GRAND COUNTY COMMISSION
REGULAR MEETING

Grand County Commission Chambers
Hybrid virtual participation on Zoom
Moab, Utah

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MINUTES
15 September 2026

The Grand County Commission met in a regular meeting on September 15th, 2026. The meeting was held in-person in the Grand County Commission Chambers, with hybrid virtual participation also available via Zoom. It was also broadcast and saved on YouTube. Attending the meeting in-person were Commission Chair Melodie McCandless, Commission Vice-Chair Bill Winfield, and Commissioners Jacques Hadler, Mary McGann and Mike McCurdy. Also attending in-person were Commission Administrator Mark Tyner and Associate Commission Administrator Quinn Hall. Commissioners Brian Martinez and Trisha Hedin were in attendance virtually.

3:04 p.m. Presentations: PILT, Mineral Lease, and Healthcare Tax funding requests from Special Service Districts

Solid Waste SSD
Chris Scoville described PTIF contributions and rate increases and other actions being taken which are designed to shore up the solid waste district finances. Request involves a continuation of the historical allocation of mineral lease funds (10% UDOF and 35% DWS). Scoville described the district's funding gap and the strategies it needs to meet its long-term capital needs.

Moab Valley Fire Protection District, Grand County EMS, Grand County Healthcare SSD
Entities proposed the previously agreed upon evolution of the allocation split of the sales tax that increased from 0.5% to 1.0% in 2026, which hadn't previously included the Fire District.

Castle Valley Fire Protection District
Maggie Peikon described current capital needs of the Castle Valley Fire Protection District, which described itself as part of Grand County's greater fire protection network, made up entirely of volunteers, which is often the first responder to incidents in the Castle Valley area. Brief description given of the district's financial position, which includes no annual debt obligations.

Grand County School District
GCSD Business Manager Jeri Hamilton gave an overview of the District's uses of PILT and Mineral Lease monies, including the graduation of 27 students from the preschool program, with facilities and staff that relies on those funding allocations.

Grand County Recreation SSD
Commissioner McCurdy explained that the request remains the same as the previous year.

Chair McCandless called the regular meeting to order at 4: p.m.

Pledge of Allegiance

Department Reports

Grand County Noxious Weeds Department (Weeds Control Supervisor Elizabeth Weimholt)
Weimholt provided her department's annual report, including general information and background on noxious weeds (non-native invasive), department structure, funding streams, Community Wildfire Defense Grant, partnerships, education, and outreach efforts, weed treatments, river projects,

Old Spanish Trail Arena (OSTA Director Angie Book)
Book gave the 2026 OSTA report, including an overview of OSTA events, with 14 quick turnover (back-to-back) events this year requiring considerable demands for setup and break down in odd hours, and a number of other extraordinary demands which are taxing on staff. Book described regular general facility tasks and associated demands on staffing, different facility remodel projects being undertaken, pickleball court and playground construction status, Archery Range construction, 2025 revenue summary, current capital equipment and facility needs

Public Hearings

1. Public Hearing: Hearing to amend the Grand County Consolidated Fee Schedule

Presentation
Quinn Hall explained that the only fees proposed to be changed were related to the Airport and Administration/HR fees, as displayed in the draft amendment in the agenda packet.

Chair McCandless opened the public hearing, to remain open until 5 p.m. on Wednesday, September 23.

(no public comment received at this time)

General Business - Action Items, Discussion and Consideration of:

2. Commission member disclosures and future considerations

Commissioner McCurdy disclosed that his wife is an employee at the Grand County Sheriff's Office and added that Grand County has been presented a copy of the United States Declaration of Independence by the America 250 Commission. Commissioner McGann disclosed that her husband is on the Moab Valley Fire Protection District board.

