



UTSSD BOARD MEETING / PUBLIC HEARING

September 22, 2026 - Starting at 7 p.m.

Uintah County Large Conference Room

152 E 100 N, Vernal, UT 84078

Board Meeting Minutes

Board Members Present: Willis LeFevre, Shawn Labrum, Bob Leake, Mark Raymond

Board Member Absent: Ryan Cook

Also Present: Bart Jensen, Scott Hardman, Kynzlee Murray, Nicole Murray

Attending Virtually: Larry Montoya, Justin Beddoes

Opening

Prayer: Bart Jensen

Pledge of Allegiance: All

1. Approval of August 11, 2026 Meeting Minutes

Bob Leake made a motion to approve the meeting minutes from August 11, 2026. Mark Raymond seconded the motion. Motion carried with all in favor.

2. Approval of August 2026 Expenditures

Nicole Murray reviewed the August 2026 expenditures and provided an update on the mineral lease allocations for the previous quarter.

Shawn Labrum made a motion to approve the August 2026 expenditures. Bob Leake seconded the motion. Motion carried with all in favor.

3. Establish Standard Timeframe for Public Notices

The Board discussed establishing a standard timeframe for public hearing notices. The Board agreed that 10 days' notice will be the standard timeframe for UTSSD public hearings.

Willis LeFevre made a motion to approve the 10-day notice timeframe. Mark Raymond seconded the motion. Motion carried with all in favor.

4. Public Hearing – Independence Road Phase II West Area Road Improvements Project

Willis LeFevre made a motion to adjourn the regular meeting and enter into a public hearing. Bob Leake seconded the motion. Motion carried with all in favor.

The public hearing was held to discuss the application to the Permanent Community Impact Board (CIB) for funding for the proposed Independence Road Phase II West Area Road Improvements Project.

The proposed project would reconstruct approximately 6.5 miles of roadway, including:

- 1500 East from 3000 South to 5000 South;
- 3750 South;
- 4500 East; and
- 4000 South from 1500 East to 5500 East.

The project is generally located in the Independence area of Uintah County. The proposed CIB funding application is for \$18,000,000.

Public Comment:

Bart Jensen spoke on behalf of the public. He raised several questions regarding the project, including whether there had been any changes to the application that would affect the project scope or the funding amount, can and how will the District would pay for the project if a portion of the funding provided is a loan rather than a grant, and whether the project could be phased if CIB funding was not available for the full amount.

Willis LeFevre stated that CIB has discussed potentially setting a funding cap of approximately \$10,000,000 per project. He agreed that the project could be phased into four or five phases if necessary. He also stated that the District could not take on a 30% loan on a project of this size and that the District should consider smaller projects, or two smaller projects, while working to reduce its existing debt.

Mark Raymond made a motion to close the public hearing and return to regular session. Bob Leake seconded the motion. Motion carried with all in favor.

5. Independence Road Phase II – Project Manager

Mark Raymond stated that the Redwash Road project is nearly complete and that he was involved with Phase I of the Independence Road project. He expressed interest in serving as the project manager for Phase II.

The Board agreed that Mark Raymond would serve as project manager for Independence Road Phase II.

6. 500 North Project

Justin Beddoes provided an update on the 500 North Project.

A property owners meeting is scheduled for September 23 from 5:00–7:00 p.m. Board members Bob Leake and Mark Raymond will attend the meeting. It was noted that there will not be a quorum of the Board present.

Justin also provided an update regarding Ute ladies'-tresses and the District's coordination with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. The District is still waiting for their review and is working with UDOT to submit the required reports. The review may be handled informally or formally, depending on the time available for the agencies to respond. If an informal review is completed, an answer is expected in approximately 30 days.

The Board also discussed the project design and the existing 66-foot right-of-way in relation to property fence lines. Most of the right-of-way is located within the existing fence lines; however, there are a few areas where it is not.

The Board discussed the historic corrals located within the project area. Because the corrals are historic and the project is utilizing federal Joint Highway funds, the project cannot disturb or impact the historic corrals. The project can proceed without disturbing the corrals. The road could still be widened, with the additional width generally shifted to the south rather than the north where necessary.

Larry Montoya added that if any property owners oppose the proposed right-of-way, the District could remain within the existing prescriptive right-of-way without changing the scope of the project. The Board discussed the preference to clear up the right-of-way issues where possible, but noted that the project could still proceed within the existing fence lines if necessary.

7. Redwash Road Project

Bart Jensen provided an update on the Redwash Road Project and shared drone photographs showing the current condition of the project.

The project is nearly complete. Some riprap was washed out during a recent significant storm, and crews are continuing to work on that section. The culverts are functioning well. There are some areas where sediment has accumulated and been blocked off, and the project team is working with property owners to address their concerns.

Bart Jensen noted that a significant amount of water came through the area in a short period of time. The remaining work is primarily related to the waterline portion of the project, after which the District will be able to close out the remaining contracts.

8. Independence Road

Bart reported that the project team recently toured the Independence Road area and is reviewing several options for the project.

The Board discussed the possibility of placing restrictions on the road to limit large truck traffic. Shawn Labrum met with a local landowner to discuss the possibility of rerouting the entrance used by sand-hauling trucks.

The Board discussed that there are several potential options and that additional details and discussions are needed. The District is continuing to gather information before determining the best approach.

9. 7500 East

Shawn Labrum reported that the 7500 East Project is nearly complete.

10. Ashley Creek Bridge

Bob Leake provided an update on the Ashley Creek Bridge project and reported that the project kickoff meeting had been held.

Bob noted that fitting a 100-foot bridge at the current location will be challenging because there is a driveway on both sides of the bridge and very limited space available. The existing bridge was constructed in 1984, and the project is being considered due to deterioration of the bridge beams.

The hydrology and design requirements will be an important consideration as the project moves forward.

11. Manager Updates

Nicole Murray provided an update on the recent CIB meeting. UTSSD was awarded \$1,050,000 in grant funding and \$1,950,000 in loan funding at 0.50% interest for the 500 North Project.

Nicole noted that the award was less favorable than the minimum loan-to-grant ratio the District had originally requested. The Board discussed the funding ratio and expressed concern about the amount of debt the District is taking on.

The Board discussed returning to CIB to request reconsideration of the funding terms. Nicole agreed to attend and present the request. Willis LeFevre suggested that Ryan Cook also attend and continue the work he began with the previous CIB presentation, noting that Ryan had done very well during the previous presentation.

Nicole also provided updates regarding upcoming training and conferences. She plans to attend the UAPA Fall Asphalt Conference in Price, GRAMA training in Salt Lake City, and a grant writing course.

The Board was reminded that all Board members need to complete the required Special District Board Member training.

12. Adjournment

Mark Raymond made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Willis LeFevre seconded the motion.

Meeting adjourned.

Board Members	Contact Information	Project Assignment
Shawn Labrum - Chairman	shawnlabrum@utssd.utah.gov	Independence Rd
Bob Leake - Co-Chairman	bobleake@utssd.utah.gov	7500 East Ashley Creek Bridge
Ryan Cook - Treasurer	ryancook@utssd.utah.gov	500 North
Willis LeFevre	wleFevre@uintah.utah.gov	
Mark Raymond	markraymond@utssd.utah.gov	Redwash Road
Website - https://utssd.utah.gov/		

Special Accommodations In accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, individuals needing special accommodations during this meeting should notify Nicole Murray 24 hours in advance at (435)828-8407. I certify that a copy of this notice was posted at least 24 hours prior to meeting time and notification given to the Utah Public Notice Website pursuant to UCA 52-4-202.