

**WASHINGTON COUNTY COMMISSION
MEETING MINUTES
SEPTEMBER 20, 2022**

The Regular Meeting of the Board of the Washington County Commission was called to order by Chairman Victor Iverson at 4:00 p.m. on September 20, 2022, in the Washington County Commission Chambers, and via Zoom 197 East Tabernacle, St. George, Utah. Those in attendance were Commissioner Victor Iverson, Commissioner Adam Snow, Commissioner Gil Almquist, Deputy County Attorney Devin Snow, County Administrator Nicholle Felshaw, and Deputy Clerk Cheyenne Bentley.

INVOCATION BY: Tim Martin, The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE: David Hinton, American Legion Post 100

CONSENT AGENDA:

The Consent Agenda is a means of expediting the consideration of routine matters. If a commissioner requests that items be removed from the consent agenda, those items are placed at the beginning of the regular agenda. Other than requests to remove items, a motion to approve the items on the consent agenda is not debatable.

- Consideration of Auditor-Approved Claims for Payment for September 7, 2022 through September 20, 2022
- Consideration of Commission Meeting Minutes of September 6, 2022
- Consideration of Administrative Adjustments: Personal Property
- Consideration of Application(s) for Property Tax Abatement (4): Cindy Benson, A/N 452576; Edward Gutierrez, A/N 604788; Kristy Lafeen, A/N 218589; Normal Nuttall, A/N 319056
- Consideration of Utah Department of Agriculture and Food Grant Agreement for FY 2023 Invasive Species Mitigation

MOTION: Motion by Commissioner Snow to Approve the Consent Agenda as Outlined. Motion seconded by Commissioner Almquist and carried by unanimous vote, with Commissioners Iverson, Snow and Almquist voting aye.

REGULAR AGENDA ITEMS FOR CONSIDERATION:

PRESENTATION: EMPLOYEE SUGGESTION BONUS

This item along with the following item were recommended to be tabled.

CONSIDERATION OF AN UPDATE TO THE WASHINGTON COUNTY EMPLOYMENT POLICIES AND PROCEDURES MANUAL REGARDING VEHICLE ACCIDENTS

MOTION: Motion by Commissioner Almquist to Table Employee Suggestion Bonus and the Update to the Washington County Employment Policies and Procedures Manual Regarding Vehicle Accidents. Motion seconded by Commissioner Snow and carried by unanimous vote, with Commissioners Iverson, Snow and Almquist voting aye.

EMERGENCY SERVICES REPORT

Sergeant Darrell Cashin reported that there were eight (8) call outs with a total of 558 man-hours between August 16, 2022 and September 19, 2022.

(See attached report)

CONSIDERATION OF PURCHASE REQUESTS

Dixie Center, Projectors and Screens	(\$209,000.00)
Emergency Services, 8 Robots for regional bomb squads	(\$2,809,258.00)
Emergency Services, Mobile Observation Trailer	(\$89,626.08)
Road Department, Pneumatic Roller rental	(\$14,438.00)
Road Department, Fuel	(\$39,636.31)

All purchases are budgeted, bonded, or paid for through grant funds.

MOTION: Motion by Commissioner Almquist to Approve the Purchase Requests as Outlined. Motion seconded by Commissioner Snow and carried by unanimous vote, with Commissioners Iverson, Snow and Almquist voting aye.

CONSIDERATION OF ORDINANCE NO. 2022-1217-O, AN ORDINANCE ADOPTING THE 2022 WASHINGTON COUNTY AFFORDABLE HOUSING PLAN AS THE MODERATE INCOME HOUSING PLAN ELEMENT OF THE GENERAL PLAN

Community Development Director Scott Messel explained that the moderate income housing plan element of the General Plan incorporated updated state requirements for a moderate-income housing plan. The proposed plan outlines strategies to meet the goals and objectives to improve affordable housing options in Washington County.