3. Approval of Consent Agenda Items

A. Approval of meeting minutes for September 1, 2026
B. Ratification of Payment of Bills
C. Approval Of Property Tax Refunds
D. Annual Promulgation of Emergency Operations Plan
E. Position Requests - GCATT Seasonal Trails Technician & GCSO Deputy
F. Print Moab Office of Tourism Travel Planners
G. Approval Of Taylor Fence Quote & Independent Contract Agreement for the Fencing

Installation In the Old Spanish Trail Arena Archery Range Project.
H. Request To Shift Project from Crescent Junction to Thompson Springs (Asphalt
I. Rehabilitation And Armor Coat Project)

Motion by Commissioner Winfield to approve the Consent Agenda, as read by the Chair

Motion Seconded by Commissioner McCurdy

Discussion (none at this time)

Motion passes 7-0

Chair McCandless moved agenda Item 5 up, to be heard at this time

4. Facilities and Maintenance Department Truck Trade-In (Associate Administrator Quinn Hall)

Presentation
Hall explained that the Facilities Truck has reached the point where we get maximum value out of it by trading it in now. New deliveries are 4-6 months out. The current payment is ~600/mo, and the new one will be ~900/mo until the existing one gets sold. Once it gets sold, the payment will come down and should be back in budget. The reason for coming to the commission is to make sure the commission is aware the payment will likely be higher than 2026's budget for a few months.

Motion by Commissioner Hadler to authorize the trade in of the facilities maintenance truck - replacing it with a new one.

Motion seconded by Commissioner McCurdy

Discussion
Martinez asked what would happen if it did not sell, Hall explained that this has never happened and doesn't appear to be a concern.

Motion passes 7-0

5. 2027 Commercial Appraisal Bid Award (Assessor Debbie Swasey)

Presentation
This was a result of the RFQ published on the Grand County website and also on the Bonfire website. This RFQ was put out to bid for the 2027 Commercial property appraisal reviews, audits and new growth. The county received two bids. The first from The Appraiser's Inc of Provo, Utah and the second from Salmon Appraisals Mapleton, Utah. After a committee review of the bids and the scope of work it was determined that the bid should be awarded to The Appraiser's Inc of Provo, Utah. Bids were made available in the agenda packet.

Motion by Commissioner McCurdy to award the bid to The Appraisers, Inc. for 2027 Commercial Property Appraisals

Motion seconded by Commissioner Hadler

Discussion

Commissioner Hedin confirmed that this would be included in the draft budget. Commissioner Martinez asked whether the bid was appropriately advertised in order to receive more bids.

Motion passes 7-0

6. Capital Priorities and Long-Range Capital Plan (Finance Director Chantel Lindsay)

Presentation
Lindsay explained that the Long-Range Capital Plan has been updated to incorporate current department capital needs and additional projects identified by departments. The highlighted lines identify the new capital project additions and updates included in the revised plan.

Regularly review and updates of the Long-Range Capital Plan is important to ensure the County has a clear understanding of its future capital needs and financial commitments. The plan provides a framework for prioritizing projects, evaluating the timing and funding of future expenditures, and incorporating anticipated capital costs into long-term financial planning and budgeting.

As part of the 2027 budget process, the Commission will have an opportunity to review and establish priorities for the upcoming year, including determining which capital projects should be prioritized for 2027 and how those projects align with available funding and the County's overall financial capacity. This review will also help provide direction for future-year projects and ensure capital planning remains consistent with the County's long-term financial goals.

Lindsay described the need for immediate approval of an herbicide storage shed for the Weeds Department. Commissioner Hedin expressed that capital needs of the Weeds Department have long been ignored. Clerk/Auditor Woytek asked for quotes due diligence be followed as per procurement policy. Commissioner McCandless expressed that this had not been on the list, but as with other recent capital purchases, unplanned expenses do come up. Discussion was made regarding proposed General Plan updates that are on the list. Commissioner Martinez expressed that he had reviewed past capital project lists, and that most recent capital purchases had associated grant matches.

Motion by Commissioner McCurdy to instruct staff to continue refining the capital project list for future consideration of projects to be approved, and move forward with approval for the storage shed for the Weeds Department

Motion seconded by Commissioner Hadler

Discussion (none at this time)

Motion passes 7-0

Citizens to be Heard

Local resident and Arches shuttle driver Austin Bridges spoke regarding his experience regarding the shuttle pilot thus far. Bridges stated that he felt that it should be a public utility. Bridges stated that there were many arbitrary stops on the shuttle line.

