



BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS WORK SESSION MEETING

117 South Main Street, Monticello, Utah 84535. Commission Chambers

February 04, 2025 at 9:00 AM

MINUTES

The public will be able to view the meeting on San Juan County's Facebook live and Youtube channel

AUDIO: <https://www.utah.gov/pmn/files/1228275.MP3>

VIDEO: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YfOwhHpP2Tw>

CALL TO ORDER

Time Stamp 0:00:08 (audio) & 0:01:03 (video)

Commission Chair Stubbs called the meeting to order at 9:02 a.m.

ROLL CALL

Time Stamp 0:00:25 (audio) & 0:01:20 (video)

Commission Chair Stubbs called for attendance:

PRESENT

Commission Chair Silvia Stubbs

Commission Vice Chair Lori Maughan

Commissioner Jamie Harvey

STAFF

Mack McDonald, County Administrative Officer

Lyman W. Duncan, Clerk/Auditor

PUBLIC

Jeremy Hoggard, County EMS Director

Kaden Kulow, City of Monticello Administrator

Trent Herring, Blanding City Manager

Ann Leppanon, Town of Bluff Mayor

Erin Nelson, Town of Bluff Manager

Jimmy Johnson, San Juan Health District Chief Operating Officer

Farley Crofts, San Juan Health District Chief Financial Officer

AGENDA ITEMS

1. Emergency Medical Services Operations Discussion with Cities and Town.

Time Stamp (audio & video)

Mack presented the Emergency Services Operations discussion with the elected officials from Blanding, Bluff, and Monticello. Mack handed out a copy of Resolution No 2022-23 to each attendee. He also gave a history of EMS for the past thirty-five years. The tax funding was passed for the Monticello Hospital to provide emergency services to the entire county, but due to continued losses, the EMS program was returned to the county. Since that date, the Tax funding has remained with the Monticello Hospital, while the county has absorbed the losses stemming from running the EMS program.

Utah Navajo Health System (UNHS) has maintained a successful EMS program in Monument Valley, Navajo Mountain, and Montezuma Creek. Mack presented a schedule showing the total number of ambulance call-outs within the county and from which location. The intent for today's discussion is to gain insight and seek solutions for funding the EMS program for the northern half of the county. EMS systems all over the country are losing money and San Juan County is not an exception. Insurance companies are scrutinizing payments to the EMS providers, hence making it difficult to be paid adequately.

Mack stated that volunteer EMS paramedics are difficult to find because they want to be paid and reimbursed for their time away from home and family. He also stated that due to the passing of Utah State Code, cities and towns are now required to contract with EMS providers. Commission Chair Stubbs asked where the money is coming from current EMS contracts with the municipalities. Jimmy Johnson, COO for the hospital stated the tax was for "healthcare" and not necessarily for EMS. Jeremy Hoggard gave a history of his experience with EMS. He asked "why are nurses paid well, but not EMS paramedics? He also stated that volunteerism is down, employers are less willing to let their employees leave the office or building to take an ambulance run.

Trent Herring, City of Blanding Manager, asked about the excel document and the losses. He asked about grants and other income. He has been asking for more information since August 2024. Commissioner Maughan asked about services for the Navajo Nation. Jeremy responded that UNHS covers the entire reservation except for Bluff, so he sends a Blanding ambulance to cover the town.

Commission Chair Stubbs stated that we need better and more accurate financial information to utilize in these types of discussions. Jeremy stated he is going to do all he can to clean up his statistics. Farley was appreciative of all the comments given and wanted to continue these discussions. Jimmy mentioned the Hospital District is taking the minimum amount of property tax each year in an effort to help the county property owners pay less.

Ann agrees with the other municipal officials. She said they are having a hard time recruiting EMS staff to serve in Bluff. Erin mentioned that the community wants to keep employees at their day jobs and not have them leave work to go on ambulance runs. She also said that their resources are stretched thin.

Commissioner Harvey spoke about the EMS dispatch system and the lack of having a scheduled meeting with the contracted county dispatch crew based in Price. The outsourcing of the dispatch to Carbon County in 2022 has caused problems within the southern part of the county. He stated there has been very little transparency with the dispatch contract. The commission agreed to have a work session on April 15, 2025, to discuss these matters again.

ADJOURNMENT

Time Stamp 1:21:55 (audio) & 1:22:50 (video)

Motion to adjourn at 10:23 a.m.

Motion made by Commission Vice Chair Maughan, Seconded by Commissioner Harvey.

Voting Yea: Commission Chair Stubbs, Commissioner Harvey, Commission Vice Chair Maughan

The Board of San Juan County Commissioners can call a closed meeting at any time during the Regular Session, if necessary, for reasons permitted under UCA 52-4-205

All agenda items shall be considered as having potential Commission action components and may be completed by an electronic method **In compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, persons needing auxiliary communicative aids and services for this meeting should contact the San Juan County Clerk's Office: 117 South Main, Monticello or telephone 435-587-3223, giving reasonable notice**

APPROVED: _____
San Juan County Board of County Commissioners

DATE: _____

ATTEST: _____
San Juan County Clerk/Auditor

DATE: _____