

Castle Valley Fire Protection District
Castle Valley Fire Commission
March REGULAR MEETING
Thursday, March 12, 2026 6:00 pm
Station 1, M.P. 4.2 Castleton Road, Castle Valley, Utah 84532

Attending:

Ron Drake

Mitch Stock

Maggie Peikon

Mike Wakeley

Regular Meeting:

Call to Order: 6:02pm

1. Public Comment:

- a. Bob shared that he sent more information about EMF information/cell tower impact.

2. Approval of Minutes from February: Unanimous approval

3. Administration Issues: Connecting with Jocelyn to learn to use Owl equipment

4. Chief's Report: Ron Drake

- a. Haven't had much activity this month. Greg & Ron took Engine 37 up to Springville (2/25) — no updates yet about what they've found out/what they recommend.
- b. Ron took Engine 1 to High Performance Ford to help with mechanical issues. Replaced failing equipment (hose, radiator). \$2,000 bill. The last few weeks has been about \$3,500 on that engine, before that was relatively maintenance free, though. Just turned 100k miles, so about due for things to be repaired.
- c. Coffee with the Chief is still ongoing every Monday Morning. Set up a date for our RT 130 refresher course for our next fire meeting on March 17. Ideally would

like to have everyone there for that. Pack test and other things to follow (would like to have a red card for more people).

- d. The moderate version of the Pack test is $\frac{1}{2}$ the weight (20lbs) for 2 miles. (Timing unknown)
 - e. We should make a reservation or appointment to go before the county commission and request some help from them for the extra tax. Ron believes we qualify to get some of this money. Unknown if payments are quarterly, but we should probably make our request known. They need us to come forward with a plan/presentation so they know what we intend to do with it. We would have to talk to their clerk to get on their program/agenda. Maggie to connect with Bill to see if he has the presentation. Ideally have this presented to them before the end of Q1 — sooner the better.
 - i. Jazmine shared that their next meeting is March 17.
5. Treasurer's Report: Carol Drake, Mike Wakeley
- a. Balance sheet 445,266.49 — 24.6% increase over last year
 - b. P&L detail — 2 donations for total of \$900
 - c. Noting the work done on vehicles Jan/Feb, we are well within budget.
6. Discussion and Possible Action: Updating MOU
- a. Jazmin shared that the main point of updating is to reflect the changes the state made to our cooperative agreement. The MOU is already fairly on track with state code - on Paragraph 3, #4 we could change that section to say it is now necessary to have this MOU (the state wasn't previously requiring it).
 - b. Some things we may need to add
 - i. CWPP is now the town's responsibility — it would be best if we wrote something into the MOU that we would cooperate on that update every 5 years.
 - 1. Spell out that the town is delegating the 'initial attack' to CVFD, and that CVFD then has the authority to turn over responsibility to the state.
 - ii. Reporting and making of annual statements (Leta had been doing that previously, and Mitch shared about bringing her in to help with the transition.)
 - 1. Coming up with a list of things we intend to do (Gourd Festival, Chipper Day, Road Crew doing mitigation somewhere)
 - 2. The reporting should be handed over to someone from the town to manage

- iii. Add into MOU delegating authority to transfer fire response to the state if necessary. Keeping in mind that as soon as we do that we also give fiscal responsibility to the town to litigate any human caused fires.
- iv. Goal to put together a draft to put in front of council, Jazmine to share notes.

7. Discussion and Possible Action: Updates on Engine 37

- a. No information yet from the mechanic looking at it.
- b. Conversation about a new foam system - the one currently on 37 is problematic and unreliable. Possibly best to disconnect it unless they can come up with a better system.
- c. Ran well, top speed 65mph
- d. Engine break works well.

8. Discussion and Possible Action: Updates on Cell Tower

- a. Ron has heard nothing back from Dan Thurgood. Last meeting was that Dan was going to come up with a drawing/rendering of the tower. He took pictures from various directions to be able to show how it would look.
- b. We talked about a community meeting just to get an understanding of how the entire community feels about it. We've heard plenty of opposition, but haven't heard much from people who are for it.
- c. The money would be ~\$18,000/year for having the tower up. Ron noted that the town shared that they could raise money to counter that.
- d. No deadline yet to make a decision. Would be after a public meeting. Ron would like Dan to raise a balloon up to see the height.
- e. Greg shared that he was coming back from Moab today and shared that there is a cell tower on the south side of 128 by Red Cliffs — up on the ridge. Unclear how tall it is. Greg is wondering if it's similar to what they would put up for us, but recommended people keep an eye out / look at that one for an idea of what ours might look like.
- f. If approved, Ron shared, it would still be 12-18 months away from installation.
- g. Mitch noted that perhaps a shorter tower could be a good compromise. Minimum would have to be 60ft - the shorter we go, the less potential for other carriers to come on which does mean less \$.
- h. Mitch also noted that if we turn it down, it will likely be offered as an opportunity to others in the valley.
- i. Bob wanted to note that there would be the same opposition and concerns working with Randy/the academy that we've heard here. And noted there would

still be involvement with the county which would require that public meeting as well. Ron noted that he believed the current commission would approve it.

- j. Bob noted that the county commission has, in the past, expressed not permitting any new towers, so it's not necessarily a given it will go one way or another.

9. Discussion and Possible Action: PLUC Request: Fire Safety Section Review

- a. Mike asked about Page 2 about CVFD responsibility to respond ahead of EMS/EMT arrival and Jazmine agreed this should be changed/updated.
- b. Mike noted that Frontier has already been purchased by Verizon, so may not need to be included any longer.

10. Discussion and possible action on long term planning, fire dept. needs, priorities, vision and policies: development of standard operating guidelines, policies and procedures.

- a. Mitch shared he's been talking to Jim Willoway - an electrical engineer. One of Mitch's biggest concerns and desire for the cell tower is communications, as it has always been spotty for us. Jim was talking about building and creating a repeater system for us. State of the art equipment can be incredibly expensive, but if you go with something that's more 'middle of the road' that other departments are selling off, it can be much more affordable. Could be a great option for us – especially keeping lightning issues in mind. Jim will continue to look into this for us — Mitch has shared with him information about the type of radios (P25 Compliant) we use to inform repeater equipment we may need.
 - i. Mike wants to ensure it will be compatible with our current radio/bandwidth and wants assurance it won't make our current equipment obsolete / require us to invest further money in new radios.
- b. Ron shared that a \$5,700 donation was made. We've had enough donations to keep us rolling recently. Helpful as we approach getting a new water tender.
- c. Ron asked if we are still looking at requesting a CIB loan

11. Closed Session (if necessary): personnel matters, awards; recognition program, etc.

Adjourn: 7:10pm