

Moab Valley Fire Protection District Commission Meeting

45 South 100 East, Moab Utah 84532

Tuesday April 21, 2026- 4:00 p.m.

A. Call to Order:

1. The meeting was called to order by Chairman Archie Walker at 4:02 p.m.
2. Commissioners Present: Commissioner Archie Walker, Commissioner Jim McGann
3. Staff Present: Chief TJ Brewer, Battalion Chief Brandon McGuffee, Administrator Cathy Bonde, Mechanic Cody Thurlo, Wildland Engine Boss Terry Tilford, Wildland Seasonal and Engine Boss Trainee Savannah Smith.

B. Introduction of New Employees:

1. Chief Brewer briefly introduced Cody Greaves, Terry Tilford, and Savannah Smith. He informed commissioners there is an additional wildland seasonal who is not present. Terry Tilford and Savannah Smith each shared their experience with wildland firefighting.

Commissioner Walker asked Terry what he expects from the commission, and he stated support for the program and its needs.

Cody Greaves gave a brief overview of the need for repairs to equipment.

B. General Business:

1. Approval of Minutes – Commissioner Walker motioned to approve the minutes from the March 17, 2026 meeting. Commissioner McGann seconded, and the motion passed unanimously.
2. Citizens to Be Heard – None present.
3. Commission Member Disclosures – No disclosures were necessary at this meeting, although Commissioner Walker stated he has one son who works for the department and one son who volunteers for the department. Commissioner McGann stated his wife is a Grand County Commissioner.
4. Approval of Bills – Moved until later in the meeting.

C. Chief's Report:

1. We have new meeting room furniture thanks to a grant. We also are getting a pumpkin, some PPE, and a used chipper from grant funds.
2. We purchased a Polaris Ranger for responding to incidents further out in the county. It will also be available to respond to incidents outside of our jurisdiction as part of a REMS team. A Dodge pickup truck has been ordered to haul the UTV. The cost of the truck is just under \$60,000.00. We will also order an enclosed trailer and some loose equipment.

3. The REMS team is training at least once per month. There are about 20 people on the roster between Fire and EMS. Not all are certified yet.
4. We completed our ISO and are still hopeful we will get to a class 3. We had the same inspector as last time, and he was impressed with the improvements we have made.
5. The Junior Services Academy will be June 3rd and 4th. The age range is grades 5-7. Chief Brewer stated we would like to get into the middle school as we have been working with the high school through our intern program. We are also trying to create a fire department class. These things can benefit recruitment but are very time-consuming.
6. The remodel of living quarters at station 2 is complete.
7. Moab City has declined to sign the CWS. The city attorney said he thinks it is the fire department's responsibility and we believe it is the city's responsibility as it has been in the past. We are responsible for the operational fire suppression, not the insurance policy for the city. This issue is currently in the hands of the attorneys and their interpretation of the code. Commissioner McGann asked who our attorney is, and Chief Brewer stated we have an attorney we contract with when needed. Cathy added that the attorneys involved in the CWS disagreement are those of the city and state.
8. We met with the city to discuss fireworks. Ideally, the result will be designated places to set off fireworks.
9. We will have several engines at the car show for public relations purposes.
10. There is a multi-agency hoist training on Thursday in the river corridor. We have had several multi-agency trainings recently including a wildfire table top with the sloughs catching fire and teaching extrication to some EMS employees.
11. A wildland season forecast was presented. We are currently in green-up, but pinion and juniper are barely alive moisture wise. It is anticipated we will dry up toward the end of May, and June and July will be high fire risk. Discussion was had on limited water availability.
12. We have had a number of very bad incidents recently including fatalities. Discussion was had on providing mental health services and the possible future need to increase funding to provide resources and services.
13. Cody Greaves has asked to purchase a program that will help efficiently and effectively diagnose engine issues. Cody presented information on the program. Commissioner McGann stated he would like to get feedback from Commissioner Harrison. Both Commissioners McGann and Walker agreed to the purchase if Commissioner Harrison supports it. Chief Brewer will discuss the program purchase with Commissioner Harrison. The cost will come out of Capital.

