



**THOMPSON SPRINGS
SPECIAL SERVICE FIRE DISTRICT
ADMINISTRATIVE CONTROL BOARD
REGULAR MEETING**

**Held virtually on Zoom
Moab, Utah**

See below for instructions to give public comment via Zoom

Dial: (669) 900 - 6833 Meeting ID: 867 1625 2356 # Password (if needed): 279317

Link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86716252356?pwd=UDd0dDF0bTdjODQ5UmNoWjNjU1Vadz09>

WATCH ON YOUTUBE - search for: "GRAND COUNTY UTAH GOVERNMENT"
<https://www.youtube.com/c/GrandCountyUtahGovernment>

AGENDA

Tuesday, January 19, 2021

4:00 p.m.

- Call to Order**
- Citizens to Be Heard**

We are receiving public comments by phone and online through Zoom.

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Please note that when joining the meeting, you will be placed in a waiting room and will be added to the meeting by the moderator. Your comments will be recorded and on YouTube.
(Unmute for public comment: *6)

- Approval of Minutes**
 - A. January 5, 2021 (Thompson Springs Fire District Board Special Meeting)
- Ratification of Payment of Bills**
- Fire Chief's Report (Chief Marcum)**
- Discussion Items**
- Closed Session – if necessary**
- Adjourn**

NOTICE OF SPECIAL ACCOMMODATION DURING PUBLIC MEETINGS. In compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, individuals with special needs requests wishing to attend meetings are encouraged to contact the County two (2) business days in advance of these events. Specific accommodations necessary to allow participation of disabled persons will be provided to the maximum extent possible. T.D.D. (Telecommunication Device for the Deaf) calls can be answered at: (435) 259-1346. Individuals with speech and/or hearing impairments may also call the Relay Utah by dialing 711. Spanish Relay Utah: 1 (888) 346-3162

At the meetings/hearings any citizen, property owner, or public official may be heard on any agenda subject. The number of persons heard and the time allowed for each individual may be limited at the sole discretion of the Chair. On matters set for public hearings there is a three-minute time limit per person to allow maximum public participation. Upon being recognized by the Chair, please advance to the microphone, state your full name and address, whom you represent, and the subject matter. No person shall interrupt legislative proceedings.

Requests for inclusion on an agenda and supporting documentation must be received by 5:00 PM on the Wednesday prior to a regular Meeting and forty-eight (48) hours prior to any Special Meeting. Information relative to these meetings/hearings may be obtained at the Grand County Commission's Office, 125 East Center Street, Moab, Utah; (435) 259-1346.

**THOMPSON SPRINGS
SPECIAL SERVICE FIRE DISTRICT
ADMINISTRATIVE CONTROL BOARD
SPECIAL MEETING**

MINUTES

Tuesday, January 5, 2021

The Thompson Springs Special Service Fire District Administrative Control Board met in a special meeting on January 5, 2021. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the meeting was attended electronically on Zoom. Members in attendance were Chair Mary McGann, Evan Clapper, Gabriel Woytek, Trisha Hedin, Kevin Walker, and Jacques Hadler. Also present were Commission Administrator Chris Baird, Associate Commission Administrator Mallory Nassau, Clerk/Auditor Quinn Hall, Thompson Springs Fire Chief Mark Marcum, Moab Valley Fire Chief T. J. Brewer, Joshua Honour (Sheriff's Dept.), Elaine Gizler (Travel Council Director), Bill Hulse (Building Department Director), Renee Baker (Personnel Services), and Orion Rogers (SE Utah Health Department)

Call to Order

- Chair McGann called the meeting to order at 4:01 p.m.

Citizens to Be Heard

- None

Approval of Minutes

- A. December 15, 2020 (Thompson Springs Fire District Board Regular Meeting)

Motion by Kevin to approve the minutes of December 15, 2020, seconded by Evan, passes 6-0.

General Business- Action Items- Discussion and Consideration of:

- B. Electing Chair, Secretary, and Treasurer, and delegating secretarial duties to Tara Collins (Commission Office Assistant)

Motion by Kevin to elect Mary McGann as Chair, Gabriel Woytek as Treasurer, and Evan Clapper as Secretary, seconded by Trisha, passes 6-0.

- C. Discussion on fire hazards in and around Thompson Springs (Chief Marcum)

Fire Chief Mark Marcum said there was a recent structure fire in Thompson Springs. He has concerns regarding the safety of the community, as it relates to fire danger. On Tuesday night, December 2, 2020 [December 2 was a Wednesday], at approximately 7:45 p.m., there was a structure fire on Bogart Lane, down the street from Mark's house. As he passed the fire on the way to the station to pick up his fire engine, he noticed flames and smoke already showing. A typical structure fire doubles in size every 30 seconds, with no wind. That night they had up to 40 mile per hour wind gusts, with constant wind at 20 miles per hour, due to a cold front. Upon arrival at the fire with his engine, the fire was more active, with 2 vehicles already starting to burn. Being the only qualified firefighter in Thompson Springs, he had to fill several roles. Life safety comes first, so Mark was relieved to find 2 adults and their dogs had safely made it out of the house. However, 2 cats did not make it out of the house.

