

CACHE COUNTY COUNCIL WORKSHOP MEETING

May 12, 2026 at 3:30 p.m. - Cache County Chamber at 199 North Main, Logan, Utah.

In accordance with the requirements of Utah Code Annotated Section 52-4-203, the County Clerk records in the minutes the names of all persons who appear and speak at a County Council meeting and the substance "in brief" of their comments. Such statements may include opinions or purported facts. The County does not verify the accuracy or truth of any statement but includes it as part of the record pursuant to State law.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Chair Sandi Goodlander, Vice Chair Kathryn Beus, Councilmember David Erickson, Councilmember JoAnn Bennett, Councilmember Keegan Garrity, Councilmember Nolan Gunnell, Councilmember Mark Hurd.

MEMBERS EXCUSED: None.

Call to Order 3:30 PM – [0:00:00](#)

Chair Sandi Goodlander called the workshop session to order. The purpose of the meeting is to hold an internal council discussion to bring all members up to speed on the current operations, governance, legalities, and taxing structures of the Cache County Fire District.

[0:00:53](#) Vice Chair Kathryn Beus and Councilmember David Erickson provided the historical background of the Cache County Fire District Board. Because county fire services were funded through the county's General Fund, Logan City residents faced double taxation (paying for both Logan Fire and County Fire). Last year, the board expanded to include 7 members: the County Executive, two county council members (North and South), and four municipal mayors. Council members confirmed that incoming mayors from recent elections went through the proper advice, consent, and advertisement protocols to fill board vacancies.

[0:05:07](#) Chief Brady George presented a summary of existing operational configurations.

[0:07:15](#) Vice Chair Kathryn Beus explained how smaller departments worry about losing operational autonomy and infrastructure investments by joining a countywide district completely. Leaving the special service district requires a rigid 18-month feasibility study, signature collection, and a ballot measure. The council previously approved a transition to an all-elected fire board but this ordinance stalled out when presented for the fire board's approval. The County Executive has proposed an amendment to expand the Board of Trustees from 7 to 11 members to improve countywide representation.

[0:16:23](#) County Executive George Daines walked through a comprehensive financial memo establishing a tax shift to avoid double-taxing Logan residents for EMS/Fire services. Executive George Daines also explained there is a disparity between incorporated residents and unincorporated residents. Unincorporated residents currently receive services comparable to city residents without paying an equivalent municipal fire tax. He proposed implementing a municipal services levy on unincorporated property.

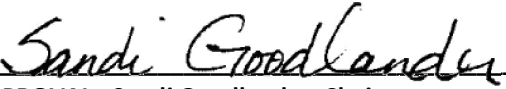
[0:34:04](#) The fire district will collect the funds and disperse them back to individual cities based on tax footprint via interlocal agreements. Monies are legally locked exclusively for Fire/EMS use. The Fire District will retain 10% of collected funds (~\$300,000 to \$400,000) during the first year to cover countywide administrative costs, training, and wildland fire support. To offset their tax exclusion, Logan City has agreed to take over full funding and operational responsibility for surrounding county zones they previously charged the county \$100,000 annually to cover (College/Young Ward, Logan Canyon, and local forestry zones). Council members raised questions about high-risk areas like Scare Canyon and Flat Road paying their fair share. Under House Bill 48 (Wildland Urban Interface), the state runs high-risk risk analyses. The county cross-references parcel maps with 5-year aerial photography to catch unpermitted or unassessed mountain properties to bring them into the tax system. Legal Counsel noted that under state codes 17B-1-1001(3) and 17B-1-103, an appointed board can pass tax increases but must provide a full report, go through an independent Truth in Taxation process, and hold an open public hearing before the County Council.

[0:51:43](#) Executive George Daines explained that there will be an interlocal agreement between the county and the fire district that will protect unincorporated residents and allow the county to raise funds by taxing only unincorporated residents. Councilmember David Erickson expressed concern that the taxes of unincorporated residents will be raised without seeing an increase in services. Councilmember Keegan Garrity asked about the number of taxing entities in the county and the procedure they follow to increase taxes. Legal Counsel noted that the fire district is contractually obligated to move to an elected board before May of 2028.

[0:59:26](#) Wellsville Mayor Chad Lindley thanked the Executive and his staff for navigating this restructuring. He noted that he would like more input from stakeholders on the Fire/EMS Services side. He reported that Wellsville recently proposed moving its

local mill levy to eight mills with zero public blowback, signaling that residents prioritize robust protection. He noted that while local mayors remain somewhat divided, a cohesive, unified approach is necessary to ensure safety needs are met countywide.

Adjourn: 4:30 PM [1:02:17](#)



APPROVAL: Sandi Goodlander, Chair
Cache County Council



ATTEST: Bryson Behm, Clerk
Cache County Council