Pete Gross spoke in opposition to the local costs associated with the Arches Shuttle pilot system. Gross added comments encouraging lower vehicle noise on area roads.

Saina Carey spoke in support of the Arches Shuttle pilot system due to demands on parking inside of the National Park.

Allyson Mathis spoke in opposition to the local costs associated with the Arches Shuttle pilot system, and explained that she felt that she was subject to unconstitutional censorship at the previous Commission meeting.

Dwight Johnston spoke in support of the Arches Shuttle pilot system

7. **Assessment of Administrative Fees in the 2027 Grand County Budget** (Commission Administration)

Presentation
As part of the 2027 budget process, the Clerk Auditor's Office requests direction from the Commission regarding the assessment of administrative fees charged to non-General Fund departments for administrative services provided by General Fund departments.

The current methodology is based on the total General Fund budget divided by countywide FTEs, and results in an actual calculated cost of approximately $8.18 per employee per hour in administrative costs.

For the 2026 budget, the Commission elected to assess the administrative fee to non-General Fund departments at a rate of $4.00 per employee per hour, with the intent of revisiting this rate for the 2027 budget year. The Clerk/Auditor's Office proposes an increase to $5.00 per employee per hour to be entered into the 2027 Tentative Budget, in order to continue a gradual increase towards the actual cost calculated.

Motion by Commissioner Winfield to approve the assessment of administrative fees in the 2027 Grand County budget to $5.00 per employee per hour

Motion seconded by Commissioner Hadler

Discussion
Lindsay explained that final budget impacts of this action would not be known until the County's tentative budget was completed. Commissioner Martinez asked for a comparison of what other Counties charge for Administrative Fees.

Motion passes 6-0, McCurdy absent

8. **Reclassification of Castle Valley Library Assistant** (Library Director Carrie Valdez)

Presentation
The library's organizational chart consists of (1) Director > (1) Assistant Director > (2) Heads of Service > (5) Library Assistants > (9) Library Clerks.

Currently, all Library Assistant positions are full-time except for the Castle Valley Library Assistant position. This request is to reclassify the Castle Valley Assistant position to full-time by using its existing part-time hours plus an additional 29 hours/week from the part-time pool currently allocated to Clerks.

Ideally, the position will work two days a week in Castle Valley for half of their 12pm-8pm shift. The remaining half of the shift, along with the other three days per week, will be at the Moab Library.

This reclassification will stabilize two issues the library currently faces: uncertain staffing at the Castle Valley Library and a lack of senior staff coverage at the Moab Library after 5pm.

This request minimally impacts the library budget because it uses budgeted part-time hours without adding new hours.

Motion by Commissioner Martinez to approve the reclassification of the part-time Castle Valley Library Assistant and 29 hours/week from the part-time pool to a full-time Library Assistant, benefited position, effective 09/15/2026.

Motion seconded by Commissioner Hadler

Discussion (none at this time)

Motion passes 7-0

9. Paved path maintenance project on the Arches bike path from Fund 47 (Cody McKinney, Roads Department)

Presentation
Amanda McIntosh and Elizabeth Wright gave a presentation detailing local behavioral health stats, upcoming awareness walks, and crisis intervention resources in Southeastern Utah.

Motion by Commissioner Hadler to approve bike path maintenance in 2026/2027 from Fund 47 and direct staff to prepare and advertise a Request for Proposals.

Motion seconded by Commissioner Winfield

Discussion (none at this time)

Motion passes 7-0

10. Consideration of a six-month extension for ABC Thompson Grant (Commissioner McCurdy)

Presentation
Applicant is requesting a six-month extension of the grant contract. The applicant explained the nature of the continued delays on the effort to open a café in Thompson Springs.

Motion by Commissioner Winfield to approve a six-month extension for the ABC Thompson Grant Contract

Motion Seconded by Commissioner McGann

Discussion
The grantee confirmed that their intention would be to open the café at the conclusion of the currently contemplated extension.

