



**GRAND COUNTY COMMISSION
SPECIAL MEETING
BUDGET WORKSHOP**

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

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**MINUTES
27 July 2026**

The Grand County Commission met for a budget workshop on July 27th, 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 Mary McGann, Jacques Hadler, Trish Hedin and Brian Martinez. Also attending in-person were Commission Administrator Mark Tyner, Associate Commission Administrator Quinn Hall and County Attorney Stephen Stocks. Clerk/Auditor Gabriel Woytek was in attendance virtually.

Chair McCandless called the Workshop to order at 2:01 p.m.

Pledge of Allegiance

1. Commission member disclosures and future considerations

Commissioner Mary McGann disclosed that her son works for Sand Flats Recreation Area. She also requested that the director of the Solid Waste Special Service District be allowed to speak to clarify misstatements and public pushback. Commissioner Mike McCurdy disclosed that his wife works for the Sheriff's Office.

2. Mid-Year Budget Amendment Workshop

Clerk/Auditor Woytek provided the following updates:

Sales and use tax revenues for July were received and integrated into the projection models.

Worker's compensation insurance figures were updated (an increase of ~\$48,000 for 2026).

General property tax revenues increased permanently by \$106,000, with an additional ~\$56,000–\$58,000 projected in property tax revenues for 2026.

Net impact: The budget updates essentially resulted in a "wash" and did not expand the existing deficit or draw further from the general fund balance beyond prior projections.

Commission discussion opened with the topics of the Shuttle & Optional Sales Tax (Fund 47). Commissioner Melody McCandless proposed shifting shuttle/transit funding (up to \$300,000–\$500,000) into

Fund 47 (Optional Sales Tax), which is legally more restricted to transit/transportation uses under Utah state law. McCandless stated that shifting this burden out of TRT Mitigation money frees up less-restricted funds to make outside entities whole.

Commissioners debated using Fund 47, noting that while it has over \$1 million in reserve, parts of it are intended for multi-use paved path maintenance (e.g., repaving of the paved path that leads to Highway 313) and extending the Spanish Valley Pathway.

Discussion proceeded regarding a PILT (Payment in Lieu of Taxes), as EMS SSD will be returning \$178,000 in PILT funds back to the county. These funds will be allocated to make Special Service Districts whole: \$148,000 split between the Recreation SSD and the Solid Waste SSD.

By leveraging Fund 47 and PILT reimbursements, the Commission discussed fully restoring funding for key outside partners: Southeastern Utah Health Department: \$30,000, Four Corners Behavioral Health: \$26,254, Moab Museum: \$28,500 (*Total: \$84,750*). Other Non-Profits (Seekhaven & Humane Society): Q4 funding for these entities is currently paused/unfunded in this amendment. The County Administrator will notify them so they can submit formal requests/letters if necessary.

Discussion then centered around a potential Cost of Living Adjustment (COLA) & Staff Compensation

Commissioners decided that the midyear budget amendment will not include an immediate COLA wage increase for county employees. HR Director Tess presented an option for a one-time pay increase/stipend toward the end of the year if tax revenues exceed current flat projection. The Commission agreed to review revenue numbers on the November 17th agenda (or in December) to determine if funds are available for a year-end staff bonus/stipend before the holiday season.

Solid Waste District Director Chris Scoville addressed the Commission to clear up misconceptions, Clarifying that having ~\$3 million in bank reserves is necessary because monthly operating expenses run around \$500,000 (meaning reserves cover only 6 months of operations). Scoville highlighted major upcoming financial obligations, including a \$10 million bond, the upcoming closure of the Moab landfill, shifting all traffic/volume to the transfer station, the need for property acquisition and a recent \$1.3 million landfill compactor purchase. Scoville stated that full county/TRT mitigation funding helps delay plans to shut down weekend services or raise commercial fees.

The Commission confirmed that Clerk/Auditor Woytek had all necessary direction to finalize the amended budget document for formal action at the next regular Commission meeting.

Chair McCandless adjourned the meeting at 2:48 p.m.

Melodie J. McCandless

Melodie McCandless
Chair, Grand County Commission

ATTEST:

Gabriel Woytek

Gabriel Woytek
Grand County Clerk/Auditor

Audit trail

Details

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Activity

SENT	dvanhorn@grandcountyutah.gov sent a signature request to: - Melodie J. McCandless (mmccandless@grandcountyutah.gov) - Gabriel Woytek (gwoytek@grandcountyutah.gov)
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