

The following are the approved work meeting minutes of the Centerfield City Council, Gunnison City mayor and council and Commissioner Bennett. Meeting held March 18, 2026 in the Centerfield City Hall. Those in attendance; Mayor Travis Leatherwood, Ryan Smith, Jon Hansen, Sherry Frasier, Bart Hammond and Brittney Fisher. Mayor Mike Wanner, Councilmembers Stella Hill, Ron Peterson, Kim Pickett, Donald Childs.

Others in attendance: Lacey Belnap, Randi Hunt, Commissioner Mike Bennett, Gunnison Valley Police Department Chief Jason Adamson, Gunnison Valley Fire Department Assistant Chief Zack Jensen and Brenda Bartholomew CEO of Gunnison Valley Hospital. Gary Keddington is on a zoom call.

Meeting is being conducted by Mayor Travis Leatherwood
Meeting opened at 5:30 PM.

Presentation and discussion on Sanpete County Dispatch- Neil Johnson

The purpose of the meeting was to discuss funding challenges and proposed changes to the county's 911 dispatch system.

A county representative provided an overview of the current status of the 911 dispatch center:

- The dispatch budget has increased from approximately \$400,000 to \$857,000.
- Increased costs are due to:
 - State-mandated staffing requirements (minimum of two dispatchers on duty).
 - Expansion of services including 911 calls, text messaging, video calls, and school emergency monitoring systems.
- Additional statutory requirements have increased operational responsibilities.

The state requires all dispatch centers to adopt a new interoperable CAD system by 2029.

- The current system is non-compliant and must be replaced.
- Estimated costs include:
 - Software and licensing increases
 - Server infrastructure (~\$100,000)
 - Implementation and data migration costs
- The county indicated willingness to front initial costs to assist with transition

The county presented a proposal to:

- Distribute dispatch costs based on population
- Bill ambulance services and certain entities based on call volume
- Implement a 5-year phase-in:
 - Year 1: 20%
 - Year 2: 40%
 - Year 3: 60%
 - Year 4: 80%
 - Year 5: 100%
- Total proposed budget: approximately \$857,000

- Adjustments include:
 - Deduction of 911 surcharge revenue
 - Allocation of ambulance service costs (~\$99,000 total)
 - Snow College billing revised from population-based to call-based (~\$22,000)
- Remaining costs distributed among municipalities

City officials and stakeholders raised the following concerns:

Equity and Fairness

- Concern that municipalities would bear disproportionate costs
- Residents already contribute through county taxes, creating a perception of double payment

Impact on Local Services

- Ambulance and fire services operate at or near break-even
- Additional costs may strain already limited budgets

Administrative Challenges

- Population-based billing is difficult for cities to administer
- Cities typically bill residents per household or utility connection, not per individual

Unincorporated Areas

- Uncertainty regarding how costs will be collected from unincorporated areas
- Concern that cities may subsidize county resident

An alternative funding approach was proposed:

- Implement a county-wide property tax or line-item fee
- Spread costs evenly across all residents
- Estimated cost: approximately \$1 per resident per month
- Benefits identified:
 - More equitable distribution
 - Simplified administration
 - Shared responsibility among all service users

County representatives responded:

- State statute places responsibility for public safety services on municipalities
- The county has historically funded dispatch without a dedicated tax
- Concerns were expressed about:
 - Raising property taxes
 - Additional financial pressures (loss of revenue sources, staffing shortages)
- Failure to meet state requirements may result in:
 - State intervention or shutdown of the dispatch center

- Forced consolidation with other centers at significantly higher cost (estimated \$300,000+)
- Loss of local control and reduced service levels
- All parties agreed:
 - The 911 dispatch center is essential
 - Costs will continue to increase due to state mandates
 - A funding solution must be fair and sustainable
- County representatives will:
 - Present feedback to the full commission
 - Evaluate alternative funding options, including tax-based approaches
- Additional meetings will be scheduled with:
 - Commissioners
 - Mayors and city representatives
- Continued collaboration emphasized to reach a mutually acceptable solution.

Councilman Pickett from Gunnison made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Seconded by Councilman Childs from Gunnison. Carries 9-0. Meeting adjourned at 6:44 PM.

Lacey Belnap Lacey Belnap, City Recorder
Travis Leatherwood Travis Leatherwood, Mayor
April 15, 2026 Approval Date