Motion passes 7-0

11. Allocation of 2027-2028 PILT funding (Chair McCandless)

Presentation
Chair McCandless explained that action items 11 and 12 would be considered together. McCandless gave an overview of 2026 allocations made according to Utah Code: 59-21-2. EMS SSD is declining this allocation moving forward due to the increase in the Healthcare Sales Tax, so McCandless proposed allocating those into the County General Fund, with the remaining allocation directed 30% to the Recreation SSD 20% directed to the Grand County School District. McCandless proposed maintaining the Mineral Lease allocations to be identical to 2026.

Motion by Commissioner Hadler to approve the resolution allocating the UDOF-appropriated mineral lease funds, the DWS-Appropriated Mineral Lease funds and the State PILT funds as stated by the Chair.

Motion seconded by Commissioner McCurdy

Discussion (none at this time)

Motion passes 7-0

12. Allocation of 2027 Mineral Lease Funds (combined with action item 11)

13. Allocation of 2027 Healthcare Tax Funds (Chair McCandless)

Presentation
The Commission will allocate the Rural Healthcare tax funds received in 2027 per Utah Code 59-12-8 802

Motion by Commissioner Winfield to approve the Resolution allocating the Rural Healthcare tax received in 2027 as follows: 31% to the Canyonlands Healthcare SSD, 48% to the Grand County Emergency Medical Services SSD and 21% to the Moab Valley Fire Protection District.

Motion seconded by Commissioner McCurdy

Discussion (none at this time)

Motion passes 7-0

14. $300,000.00 Brand Amplification with Madden Media (MOT Director Mick Soleta)

Presentation
Moab Office of Tourism should consider ways to reduce the reserve budget by at least $250,000 by year-end in order to avoid reserve balance limits. We propose to place our new anthem video as a commercial across three television tactics, and to engage additional content creators on social media to further amplify our brand rollout. See attached plan and timeline. MTAB approved this plan at its Sept 8 meeting.

Motion by Commissioner Martinez to approve the $300,000 ad buy with Madden Media as presented.

Motion seconded by Commissioner McCurdy

Discussion
Commissioner Martinez explained that this was part of a more of a long-range advertising effort.

Motion passes 7-0

15. Letter from the State Auditor regarding Fund 47 expenditures

Commissioner Winfield shared a letter which came as a result of him asking the State Auditor's Office their opinion on Grand County's current and historic use of Optional Sales Tax funds. Winfield add that the contracted internal auditor was examining the opinion and Grand County's use. Commissioner Hadler sought clarification that Commissioner Winfield had done this on his own accord. Commissioner Martinez stated that the Commission has had a longheld disagreement about the use of these funds without an opinion by the County Attorney. Commissioner Hedin sought clarification that Commissioner Winfield was acting as a whistleblower, stating that the State Auditor's Office was not following appropriate procedure if it was indeed a whistleblower request.

Chair McCandless adjourned the meeting at 6:36 p.m.

Melodie J. McCandless

Melodie McCandless
Chair, Grand County Commission

ATTEST:

Gabriel Woytek

Gabriel Woytek
Grand County Clerk/Auditor

Audit trail

Details

FILE NAME	9.15.2026 REG GCC MINUTES approved - 10/6/26, 5:35 PM.pdf
STATUS	Signed
STATUS TIMESTAMP	2026/10/06 23:50:53 UTC

Activity

SENT	dvanhorn@grandcountyutah.gov **sent** a signature request to: • Gabriel Woytek (gwoytek@grandcountyutah.gov) • Melodie J. McCandless (mmccandless@grandcountyutah.gov)	2026/10/06 23:36:09 UTC
SIGNED	**Signed** by Gabriel Woytek (gwoytek@grandcountyutah.gov)	2026/10/06 23:37 UTC
SIGNED	**Signed** by Melodie J. McCandless (mmccandless@grandcountyutah.gov)	2026/10/06 23:50:53 UTC
COMPLETED	This document has been signed by all signers and is **complete**	2026/10/06 23:50:53 UTC

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