



BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS WORK SESSION MEETING

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

May 06, 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/1267685.MP3>

VIDEO: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Ol9hwMCIYW4>

CALL TO ORDER

Time Stamp 0:00:17 (audio) & 0:01:24 (video)

Commissioner Silvia Stubbs called the meeting to order at 9:01 a.m.

ROLL CALL

Time Stamp 0:00:40 (audio) & 0:01:47 (video)

Commissioner Stubbs called for attendance at today's meeting:

COMMISSION

Silvia Stubbs, Commission Chair

Lori Maughan, Vice Chair

Jamie Harvey, Commissioner

STAFF

Mack McDonald, County Administrative Officer (CAO)

Lyman W. Duncan, Clerk/Auditor

Jeremy Hoggard, Emergency Medical Services Director (EMS)

Jens Nielson, Deputy County Attorney

AUDIENCE

Ann Leppanen, Town of Bluff Mayor

Erin Neilson, Town of Bluff Manager

Trent Herring, Blanding City Manager

Kaden Kulow, Monticello City Manager

AGENDA ITEMS

1. Emergency Medical Services Work Meeting with the Cities, Town, County & Hospital District

Time Stamp 0:00:53 (audio) & 0:02:00 (video)

Jeremy Hoggard, County Emergency Medical Services Director, presented new information regarding the number of ambulance callouts. The EMS transported 165 patients YTD, with 45 cancellations. He anticipates collections to reach \$503,000 for the upcoming year. A new state law goes into effect tomorrow (May 7th) requiring insurance companies to recognize all rates for the ambulance services. The county has billed \$387,000 since December 15, 2024, they have collected \$135,000. The county has 4 ambulance crews which are fully staffed. Bluff and La Sal have partial staff. The County EMS will operate at a net loss (deficit) of \$510,000. The county per callout charge is an average of \$1,800. The State of Utah passed a law deeming EMS to be an "essential service," which is the same as police and fire.

Commissioner Maughan asked about the TRT tax. The state requires the county to pass a resolution for the EMS to access the TRT tax at half of 1%. The hotels are notified of the tourist tax. Once the application is approved by the state Tax Commission, the tax can go into effect. In addition, the county becomes eligible for grants from the State EMS Office. Mack mentioned information about a hospitality tax, which is like a sales tax on all purchases.

Mack also mentioned that Grand County is also struggling with their EMS program. They do drop down into San Juan County and provide coverage all the way to Hwy 46 (La Sal Junction). A Grand County Commissioner mentioned in the newspaper that they might consider charging San Juan County for EMS calls in the northern part of San Juan County. TRT taxes are based on tourism, and with the current economic conditions, many tourists are staying home. Commission Chair Stubbs stated that the tourist tax/revenues are down 11% for the 1st quarter of 2025.

Commissioner Maughan asked about foreign tourists who were involved in accidents, if the payment was collected? Jeremy stated if all the individual information was gathered, then the likelihood of payment collection increases substantially.

Ambulance transfers have increased in the past quarter. Both hospitals have sent patients to other hospitals throughout the Four Corner region. Commissioner Maughan asked for the city managers' input in the conversation. Trent asked about hospital transfers from the facility to the airport. The breakdown would then require the city to pay \$162,000 annually. He considers this to be double taxation upon the city residents.

Commissioner Maughan recommended the cities meet with their legislative leaders. The San Juan Hospital leadership wasn't in attendance for today's meeting even though they were invited. Mack spoke about issues surrounding the EMS issues in rural Utah. He wants the group to consider the need to reserve funds for future capital needs. He also asked the question "what if the hospital took back the EMS program?" Jeremy felt that step would not solve any problems. The State of Utah rates San Juan County as a Class 4, which is the same rating as

Washington & Grand County. The group wants to meet again as soon as all their calendars can be worked out. Commissioner Harvey encouraged the County EMS program to meet with the Navajo Nation EMS program and seek common ground with the county EMS program

ADJOURNMENT

Time Stamp 1:24:44 (audio) & 1:25:51 (video)

Motion to adjourn:

Motion made by Commissioner 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: _____