D. Ongoing Business:

1. San Juan County Annexation – Chief Brewer stated there was some discrepancy in relation to ownership of the trucks San Juan County gave to us for use. We are working through that. We have put money into them for repairs and maintenance, but they remain insured by San Juan County. An annexation meeting has taken place, and the process is beginning to move forward.
2. REMS Team – Chief Brewer updated this item in the Chief's report.
3. Dispatch Fees – No change from the last meeting.
4. Impact Fees – Cathy stated we are still working with the county to put together the agreement for them to collect impact fees on our behalf. Both commissions need to pass it by mid-May.

E. Discussion and Potential Action Items:

1. Amending Fee Schedule to Include Impact Fees – Cathy presented an amended fee schedule that included the impact fees we recently held a public hearing on and approved. Commissioner Walker motioned to approve the amended fee schedule. Commissioner McGann seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.
2. URS Contribution Changes for 2026-2027 – Cathy presented a document outlining changes to URS contributions for the next governmental fiscal year. No changes are being made to Tier 1 Firefighters, but Tier 2 Firefighter contributions are increasing and Public Employee contributions are decreasing. The department currently covers the employee pick up for Tier 2 Firefighters and commissioners will need to decide if they want to pick up the additional amount. For public employees, the department currently contributes an equitable amount of the employees' required contribution to the employees' 401K. Cathy stated these increases are included in the approved 2026 budget as the changes had been proposed prior to the completion of our budgeting process. Commissioner McGann asked for the overall cost if the department were to pick up the increases. Cathy will email commissioners with that information, and a decision can be made at the May or June meeting. Commissioner McGann stated he will not be at the meeting. He is unavailable May 7th to the 20th. Commissioner Walker said he may not be available for the June meeting. Cathy stated we can move meetings if necessary.
3. Thompson Fire Station – Chief Brewer informed commissioners we have made a number of upgrades to the Thompson Fire Station. He intends to take some personnel to Thompson in the next couple of weeks to do some small repairs. There are also some bigger projects such as electrical issues.

Commissioner Walker asked about Thompson division and Captain Mark Marcum. Chief Brewer stated we continue to pay him as Captain. Chief Brewer has completed a job description for the position. The job description was given to Mark last week to review. The description clearly states it is a fire department position, not a fire department/EMS position. Chief Brewer provided further information on the job description and offered to share it with commissioners.

Discussion was had on water availability in Thompson.

4. Changes to Holiday and Vacation Policies – Chief Brewer informed commissioners of Utah State Code allowing employees to choose a state holy day as a holiday. Grand County has included “or any other day the employee chooses to recognize.” Chief Brewer said we still adhere to county policy for time off benefits. Further discussion was had on this policy.

E. Future Considerations:

1. Schedule Facilities Planning Session – Cathy stated that the majority of our impact fees go to facilities, and we need to make decisions on our future growth. Discussion was had on property at Station 2.

F. Approval of Bills:

1. Commissioner McGann asked about invoices from Curtis Tools. Cathy stated they were for annual maintenance of our Hurst tools, air compressor, and SCBAs. She added that we have overspent our budget line item for equipment repairs and maintenance. The budget line item was based on what we spent last year, and items were more expensive this year than last. Brandon added we have more Hurst tools this year than last year.
2. Commissioner McGann also asked about the check to the Grand Conservation District. Cathy stated it is for the purchase of the chipper we have been using for fuels mitigation. Of the \$32,000.00, we are only contributing \$2,000.00 because \$30,000.00 is covered by a state grant. Cathy added that when the chipper is used in relation to the CWDG grant, we charge the grant \$30.00 per hour of use, so we will see our investment returned to us.
3. Commissioner Walker made a motion to approve bills. Commissioner McGann seconded, and the motion passed unanimously.

I. Adjourn:

1. Chairman Walker adjourned the meeting at 5:13 p.m.

_____ **Date** _____

Archie Walker, Chairman

Attest: _____

Catherine Bonde, Clerk