



WASATCH COUNTY FIRE PROTECTION SPECIAL SERVICE DISTRICT

FIREBOARD MEETING MINUTES

Tuesday, September 8, 2026 • 3:30 PM MST

25 N Main Street
Heber City, Utah 84032

Councilmembers in Attendance: Mark Nelson, Erik Rowland, Colleen Bonner, Kendall Crittenden (arrived at 3.40 pm), Luke Searle, Michael Murphy (online), and Fire Board Chair Spencer Park.

Absent: None.

Staff Present: Chief Eric Hales, Clair Provost, Assistant Chief / Director of EMS, Jason Provost, Assistant Chief / Operations; Clint Neerings, Assistant Chief/ Fire Marshal; Troy Morgan, Battalion Chief / Fire Warden; Sarah Kodric, Administration; Kierstan Smith, CPA.

Staff Absent: None.

CALL TO ORDER

Chair Park called the Wasatch County Fire Protection Special Service District Board Meeting to order on Tuesday, September 8, 2026, at 3:30 pm.

APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES

Chair Park reported that the first item on the agenda was to approve the meeting minutes from August 11, 2026.

A motion was made by Councilmember Mark Nelson to approve August 11, meeting minutes as presented. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Erik Rowland and passed unanimously, 5-0.

APPROVAL OF WARRANTS

The August warrants totaled \$2,021,151.92.

A motion was made by Councilmember Colleen Bonner to approve the August warrants in the amount of \$2,021,151.92 as presented. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Luke Searle and passed unanimously.

CHIEF'S REPORT

Chief Hales provided updates regarding the District's capital projects, hiring, and operations.

Station 56

Chief Hales reported that construction of Station 56 in Hideout continues to progress, with a final walkthrough of the living quarters, station, and dorm areas scheduled for the week of September 14. The District has received the necessary permit for occupancy, which is tentatively anticipated for October 15, 2026. The District will address required acceleration and deceleration lanes associated with UDOT requirements in 2027 or 2028.

District personnel completed the final inspection of the new engine at the manufacturer's facility in Wisconsin. The engine is expected to arrive within approximately one month. Personnel also viewed the District's new ladder truck while in Wisconsin, with a final inspection anticipated for late November.

The District received the building permit for the new training tower, and Hogan Construction is expected to begin mobilization and construction the following week.

Victory Ranch Station

Chief Hales reported that Victory Ranch has offered a parcel of property on Rock Creek Road for the proposed fire station. Survey and geotechnical work are scheduled to determine whether the property is suitable for construction. The District has also met with the Jordanelle Special Service District regarding available water, power, and sewer utilities near the intersection of Highway 32 and Rock Creek Road.

The District previously considered an adjacent property but determined that pursuing the Victory Ranch parcel would be a better option. If the site is determined to be feasible, the District will begin discussions regarding financing and potential bonding for the project, which is currently anticipated for occupancy in 2028. The Board requested that future discussions include an overview of the District's next several potential capital projects and anticipated timelines.

Fire Investigations

Assistant Chief/Fire Marshal Clint Neerings provided updates regarding several recent fire investigations.

On July 24, 2026, crew responded to a fire at a cabinet shop in Heber City. Crews were able to protect most of the owner's equipment and prevent significant damage. The investigation identified a lighting fixture as the likely area of origin. The fixture had been positioned downward, and weathering, heat, and wind contributed to the ignition.

On August 7, 2026, crews responded to the Sky Ridge Fire at a home under construction. The fire remains under investigation. Potential ignition sources include welding, smoking, and a lithium-ion battery from an impact driver used by the construction crew. The District is working with an insurance investigator and an electrical engineer to determine whether the battery contributed to the fire. The fire spread rapidly through the unfinished structure, but crews successfully prevented it from spreading to approximately 19 nearby homes and the surrounding wildland area.

On August 17, 2026, crews responded to an RV fire in Wellsburg. The fire remains under investigation. Possible causes include an electrical issue, and crews submitted samples to the state crime laboratory for further analysis.

DIVISION UPDATES

Fire prevention / Wildland

Troy Morgan, Battalion Chief / Fire Warden, provided an update on the 2026 wildfire season. So far, the District has responded to 13 confirmed wildfires affecting about 166 acres. The largest incident was the Buck Basin Fire east of Heber, burning roughly 154 acres, followed by a 15-acre fire near Current Creek.

The District also responded to 11 smoke reports that were either false alarms or could not be located.

The District deployed an engine to the Rocky Canyon Fire for night operations and structure protection. On-duty crews also assisted with structure protection for approximately five days while the fire threatened the town of Henefer. District personnel also participated in statewide wildfire assignments, including the White Mouth Fire and Rocky Canyon Fire.

The District's chipping crew chipped more than 200 piles during the year and participated in multiple community events. Personnel also mapped and serviced more than 500 fire hydrants and assisted with the Buck Basin Fire.

Through grant funding, the District has begun fuel mitigation work in Wasatch Mountain State Park. Work includes thinning vegetation around communities and along Pine Canyon Road. The District is piling the material for future winter burning.

The District also received a new chipper through the grant program. The District will maintain and house the equipment and will make it available to the State for project work when needed.

Staff explained that the chipping program primarily serves properties within the wildland-urban interface. Residents participating in the program must follow requirements regarding the size and type of material placed for chipping and may not place chipped material next to structures.

Wasatch County rescinded fire restrictions effective September 5, 2026. Staff noted that Midway City continues to maintain separate fire restrictions.

Operations / Training

Assistant Chief/ Operations, Jason Provost provided an overview of department growth and training. Over the past five years, the District has increased staffing from approximately eight personnel per shift to 22 personnel per shift.

As the organization has grown, the District has placed greater emphasis on leadership development and training.

Training staff continues to provide rigorous training covering fire suppression, prevention, mental health, and other responsibilities necessary to prepare personnel to perform their duties safely.

Staff also reported increased coordination with surrounding counties to align emergency response plans and assignments. The District is working with neighboring agencies to improve mutual response and coordination across jurisdictional boundaries.

EMS / Special Events / Community Education

Chief Provost provided an update regarding EMS operations, community events, outreach, and grant opportunities.

The District has provided EMS coverage for 47 event days during the year, including sporting events, rodeos, races, film productions, and other community events. Event coverage is billed back to the organizations receiving the service to maintain a net-zero cost to the District.

The District continues to expand its community education efforts, including hands-only CPR training. Staff has begun taking training directly to community groups rather than relying solely on residents to attend scheduled classes. A recent class had approximately 57 participants, with additional community classes scheduled.

Staff reported that the District is applying for grants through the State Bureau of EMS for rural EMS programs. Potential projects include electronic access systems for gated communities, community paramedicine, quick-response vehicles, CAD-to-CAD communications, and development of the District's paramedic and critical-care programs.

The grant program is a five-year program intended to provide funding for rural EMS agencies. Staff also provided an update on the District's mental health and peer-support programs. The District maintains a peer-support team across its three shifts and recently added three female members to provide additional peer-support options for personnel.

OTHER

Chief Hales invited Board members to attend the District's Gala (annual awards and appreciation banquet) scheduled for September 26, 2026, at the Grand Hyatt.

CLOSED SESSION

None.

ADJOURN MEETING

A motion was made by Councilmember Luke Searle to adjourn the meeting. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Colleen Bonner and passed unanimously.

The meeting adjourned at approximately 4:08 pm.