The following goals are recommended to maintain adequate attainable housing choices for all those who wish to reside in Washington County:

- Amend land use regulations to allow for higher density and new, affordable residential development in commercial or mixed-use zones near major transit investment corridors.
- Implement zoning incentives for affordable housing units in new development.
- Demonstrate creation of, or participate in, a community land trust program for affordable housing.

Commissioner Almquist clarified that the plan only applies to the unincorporated areas of the County.

MOTION: Motion by Commissioner Snow to Adopt Ordinance No. 2022-1217-O, An Ordinance Adopting the 2022 Washington County Affordable Housing Plan as the Moderate Income Housing Plan Element of the General Plan. Motion seconded by Commissioner Almquist and carried by unanimous vote, with Commissioners Iverson, Snow and Almquist voting aye.

CONSIDERATION OF ORDINANCE NO. 2022-1218-O, AN ORDINANCE REZONING A CERTAIN PORTION OF WASHINGTON COUNTY LOCATED AT APPROXIMATELY 175 EAST STREET SR-144 NEAR NEW HARMONY FROM THE A-20 ZONE (AGRICULTURAL 20 ACRE MINIMUM LOT SIZE), TO THE AEO ZONE (AGRICULTURE ESTATE OVERLAY), HEREINAFTER FULLY DESCRIBED IN THIS ORDINANCE

Mr. Messel explained that the property owner is requesting an Agricultural Estate Overlay (AEO) which would allow for an orchard, two (2) dwellings, a barn with an internal accessory dwelling, and other enhanced uses for the property. The AEO zone allows property owners flexibility from some requirements in exchange for enhancing planning and design.

The Planning Commission held a public hearing and unanimously recommend approval of the Overlay Zone.

MOTION: Motion by Commissioner Snow to Adopt Ordinance No. 2022-1218-O, An Ordinance Rezoning a Certain Portion of Washington County Located at Approximately 175 East Street SR-144 near New Harmony from the A-20 Zone (Agricultural 20 Acre Minimum Lot Size), to the AEO Zone (Agriculture Estate Overlay), Hereinafter Fully Described in this Ordinance. Motion seconded by Commissioner Almquist and carried by unanimous vote, with Commissioners Iverson, Snow and Almquist voting aye.

CONSIDERATION OF RESOLUTION NO. R-2022-2998, A RESOLUTION ALLOCATING AND APPROVING THE DISTRIBUTION OF FUNDING FROM THE USDA AND THE STATE TO WASHINGTON COUNTY FROM THE SECURE RURAL SCHOOLS (SRS) ACT

Public Works Director Ron Whitehead explained that the SRS Act transfers a percent of forest grazing and timber sales receipts from the federal government back to the states and counties. Once received, the County elects to distribute the funds as follows: Eighty-Five percent (85%) of the SRS Act funds for Title 1 projects for schools and roads; eight percent (8%) of the SRS Act funds for Title II for special projects on federal land; and seven percent (7%) of the SRS Act funds for Title II projects for specific purposes of the County including emergency services on federal lands.

MOTION: Motion by Commissioner Almquist to Adopt Resolution No. R-2022-2998, A Resolution Allocating and Approving the Distribution of Funding from the USDA and the State to Washington County from the Secure Rural Schools (SRS) Act. Motion seconded by Commissioner Snow and carried by unanimous vote, with Commissioners Iverson, Snow and Almquist voting aye.

CONSIDERATION OF RESOLUTION NO. R-2022-2999, A RESOLUTION REGARDING THE BLM'S NEPA PROCESS RELATED TO A LAND EXCHANGE IN EMERY COUNTY

Deputy County Attorney Devin Snow explained that the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) invited Washington County to participate as a cooperating agency in a National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) process that analyzes a land exchange in Emery County between the BLM and School of Institution of Trust Lands (SITLA). As part of the exchange it may be necessary to equalize value between BLM and SITLA to facilitate the exchange in Emery County and other areas. To do that BLM and SITLA may use equalization parcels in Washington County. This letter would request cooperating-agency status.

