

Moab Valley Fire Protection District Commission Meeting

45 South 100 East, Moab Utah 84532

Tuesday June 16, 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, Administrator Cathy Bonde, Battalion Chief Brandon McGuffee
4. Others Present: Ryan Rasmussen of Smuin Rich & Marsing

B. Financial Audit Presentation:

1. Ryan Rasmussen of Smuin Rich & Marsing presented the district's 2025 financial audit. The District's net position increased \$782,688.00. Tax revenue increased due to annexation. The District is in good position based on cash on hand verses liabilities.

Charges for services saw an increase of \$440,342.00 from 2024 to 2025. This is primarily due to the wildland program. Public Safety expenses (primarily payroll) saw an increase of \$131,992.00 from 2024 to 2025.

Capital leases and assets increased due to equipment purchases.

Ryan Rasmussen went over the requirements that were tested for fiscal year 2025.

Commissioner McGann asked about assets and depreciation, and Ryan Rasmussen went over capital assets on page 33 of the audit report. Discussion was had on assets.

Chief Brewer asked what qualifies for the Work in Process line item, and Ryan explained it is usually for projects that are multi-year such as the building of a new station.

Commissioners and staff thanked Ryan for the work on the audit and the presentation.

B. General Business:

1. Approval of Minutes – Commissioner Harrison motioned to approve minutes from the May 21, 2026 meeting. Commissioner McGann seconded, and the motion passed unanimously.
2. Citizens to Be Heard – None present.
3. 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.

4. Approval of Bills – Commissioner McGann motioned to approve bills. Commissioner Harrison seconded, and the motion passed unanimously.

C. Chief's Report:

1. Chief Brewer welcomed commissioners to participate in a SWOT analysis and to talk with him if anyone wants more information on it.
2. E-131 is fixed. It is now at Siddons-Martin, and they have found a few issues that need attention. They are taking care of the issues and we should have it back Thursday.
3. The Junior Emergency Services Academy was held. We only had 9 participants due to an illness that prevented some from attending.
4. Fire danger signs have been put up. There is still one needing to be installed.
5. Property to the south is in closing, so it is no longer an option for us.
6. We will be heavily involved in the county fair including engines at the fair and participating in the parade.
7. We will host a BBQ at Station 1 on the 4th of July to feed the crews that will be on standby. Commissioners were invited to attend.
8. The county passed the impact fee ILA. They started collecting fees the day they went into effect.
9. The declaration of candidacy has closed for Moab Fire Department commissioner election. Charlie Harrison was the only person that submitted intent to run.
10. A meeting is scheduled with the Lower Valley Fire Chief next week. Chief Brewer said Lower Valley has been very busy in Grand County this year.
11. Commissioner Walker asked how our firefighters are dealing with some difficult incidents. Chief Brewer stated Deputy Chief Whetton and firefighter Andrea Noyes have been working to make mental health resource options readily available to firefighters. Chief Brewer said people are doing fairly well, all things considered.
12. Commissioner Walker asked about the City and Station 2. Chief Brewer said the relationship with the City has grown immensely.
13. Deputy Chief Whetton reported the department currently has 46 members.
14. Year-to-date incidents are at 244, with 58 calls since our last meeting. Significant calls include the wildland fire that turned into a house fire on Highland Drive, an RV roll over in Arches, two back-to-back UTV fires, three large fires on I-70 that Lower Valley handled, and another 40-acre fire at Westwater where we placed an engine overnight.
15. Recent and upcoming trainings include hose deployment, a swift water class, and next month UFRA will be here with a pump simulator.

16. Chief Brewer informed commissioners that Deputy Chief Whetton has done a deep dive into our ESO program, and he can pull a large variety of stats. Chief Brewer added that our record keeping has vastly improved due to Deputy Chief Whetton.
17. Deputy Chief Whetton said he has been researching comparables in terms of call volume. One comparison was with a department in Avon, North Carolina that runs primarily fire calls. Their population is 80,000, bigger than ours, and they have 6 stations and are building a 7th. The stations are fully staffed with a total of 36 people on every day. They run about 5,000 calls per year, and divided by their 7 stations, they are running 1.8 calls per fully staffed station per day. We are currently running 2.8 calls per day from our single staffed station.

D. Ongoing Business:

1. San Juan County Annexation – Chief Brewer stated we are looking at a piece of property off of Spanish Valley Drive near Old Airport Road as station potential. We have an open house on June 29th at 6:00 p.m., and we have another upcoming meeting with San Juan County. Everyone seems to be in agreement in relation to annexation.

Chief Brewer met with the Fire Chief of La Sal, and he is excited about working together. Some misinformation was clarified.

Cathy stated that in the end of July we will need to pass a resolution of intent to annex. Once we do that, remaining steps all have a particular timeline that we need to hit. The resolution will set our district's public hearing. San Juan County also has to hold a public hearing.

Commissioner McGann asked about the tax revenue generated from annexation. Chief Brewer stated we still do not have all parcels included in the list we are working with. Revenue will be more than our current MOU.
2. REMS Team – Chief Brewer said most purchases have been made, and he said this agenda line item could be removed for now. He can report back in the Chief's report when we are ready to put the team into service.
3. Equipment Procurement – Chief Brewer stated we have purchased a rescue truck and box. We should have the truck soon. We also purchased a new Type 6 engine that will be ready next year. We will not need to pay for it until it is done.

We are spec'ing out a ladder truck. It will be about \$2,000,000.00. Cathy stated payments would be between \$75,000.00 and \$100,000.00 per year. Chief Brewer stated CIB may be a good option. CIB is not doing much for grants anymore, but they are doing low interest loan. The build timeframe is 3-4 years.

E. Discussion and Potential Action Items:

1. ILA with the City of Moab for Fire Protection Services – Chief Brewer stated the ILA came about because the City needed to sign their CWS with the State, they felt they needed something with us in writing as to fire protection, even though they are within our district. Cathy stated the commissioners have a resolution that must be approved in

relation to the ILA. She also stated that state code requires attorney review of an ILA by each party. Since we have not yet had attorney review, Cathy recommended a motion approving the resolution pending no substantives changes upon attorney review. The City will vote on the ILA on June 23rd. The ILA does not change our current obligation to members of our district.

Commissioner Walker motioned to approve Resolution 2026-003 pending no substantive changes upon attorney review. Commissioner McGann seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.

2. Approval of 2026 Certified Tax Rate – Cathy presented commissioners with information on the 2026 certified tax rate. New growth was unexpectedly large at \$134,943. The district will see that amount as additional tax revenue that we did not originally budget for. It will be reflected in our amended budget. The certified tax rate for 2026 is .000402. Commissioner Harrison made a motion to approve Form PT-693 certifying the district's 2026 tax rate. Commissioner McGann seconded, and the motion passed unanimously. Cathy added the .000402 tax rate that will be publicized in relation to annexation of portions of northern San Juan County. The tax rate is consistent within our entire district.

E. Future Considerations:

1. Discussion was had on current staffing levels and needs.
2. Discussion was had on Station 2 and renewing the lease.

I. Adjourn:

1. Chairman Walker adjourned the meeting at 5:02 p.m.

Date _____

Archie Walker, Chairman

Attest: _____

Catherine Bonde, Clerk