

# Moab Valley Fire Protection District Commission Meeting

45 South 100 East, Moab Utah 84532

Thursday May 21, 2026- 4:00 p.m.

## A. Call to Order:

1. The meeting was called to order by Chairman Archie Walker at 4:00 p.m.
2. Commissioners Present: Commissioner Archie Walker, Commissioner Jim McGann, Commissioner Charlie Harrison
3. Staff Present: Chief TJ Brewer, Deputy Chief Chris Whetton, Battalion Chief Brandon McGuffee, Administrator Cathy Bonde

## B. General Business:

2. Approval of Minutes – Commissioner McGann motioned to approve minutes from the April 21, 2026 meeting. Commissioner Harrison seconded, and the motion passed unanimously.
3. Citizens to Be Heard – None present.
4. Commission Member Disclosures – Commissioner Walker stated he has two sons that are involved with the department. Commissioner McGann stated his wife is a Grand County commissioner.
5. Approval of Bills – Moved until later in the meeting.

## C. Chief's Report:

1. Chief Brewer introduced Chris Whetton as our new deputy chief.
2. Chief Brewer reported that strategic planning is moving forward. Staff is working on a SWOT analysis; strengths, weaknesses, opportunities, and threats; and he would like commissioners to also do a SWOT analysis. We also plan to go out into the community and collect information as to their expectations and needs. Strategic planning meetings are Thursdays at 8:30 a.m., and commissioners are welcome to attend.
3. We have posted for elections.
4. Chief Brewer gave an update on Engine 31, our BME engine. It is back up at the BME factory. They are re-engineering the front end to fix the problem. Commissioner McGann asked what the main issue was, and Chief Brewer said the front axel was underweight. There are also other issues. Issues have been ongoing since January.
5. Our annual picnic is Wednesday, May 27.
6. The Junior Emergency Services Academy takes place June 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup>. So far we have 12 kids signed up. Commissioners are welcome to stop in.

7. Chief Brewer showed commissioners the fire danger signs we received as part of a grant. They will be displayed at each station. Discussion was had on fire prevention and public outreach.
8. The Thompson division captain report was presented to commissioners. Chief Brewer said he would keep commissioners apprised of pertinent activity in relation to Thompson. Commissioner Walker said it would be valuable to be informed of incidents in the annexed areas. Conversation was had on equipment at the Thompson station.
9. Chief Brewer presented a wildland snapshot that was created by division chief Clark Maughan. 24 firefighters are red carded and another 3 need to do a pack test. Fire danger in our district is above average for this time of year with an increased chance of wildland fire in June and July. Fuels work is ongoing at the hospital property.
10. Chief Brewer informed commissioners that the chief's report going forward will have Deputy Chief Whetton give the operations report while Chief Brewer provides the administrative report. He turned the reporting over to Deputy Chief Whetton.
11. Deputy Chief Whetton reported the department currently has 46 members.
12. Year to date incidents are at 201.
13. There have been 37 incidents so far in May. E-bike fires have become more prevalent. Discussion was had on what causes e-bike fires.
14. Deputy Chief Whetton informed commissioners that the S-290 class, a wildland class, was recently completed and that staff member Ricky Hopkins is currently participating in an ENOP course.

#### **D. Ongoing Business:**

1. San Juan County Annexation – Chief Brewer stated we have met with San Juan County several times. Their administrator has left and we are now working with Commissioner Lori Maughan. We are working to get everyone with the same base understanding of the process and to ensure everyone has the information they need so we can move forward. Community outreach is going to be included so that the property owners in the proposed annexation area can be fully informed. We are meeting with San Juan County again on June 11<sup>th</sup>.

Commissioner McGann asked if we knew what the tax revenue would be with the annexation. Cathy stated the properties San Juan County had in their spreadsheet amounted to approximately the same amount that San Juan County currently pays us to provide the service. The spreadsheet was missing a number of properties, particularly those in Pack Creek, Wilson Arch, and Bridger Jack. Cathy has been working with Nate Pitts, San Juan County Deputy Assessor, in making adjustments to the spreadsheet. Discussion was had on future growth in northern San Juan County.

2. REMS Team – The UTV has been deployed twice. It would have been deployed again if we had a trailer for it. A trailer is on order. There will be a few more purchases in relation to the REMS Team.

## **E. Discussion and Potential Action Items:**

1. Renewal of ILA with Grand County to Collect impact Fees – Cathy reported the ILA was on the Grand County Commission’s agenda for this past Tuesday, but it was pulled from the agenda because the county attorney had not yet reviewed it. The ILA was given to the county attorney 3 weeks ago, and the previous agreement with Grand County in relation to collection of impact fees was given to the county over 3 months ago. Our impact fees go into effect May 24<sup>th</sup>. It is unclear if the county will begin collecting without the ILA approved or if we will lose revenue due to this delay.