MOTION: Motion by Commissioner Snow to Adopt Resolution No. R-2022-2999, A Resolution Regarding the BLM's NEPA Process Related to a Land Exchange in Emery County. Motion seconded by Commissioner Almquist and carried by unanimous vote, with Commissioners Iverson, Snow and Almquist voting aye.

CONSIDERATION OF RESOLUTION NO. R-2022-3000, A RESOLUTION ANNEXING THE PROPERTY WITHIN THE MUNICIPAL LIMITS OF THE TOWN OF APPLE VALLEY INTO ASH CREEK SPECIAL SERVICE DISTRICT

Mr. Snow explained that Apple Valley requested to be annexed into the Ash Creek Special Service District as the Town anticipates an increase in demand for commercial and residential development of property within the Town which will require the establishment, operation and maintenance of a system for collection, treatment, and disposal of sewage materials. A public hearing was held, and the protest period has passed without having received adequate protests and it is recommended to proceed with the annexation into the Ash Creek SSD.

MOTION: Motion by Commissioner Almquist to Adopt Resolution No. R-2022-3000, A Resolution Annexing the Property within the Municipal Limits of the Town of Apple Valley into Ash Creek Special Service District. Motion seconded by Commissioner Snow and carried by unanimous vote, with Commissioners Iverson, Snow and Almquist voting aye.

CONSIDERATION OF RESOLUTION NO. R-2022-3001, A RESOLUTION TO SUPPORT AND PARTICIPATE IN THE UTAH SATELLITE PORT COALITION

Commissioner Snow explained that the Utah Satellite Port Coalition was formed to work with participating members to assist in the development of project areas, proposals, and strategies that align with the statewide objectives of the Utah Inland Port Authority (UIPA). Counties working together as a region have a greater ability to transport goods and boost their economies and Washington County supports the Coalition's engagement of Utah Satellite Port LLC for strategic consulting, government relations, and project management.

MOTION: Motion by Commissioner Snow to Adopt Resolution No. R-2022-3001, A Resolution to Support and Participate in the Utah Satellite Port Coalition. Motion seconded by Commissioner Almquist and carried by unanimous vote, with Commissioners Iverson, Snow and Almquist voting aye.

DISCUSSION AND POTENTIAL APPROVAL OF LETTER REGARDING ELECTION SECURITY

Commissioner Snow recognized that there have been concerns expressed from citizens in regards to election integrity. To provide additional transparency of the elections process, the commissioners would like to send a letter to call on the Lieutenant Governor in conjunction with the State Legislature to:

- Exercise its exclusive authority to perform primary election and general election audits in sample counties across Utah for future or past elections. Currently, 27 of the 29 counties utilize ES&S ballot counters. All elections should be audited in addition to a traditional audit process of random selection. All counties perform pre-canvas machine count totals, but not all counties are able to provide individual batch summaries and there is not a process for an independent, third-party to validate the election results. We recommend the Legislature direct the Lieutenant Governor's office to enlist a reputable third-party auditor to validate the accuracy of ballot counter machines with a sample hand count as part of the audit process.
- Establish an Election Commission to annually review and implement measures to further strengthen and secure election processes and to make all findings and policies open to the public.

MOTION: Motion by Commissioner Snow to Approve the Letter Regarding Election Integrity. Motion seconded by Commissioner Almquist and carried by unanimous vote, with Commissioners Iverson, Snow and Almquist voting aye.

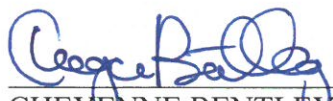
COMMISSIONERS' REPORT

Mr. Whitehead reported that there has been some illegal dumping in the washes which has caused flooding and roads to wash out. He urged citizens to keep drainages clean to prevent damage to property and roads.

Chairman Iverson reported on the success of the Dixie Roundup rodeo.

Commissioner Snow reported on the Rise Summit held at the Dixie Center last week.

Having no other business, the meeting was adjourned at 5:02 p.m.



