

# South Davis Recreation District Truth in Taxation Public Hearing

November 17<sup>th</sup>, 2025 at 6:30 p.m.

## Board Members present:

Councilmember Kate Bradshaw, Bountiful City  
Councilmember Dell Butterfield, West Bountiful City  
Councilmember Suzette Jackson, North Salt Lake City  
John Norman, Board Appointed Representative  
Brett Steadman, Board Appointed Representative  
Councilmember Spencer Summerhays, Centerville City  
Mayor Ryan Westergard, Woods Cross City

## Staff In Attendance:

Tif Miller, Executive Director  
Scott McDonald, Aquatics & Fitness Director  
Tyson Beck, District Clerk  
Jayme Blakesley, District Attorney  
Mary Gadd, Office Manager

## Others in Attendance:

Dan Bell (Bountiful), Laureen Carlson (Bountiful), Troy Holzer (Bountiful), Judy Johnson (Bountiful), Renita Johnson (Bountiful), Job Kingston (Centerville), Laura Malan (Bountiful), Charlotte Maxwell (North Salt Lake), Ron Mortensen (Bountiful), Par Ruhr (Bountiful), Greg Stewart (North Salt Lake), Isabell Stringham (Bountiful), David Taylor (Bountiful), Jason Taylor (Farmington)

## WELCOME

Chairman Summerhays opened the hearing at 6:33 p.m.

## DISTRICT STAFF PRESENTATION REGARDING PROPOSED TAX INCREASE

Mr. Miller reviewed the District's purpose in serving the needs of South Davis County and is an important part of the community. He presented background to how the taxes that the District collects are split into two parts. One part is the bond debt levy, which will see the final payment in January 2026 and will drop off residents' tax bills. The second is the subsidy levy, which has no expiration and can be increased as permitted but only to a certain amount.

Mr. Miller reviewed that due to rising costs the District has proposed a 5% increase to the subsidy levy. The District has seen increases in utilities, insurance, pool chemicals, professional financial services, and capital expenditures. Mr. Miller explained that to offset these costs that the District has increased fees for participation, reviewed programs and events to eliminate, and has reduced full-time staffing.

## PUBLIC COMMENTS

*Pat Ruhr* – can the building be utilized for solar power and put the savings towards expansion as the facilities could use upgrades

48 *Isabell Stringham* – mission statement didn't say anything about financial responsibility, doesn't use  
49 the facility and should not have to subsidize it, asked for expenses to be reduced instead of raising  
50 taxes  
51 *Charlotte Maxwell* – feels the facility is not a need and is an extra luxury, raise the admission price  
52 *Troy Holzer* – more expenses should be reduced or changed to lower cost alternatives, fees for users  
53 need to be increased  
54 *Ron Mortensen* – previous subsidy increase was 40% and had discussions of increases of every other  
55 year, new growth gives the District more revenue than the rate of inflation over the course of the last  
56 20 years, requested non-resident rates for rentals like the ice rink  
57 *Erin Ottley* – manage the facility better and focus on the needs  
58 *Camilla* – asked what the strategy is to solve this going forward and determining what is working and  
59 what is not, finding solutions so increases don't happen every other year  
60 *Molly Hansen* – asked that staff plan ahead and save for repairs  
61 *David Hansen* – there are private entities that provide some of the same services for a profit  
62 *David Taylor* – no homes in Bountiful are average, property values went up 14% that the District  
63 doesn't need to add the 5% as well  
64 *Jason Taylor* – funding the facility is a luxury, take a close look at expenditures, asked for more  
65 transparency to the public  
66

67 At 7:27 p.m. Chairman Summerhays closed the public hearing.  
68

#### 69 **BOARD MEMBERS REPORT OF TAX INCREASE SENTIMENT AT PUBLIC MEETING** 70

71 Chairman Summerhays explained that as home valuations increase that the property tax does  
72 not increase, and the District's vision statement does talk about good financial stewardship. Chairman  
73 Summerhays added that the longest serving members are at 4 years and said the District is going  
74 through a period of transition regarding finances and that they have been raising prices and reducing  
75 costs. Chairman Summerhays allowed each board member to answer questions and give statements  
76 regarding the tax increase.  
77

78 Mayor Westergard gave some more information on property tax calculations when a home  
79 value increases or decreases. Mayor Westergard added that there are non-resident rates for  
80 memberships and Mr. Miller added that adding a non-resident rate for facility rentals is on the  
81 proposed fee increases for the December meeting.  
82

83 Councilmember Bradshaw invited attendees to join any future board meetings.  
84 Councilmember Bradshaw added that tracking both revenues and expenses on an activity level has  
85 been put in place and has led to unhappy board meeting attendees due to changes.  
86

87 Councilmember Butterfield explained that financial responsibility and transparency is an  
88 important thing to him and there is value to the community with the facility even if an individual does  
89 not use it.  
90

91 Councilmember Jackson shared that when she joined the board, she could see the work that  
92 had been done and is hopeful that appropriate cuts can be made to reduce expenses before any  
93 external changes are made.  
94

95 Board Member Steadman agreed that the budget has been heavily scrutinized and community

96 events have been cut. Board Member Steadman suggested reading some of the studies that have been  
97 published regarding the impact that a community recreation center has on the community beyond  
98 health and wellness.  
99

100 Board Member Norman noted that rarely do private businesses build ice rinks and  
101 competition pools and was why the District was created.  
102

103 Chairman Summerhays allowed for a question from the public on if newly built homes  
104 increase revenue from taxes collected for the District and Tyson Beck replied that does increase  
105 collected taxes. Chairman Summerhays thanked those in attendance for coming.  
106

107 **CONSIDERATION OF RESOLUTION 2025-07 SETTING NEW OPERATIONS TAX**  
108 **REVENUE FOR 2026**  
109

110 Chairman Summerhays noted that a lesser amount can be selected and voted upon.  
111 Councilmember Butterfield made a motion to approve Resolution 2025-07, setting new operations  
112 tax revenue for 2026 at \$86,200, and was seconded by Board Member Steadman.  
113

114 Councilmember Jackson noted that the bond debt levy that is dropping off will only be  
115 effective if no new bond is ever approved and would like to see another year of changes and fee  
116 increases before raising the taxes for a second time. Councilmember Bradshaw offered that the  
117 previous tax increase was high but has helped fill a hole and that there is still work to do in balancing  
118 revenue and expenses. Mayor Westergard agreed that being diligent with internal expenses will  
119 continue.  
120

121 Chairman Summerhays asked for a roll call vote on the motion. Board Members Butterfield,  
122 Summerhays, Bradshaw, Westergard, Steadman, and Norman voted “aye.” Board Member Jackson  
123 voted “nay.”  
124

125 **ADJOURNMENT**  
126  
127

At 8:16 p.m. Chairman Summerhays adjourned the meeting.