10M projected available for mitigation/TRCCA-eligible uses, with \$4.9M allocated to law enforcement (sheriff-related). Concerns raised around how TRT/TRCCA and mitigation funds are already allocated within law enforcement (including jail, dispatch) and whether those dollars are truly available as a general fund offset. Administrative fee recalculation at \$4 per hour across selected non-general funds produced a county reimbursement total of \$305,760 (replacing an earlier \$155k/other figure). The calculation used budgeted hours per position and aggregated hourly counts.

Discussion over whether to apply the \$4 administrative fee across all restricted/non-general funds or limit it to four identified departments (original four). Some commissioners recommended applying the fee broadly (to prevent shifting mitigation or restricted funds into the general fund arbitrarily in the future). Others urged caution, noting complexity with grant allowability and tracking for each department. Consensus (straw poll/thumbs) reached to apply \$4 fee to the four originally-identified departments for the current budget year and to form a subcommittee in 2026 to develop consistent policy and methodology for applying administrative fees across other restricted funds. Departments that receive grant funding will need guidance on tracking allowable administrative fee uses.

Two hiring-freeze scenarios discussed: a freeze through July (mid-year) and a freeze for the full year. Estimated reductions from hiring freeze — approximately \$683,271 through July; \$1.1M if applied for a full year. The group discussed whether to budget for the full-year freeze (improves budget appearance but may affect staff morale) vs. half-year with later reassessment. Consensus: adopt a policy that makes reduced-hours/voluntary hour reductions flexible, to be monitored quarterly. For the hiring freeze, the commission displayed a consensus (thumbs up) to budget the freeze for the full year while committing to review quarterly and return positions as needed.

Voluntary reduced-hours ("RIF"): Staff projected monthly savings at ~\$165k/month under one estimate; commissioners agreed to budget a conservative figure. Final consensus: set voluntary reduced-hours line at \$150,000.

Solid Waste: Request from district of \$500,000. Commissioners generally supported funding the request (concerns raised about rate impacts on households and the large capital needs for transfer station improvements).

Museum: Request of ~\$114,525 for operations/salaries was discussed. Commissioners generally supported retaining this level of contribution; suggested opportunities to partner with the Office of Tourism (MTAB) to promote the museum instead of direct promotion funding.

Airport: Commissioners discussed the airport budget; suggested potential funding from remaining mitigation/TRCCA balance (~\$100k) if available. Also discussed a reclassification/new position request for an airport operations manager that would be brought forward when finalized.

Housing (affordable housing request): The budget included a \$200,000 contribution for an affordable housing project (line 10-4830-920-017). This allocation had previously been approved by the Commission and remained in the tentative budget; however, several commissioners expressed strong objections to pulling \$200,000 from the general fund for a private development and requested counsel review regarding appropriateness and whether the fee in-lieu of housing fund could support it. Commissioners also discussed fee-in-lieu fund balances and constraints; staff to confirm availability and legal opinion. A subset of commissioners stressed the housing subcommittee priorities and the need to ensure the expenditure aligns with committee priorities.

Trail Ambassadors: \$150,000 included in prior direction; commissioners acknowledged and left it in the tentative budget.

Nonprofits and partner contributions: Several partner requests were reviewed and generally held at prior-year levels (no increases): Humane Society (\$12,000), Seekhaven and homeless services (line items proposed to be separated from commission discretionary), Grand Conservation District (\$1,500). Commissioners agreed not to increase the interlocal contributions to Four Corners Mental Health and the County Health Department (Four Corners ~+\$5k request; Health Dept ~\$1k increase) and to review the formal interlocal agreements before approving increases.

Commissioners reviewed the discretionary line (previously ~\$90k). Several noted lack of specificity in the tentative budget detailing discrete discretionary line items for 2026. Prior-year items included Arches Timed Entry Study, Grand Conservation District, multicultural center (homeless services), water quality studies, etc. Consensus: reduce the commission discretionary line from ~\$90k to \$40k for 2026 and carve out separate line items for recurring external partners (Seekhaven homeless services, Grand Conservation, Humane Society). Several recurring small allocations will be separated out as distinct budget lines and the remainder maintained as a smaller discretionary pool. Commissioners can amend during the year if needed.

Discussion clarified expected contributions from Rec (Recreation SSD) into OSTA (operations/maintenance) and Rec project support. Commissioners proposed retaining \$100k for OSTA operations and allocating ~\$37k (or similar) for Rec SSD-directed project funding (rec board discretion) — staff to confirm exact numbers and align with REC SSD decision-making. Commissioner McCandless agreed to bring the clarification to the Rec board.

Commissioners deferred a detailed capital projects prioritization to a later meeting (historically addressed in January with capital list and director present). A short additional workshop was agreed to be scheduled

before the next commission meeting to finalize and present the budget to the public: proposed for 3:00 PM (date to be set), one-hour session to run through final numbers and public messaging.

Using a live scenario calculator and the agreed adjustments (admin fees to four departments, voluntary reduced-hours funding, hiring freeze treated as a full-year policy to be reviewed quarterly, discretionary reduced to \$40k with carved-out line items, museum and solid waste amounts retained), staff indicated a final tentative draw from the general fund around ~\$93k (range discussed ~\$85k–\$125k depending on minor changes). Commissioners signaled comfort proceeding with a follow-up workshop to finalize and present the budget immediately prior to the next scheduled meeting.

Chair Winfield adjourned the meeting at 11:35 a.m.

Bill Winfield

Bill Winfield
Chair, Grand County Commission

Gabriel Woytek

Gabriel Woytek
Grand County Clerk/Auditor

Audit trail

Details

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