Grand County Emergency Medical Services Special Service District
520 East 100 North
Moab, Utah

January 20, 2026
9:00 a.m.

1. The Grand County Emergency Medical Services Special Service District met in regular session on the above date and time at the Grand County EMS SSD station located at 520 E. 100 N., Moab, Utah. Chair Elizabeth Tubbs called the meeting to order at 9:02 a.m. In attendance were GCEMS Board Members Rani Derasary, Jason Taylor, and Melodie McCandless. Dr. Lionel Weeks joined the meeting at 9:12am. Members Jim Webster and Taryn Peterson were excused. Also present were Executive Director Andy Smith, Administrative Coordinator Jennifer Williams, and Administrative Assistant and Clerk Mandy Turner.

2. Welcome Public Comment: Chair Tubbs opened the floor for public comment; none was offered.

3. Approval of Minutes:
   Mel McCandless moved to approve the minutes of the November 10, 2025, regular meeting and the November 17, 2025, public hearing and special meeting, with corrections as discussed. Rani Derasary seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously (4-0).

4. Recognition of EMS Providers for Ten Years of Service: Director Andy Smith presented Paramedics Dani Hill and Todd Bogan with certificates and small gifts in recognition of ten years of service with Grand County EMS.

5. Updates:
   a. Chair Report: Chair Tubbs opened her report by informing the board of member Taryn Peterson's resignation. Ms. Peterson will remain on the board through Andy Smith's evaluation in March and until a new board member is appointed. Liz stated that the application period will remain open into March, at which time the board will schedule interviews either before or during the March board meeting. She reminded the board that their recommendation will be forwarded to the Grand County Commission for final appointment.

   b. Treasurer Report: In the Treasurer Report, Treasurer Jason Taylor reported the account balances as of January 20, 2026: $109,856.12 in combined Mountain America accounts and $683,802.26 in the PTIF savings account.

   c. Board Member Reports:
      i. Dr. Weeks reminded the organization that Castle Valley Drive will be closed for approximately two months due to a culvert replacement project.
      ii. Melodie McCandless reported that the Guideway Tax proposed by the Grand County Sheriff's Department was voted down by the commission in December. She noted that the commission has since appointed a committee to study the proposal and the needs of law enforcement, and that she will serve on that committee. The study will include a field trip to Iron County to tour their new jail and meet with commissioners who successfully passed the tax.
      iii. Jason Taylor reported that the City of Moab had a strategic planning session the previous week instead of their regular council meeting. He noted that sidewalk work has begun in the city.

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d. **Administrative Staff:** Mandy requested that all board members submit their Open and Public Meetings Act certificates, conflict of interest declarations, and ethics pledges.

e. **Director Report:**
Executive Director Andy Smith provided a comprehensive report on 2025, including trends in call volume, staffing, education opportunities, accomplishments, and the department's financial position. He also discussed the upcoming EMT Basic course, upcoming strategic planning sessions, a Utah legislative update, and a financial update. Andy then shared proposed initiatives for 2026. He also informed the board that GCEMS providers Maggie Nielsen, Mike Flanagan, and Chris Murray would be recognized later that day by the Grand County Sheriff's Department for their roles in two recent B.A.S.E. jumping rescues.

f. **Committee Reports:**
   i. **Evaluation Committee –** Tayn Peterson will be stepping down from this committee after March.
   ii. **Policy Committee –** The Policy Committee still has a few lingering policies to review and present to the whole board.
   iii. **Executive Committee -** No report.
   iv. **Budget/Audit Committee –** No report.

6. **Discussion/Action Items:**
   a. **Appointment of Officers – Discussion/Action:**
   Mel McCandless made a motion to retain Elizabeth Tubbs as Chair, Jim Webster as Vice Chair, and Jason Taylor as Treasurer for 2026. Rani Derasary seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously (5-0).

   b. **Appointment of Committees – Discussion/Action:**
   Dr. Weeks made a motion to retain Liz Tubbs, Jim Webster, and Dr. Weeks on the Policy Committee for 2026. Mel McCandless seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously. Liz then noted that the Executive Committee is comprised of the Chair, Vice Chair, and Treasurer, and therefore no vote was required. The board agreed to postpone appointments to the Budget and Evaluation Committees until a new board member is appointed.

   c. **Adjustment to Full-Time EMT Starting Pay – Discussion/Action:**
   Andy Smith provided an overview of the proposal and noted that it would not impact the 2026 budget, as all full-time positions are currently budgeted at either the AEMT or Paramedic pay rate. Rani Derasary made a motion to approve the updated 2026 pay scale, increasing full-time EMT wages by five percent. Jason Taylor seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.

7. **Future Considerations:**
   a. Appointments to the Evaluation and Budget Committees
   b. Interviews for board applicants in March
   c. Whole Blood Program presentation in March
   d. Update on financial position when increase sales tax funds begin coming in

8. **Closed Meeting:** There was none.

9. **Adjournment:** The meeting adjourned at 10:30 a.m.

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Grand County EMS Special Service District
Elizabeth Tubbs, Chair

Mandy Turner
Clerk/Secretary