CHEYENNE BENTLEY
DEPUTY CLERK



VICTOR IVERSON
CHAIRMAN

SAR Incident Synopsis

for August 15th, 2022 through September 19th, 2022

Sheriff Brooksby,

Below is the SAR Report from August 15th, 2022 through September 19th, 2022

September 2022 Report

Total calls this report – 8

Total SAR Incidents 2022 – 89

Total Man Hours this report – 558

Rescued Subjects

In County Residence – 7

Out of County (Utah) Residence -

Out of Utah – 4

International –

08/19/2022 @ 1530, Flooding – Zion National Park – Man Hours – 32

SAR responded to Zion National Park on a Flash Flood. Reports were several people were caught in the flood. SAR assisted the Zion SAR to account for everyone. Were were release when we were notified they believe everyone was accounted for and out.

08/21/2022 @ 0530, Missing Person – Zion National Park – Man Hours – 332

SAR responded to assist Zion National Park on a missing 30 year old female related to the flash flood from two day prior. SAR Teams worked for two day searching the Virgin River from the Narrows to Virgin. We also had Drones and pilots working with Zion SAR. The victim was located around 1530 hours on Monday. She was 6.2 miles down river from the last known location. She did not survive the flood.

08/23/2022 @ 2100, Stranded Climbers – Kolob Terrace Road - Man Hours – 28

SAR responded to four stranded climbers off Kolob Terrance Road. One climbers ropes tangled on a rappel and he was unable to descend. That stranded the other 3 climber a couple of hundred feet up the cliff. SAR located the subjects and assisted the stuck climber down. They rappelled the other climbers off without incident. No EMS was needed.

08/27/2022 @ 0853, Mountain Bike Accident – South Hills Santa Clara – Man Hours – 52

SAR responded to a report of a male mountain biker with a traumatic injury south of Santa Clara in the desert reserve area. SAR members arrived and made their way to the patient. It was reported the patient went off of a cliff and was down the hill. Life flight was requested and arrived. Life Flight was unable to land at the subject. It was reported the patient had a possible broken neck previous injuries to his back. The DPS helicopter was requested so the patient could be safely lifted to where the life flight helicopter was located. SAR members helped with securing the patient for hoist. Once hoisted, SAR members helped with getting the patient onto the life flight helicopter for transport to the hospital.

09/03/2022 @ 1947, ATV Accident – Toquerville Falls – Man Hours – 42

SAR responded to a ATV accident at Toquerville Falls. A female and 7 year old child were on a ATV and were thrown. The 7 year old male was in critical condition. Life Flight responded and flew the child to SGRH. The mother was brought out to a waiting ambulance by SAR. The child did not survive his injuries.

09/12/2022 @ 1048, Mountain Bike Accident – Gem Trail – Man Hours – 24

SAR responded to a 56 year old male that crashed on the Gem Trail. The male failed to negotiate the switchbacks and fell around 100 feet. SAR and Hurricane EMS located him and began treatment. Life Flight was called to assist. The male was packaged up and placed in the helicopter. He was flown to SGRH for further treatment. He was not expected to survive.

09/13/2022 @ 2204, Stranded Hiker – Cedar Pockets, Az. – Man Hours – 36

SAR was requested by the Mohave County Sheriff's Office to assist on a stranded 60 year old male in Cedar Pockets. The male had gone across the Virgin River earlier in the day. When he returned the river was flowing between 1500-2000 cubic feet. Another storm was rolling in and he had no supplies or shelter. The SAR Swift Water Team set up a rescue plan and made it across the river. They put the male into safety gear and brought him back across. The subject was release to a Mohave County Deputy. No EMS was needed.

09/18/2022 @ 1119, Injured Hiker – Sand Hollow State Park – Man Hours – 12

SAR responded to a 32 year old male that fell near the jumping rocks at Sand Hollow State Park. The male had an apparent broken leg/ankle. SAR and EMS stabilized his injury. He was carried to a SAR Boat and take to the main boat ramp. He was turned over to the ambulance and taken to SGRH for treatment.