Cathy gave two options in relation to the ILA. One is to approve the ILA based on the county attorney’s review and barring any substantive changes with the hope that Grand County will not make any substantive changes to the ILA upon their approval. The second option is to wait for Grand County to approve the ILA and wait until our next meeting to do the same. In the event Grand County will not collect impact fees for us until full approval of the ILA, that would mean that impact fee collection does not begin until mid-June. The district approving now with Grand County approving with no substantive changes at their early June meeting would speed up collection. Cathy added that the county administrator is conferring with the county attorney to get advice on providing us with written intent to collect impact fees prior to the final approval of the ILA. She also stated this agreement is virtually the same as our last agreement that had been run by an attorney.

If we approve today and the county approves with substantive changes, we would simply approve a new resolution at our next meeting.

Commissioner Walker asked for opinion, and Commissioner McGann asked what kind of changes might be made. Cathy said she could not think of any major changes that the county attorney would recommend. Impact fees are already set, all they are doing is agreeing to collect them for us in the same manner as they have in the past. Grand County planning and zoning already has the information they need to input into their software in order to collect the fees.

Commissioner McGann asked if the agreement can be retroactive to the date our impact fees go into effect. Cathy stated that ideally they will begin collecting on our behalf on May 24<sup>th</sup> regardless of the final approval of the ILA.

Chief Brewer stated we could have an emergency meeting if the county makes substantive changes to the agreement in order to pass a new resolution.

Commissioner McGann made a motion to approve Resolution 2026-002 adopting an interlocal agreement by and between Grand County and Moab Valley Fire Protection District authorizing Grand County to collect fire district development impact fees. Commission Harrison 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. The document included the cost analysis requested by Commissioner McGann at the last meeting. The first change is an increase in the Tier 2 Firefighter pick up from 4.73% to 5.98%. The second change is an increase in the employee contribution for Tier 2 Public from 0.81% to 1.30%. The district has no mechanism to pick up this amount, but commissioners have agreed in the past to contribute an equal amount to an employee’s 401(K). The amount required of the district to the Tier 2 Public employees has decreased, so even

with the increase in the employee contribution, the net contribution to Tier 2 Public employees decreases. For Tier 2 Firefighters the net amount is an increase. Annual cost to the department choosing the full pick up for Tier 2 Firefighters and the 401(K) contributions for Tier 2 Public is \$4,188.43. Cathy added that this increase was already calculated into the budget as the increase was proposed prior to our budget approval.

Commissioners were presented with a form that must be approved in order to implement the increased employer pick up for Tier 2 Firefighters. Commissioners agreed to the increased contributions for all Tier 2 employees. Commissioner McGann motioned to approve the URS form authorizing the employer election to pick up member contributions of 5.98%. Commissioner Harrison seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.

3. Equipment Procurement – Chief Brewer reported a committee was formed to evaluate our apparatus needs. The committee is being led by Deputy Chief Whetton. A rescue truck and a ladder truck are priorities. The rescue truck is aging and unable to carry the equipment we need for the types of calls we now get based on changes in vehicle anatomy and the kinds of dangers presented.

Chief Brewer stated that if we order a ladder truck today, we would not get it for 4 years. When we first began discussing a new ladder truck, they were around 1.3 million dollars. They are now 2.1 million dollars.

Chief Brewer asked the commissioners to give permission to purchase a rescue truck upon finding one that suits our needs. He would confer with the chair before executing a purchase.

Further discussion was had on a rescue truck. Chief Brewer added that in addition to the rescue and ladder truck, we are looking at the needs for a water tender, a type 6 engine, and future plans for a type 1 engine.

Commissioner McGann said it would be good for the commission to decide the amount of funding we should reserve for equipment purchases each year. Commissioner Walker agreed. Cathy stated that we added funds to our capital projects budget last year, and those are the funds we would draw on for the rescue truck.

After further discussion, the commissioners agreed to move forward with research on the purchase of a rescue truck. Chief Brewer stated he would update commissioners at the next meeting.

#### **E. Future Considerations:**

1. No discussion

#### **F. Approval of Bills:**

1. Commissioner McGann asked about an invoice for Siddons Martin. It was for the monitor on the ladder truck. Chief Brewer said the monitor got run into the tower.
2. Commissioner McGann made a motion to approve bills. Commissioner Harrison seconded, and the motion passed unanimously.

**I. Adjourn:**

1. Chairman Walker adjourned the meeting at 4:57 p.m.

\_\_\_\_\_ **Date** \_\_\_\_\_

**Archie Walker, Chairman**

**Attest:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Catherine Bonde, Clerk**

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