As Chief Marcum got to work on the house fire, there was a constant sheet of embers flying toward other structures and grass. There was no snow on the ground yet. Getting water to the fire was difficult due to the high winds, difficult access to the building, and a lack of firefighters to help. Two abandoned trailer homes were within 4 feet of the fire. Luckily, they have fire hydrants in Thompson Springs. Two Water Board members helped him get a water supply and pull hoses, however, they are not in the fire department and were in civilian clothes. He was not able to put the house fire out, however, he kept it from spreading to other structures. Two

trailers and 2 vehicles burned, but not the two abandoned trailer homes. The Moab Fire Department showed up with engines, a full crew, and the Moab Fire Chief. They were able to make progress in putting the fire out.

They worked until midnight or 1 a.m. There were still hotspots, but they felt it was safe to leave the fire for the night. Chief Marcum watched the fire all night, and it didn't flare up again. The next morning, the Moab Fire Department came back out with 2 crews, and with the help of a backhoe from the Thompson Springs Water Department, they were able to extinguish the fire completely.

Chief Marcum contacted the Grand County Building Department and the Health Department to let them know about the situation. They inspected the building, and put tape around it to condemn it. Marcum said this is not the first fire they've had like that. With all the abandoned buildings, owners who don't take care of their properties, and a multitude of abandoned vehicles, they have a fuel-load, powder keg of hazardous materials out there. They need to clean up the town. Bill Hulse (Building Dept.) and Orion Rogers (Health Dept.) agreed about the dangers out there. They had a Community Action Team meeting on January 4, 2021, and put together a plan, but they will need help from this Board if they want to make progress.

Orion Rogers agreed with Chief Marcum's concerns. Orion grew up in Thompson Springs, so he is familiar with the challenges of the area. They want to partner with the community to clean up the area. That may require some financial assistance from the county. He spoke with Evan Tyrrell, the head of the solid waste district, who said his district could partner with them as well. The Community Action team is made up of the health department, the fire department, the building department, and the planning & zoning department. A few years ago, there were annual clean-up days, and dumpsters were provided.

Mary asked if Monument Waste or Solid Waste were part of the Jan. 4 meeting. Orion said not yet, but that it was their intention to bring them in. They want to have an on-site meeting in a couple of weeks, with Dan from Monument Waste and Evan Tyrrell from Solid Waste present, and a few Commission members there as well. Orion and Mark would be there too, and someone from the Building Department.

Bill Hulse said Thompson Springs has been forgotten about for years. He said code compliance is always complaint-driven, due to lack of staff. He predicts Thompson Springs will become a bedroom community to Moab, because housing is less expensive there. There's refuse and debris, and people living in their vehicles or broken down campers. He would prefer group action, rather than sending threatening compliance letters. There are also problems with the lot lines not lining up with what's on the ground, and some roads go right through peoples' property. When the Range & Grazing zone was applied out there, it instantly made some properties non-compliant. So he would like some comprehensive fixes and changes in zoning, so that people can be compliant.

Orion suggested holding a Town Hall meeting out there, while acknowledging COVID-19 is an issue with that. But it's important to make sure that the citizens out there have a say. He had a Town Hall out there a few years ago regarding an illegal dump, and 30 people (out of 40 residents) attended, so it was a good turnout. Plus it was a successful cleanup, so that's probably the best approach.

Mary suggested contacting SEUALG (Southeastern Utah Association of Local Governments), because there are a lot of funds that Grand County hasn't been using, to help low-income people, like replacing their roofs and helping them become more energy efficient.

Chief Marcum said that two sheriff's deputies and a UHP officer came out to the fire pretty quickly, and they were a great help. Moab Fire Chief T. J. Brewer praised Mark for saving other structures that night. He compared it to the Cinema Court fire. He said that when he sends so many fire engines and firefighters to Thompson Springs, it leaves his own district vulnerable. Brewer said his department is willing to help in the effort to clean up Thompson Springs.

Mary mentioned that Mark's hand was quite injured in the fire. Mark said his hand was crushed, but not broken, and that it is still swollen. Evan Clapper expressed gratitude to Mark, saying it was scary to think what would happen if Mark was not out there.

Orion said the main barrier to clean-up is resources. He believes people would clean up if there were dumpsters out there, and that neighbors would help too. Orion noted that Mark works at the airport. So if there's a fire in Thompson Springs when he is at work, that's a big problem.

Mary said there has been talk of annexing more of the county into the Moab Fire Department boundaries than is currently in there, to help with revenue, and improve firefighting throughout the county, so they will keep working on that.

Closed Session - if necessary (unnecessary)

Adjourn

Chair McGann adjourned the meeting at 4:30 p.m.

Mary McGann, Chair
Thompson Springs Special Service Fire District Board

ATTEST:

Evan Clapper, Secretary

DRAFT