

South Metro Fire Rescue Fire Protection District  
Regular Board of Directors' Meeting Minutes  
February 5, 2024

Present:	Jim Albee, Chair	Bob Baker, Fire Chief
	Renee Anderson, Vice Chair	Mike Dell'Orfano, Chief Govt. Affairs Officer (absent)
	Rich Sokol, Treasurer	John Curtis, Deputy Chief– Emergency Services (absent)
	Sue Roche, Secretary	Kristin Eckmann, Deputy Chief – Community Services
	Kevin Leung	Matt Weller, Deputy Chief – Employee Services
	William Shriver	Dillon Miskimins, CFO Business Services
	Bruce Stahlman	Camie Chapman, CHRO Employee Services
		Allison Ulmer, Legal Counsel

Others Present: SMFR Staff Members and Citizens

**MEETING CALL TO ORDER**

Chair Albee called the Regular Meeting of the South Metro Fire Rescue Fire Protection District to order at 6:05 p.m. and welcomed everyone to the meeting.

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

Chair Albee led the Pledge of Allegiance to the flag of the United States of America.

**ROLL CALL**

All of the Board members were present in person.

**APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA**

A motion was made by Director Anderson and seconded by Director Roche to approve the agenda as presented. All were in favor and the motion carried.

**CONFLICT OF INTEREST DISCLOSURE**

Chair Albee informed Director Leung this is new so Director Leung will be asked to provide affirmation. Director Leung affirmed that he has no conflicts of interest.

Chair Albee asked if there were any changes to conflict of interest affirmation:

- Director Stahlman – no changes
- Director Roche – no changes
- Director Anderson – no changes
- Chair Albee- no changes
- Director Shriver – no changes
- Director Sokol – no changes

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

There was no public comment.

**RECOGNITION**

1. **Local 2086** – South Metro Professional Firefighters Foundation Shawn Cummings stated that the Foundation has been successfully supporting Colorado's first responders providing hundreds of thousands of dollars in assistance. The Foundation can only exist and provide this type of assistance through the help of volunteers. The SMPFF Board

wanted to recognize one of our own, Barb Andrews, who recently stepped down from the Foundation Board. Her participation on the Board and assistance was greatly appreciated.

## **CONSENT AGENDA**

January 8, 2024 South Metro Fire Rescue Fire Protection District Regular Board Meeting Minutes  
January 22, 2024 South Metro Fire Rescue Fire Protection District Special Board Meeting Minutes

Chair Albee stated that the consent agenda items will be handled separately.

Director Anderson motioned to approve the January 8, 2024 South Metro Fire Rescue Fire Protection District Regular Board Meeting Minutes as presented. Director Leung seconded the motion. Director Sokol abstained. Six Board Members were in favor and one abstained, the motion carried.

For the January 22, 2024 meeting minutes, Director Sokol recommended the wording in the third paragraph on page 2 be changed to “the second year of our multi-year pricing agreement.”

Director Roche motioned to approve the January 22, 2024 South Metro Fire Rescue Fire Protection District Special Board Meeting Minutes as amended. Director Leung abstained. Six Board Members were in favor and one abstained, the motion carried.

## **ACTION ITEMS**

N/A

## **DISCUSSION/POTENTIAL ACTION ITEMS**

**1. Specialty Apparatus Replacement – Dive Boat – Marine & Dive Road Unit(s)** – Fleet Services Director Frank explained the critical focus of replacing Boat 16 (marine apparatus), Dive 31 (road apparatus) & Dive 16 (road apparatus), reviewing highlights from the ppt presentation, which included:

- Overview
- Fleet Capital Spend 2024-2026
- Current State – Road & Marine 31 Apparatus
- Current State – Road & marine 16 Apparatus
- Single Diver Equipment Configuration
- Operational Challenges with the Current Marine 16
- Challenge with Current Road 31
- Challenges with Current Road 16
- Proposed Solution for Marine 16
- Proposed Replacement Road 16 & Road 31 Apparatus

Chief Richardson provided a perspective on the purchases out to 2027 as the quote for a tower or tiller order delivery is 4-5 years and an engine is 3-4 years. Fleet Services Director Frank reviewed the funds earmarked for the next three or four years noting that our orders do not include a lot of additional options, so the estimate is 40-48 months for delivery of Tillers and Towers.

Station 31’s Captain Baker spoke to the reason for proposing the new boat explain that the current Zodiac is designed for water rescues for a wide section of water with no waves with a lot less heavy dive gear. The Whaler is purposefully built for dive rescues. The dive team reached out to almost 20 agencies across the country, and they were all either in a Whaler or transitioning to one. The purchase will be the new longer model, 21-foot vs 19-foot, which will help the team perform in a much safer piece of equipment.

At Chair Albee’s request, Fleet Services Director Frank stated he does not anticipate going over the prices that were pushed to 2026 but will know more about 10 months out from the time of purchase.

At Director Stahlman's request, Fleet Services Director Frank confirmed that Staff is rolling forward the 2023 spend commitment to 2024 and 2025 & last July the 2025 spend commitments were rolled into 2026 in order to meet build times.

At Director Roche's request, Chief Richardson recommended keeping the current boat for other type of responses and at Director Stahlman's request informed that the current trailer is able to hold two boats.

At Director Anderson's request, Captain Baker stated that the new boat is primarily for responses to Cherry Creek and Chatfield Reservoirs, as well as some smaller bodies of water in the District.

At Director Sokol's request, Chief Richardson stated that the new trailer will fit at Station 16 if the BC vehicles is not in the bay. Emergency Services has not made the final decision but once the final dimensions are received, it will likely be Station 16 or 19.

At Director Stahlman's request, CFO Miskimins confirmed that the funds originally budgeted in 2024 have been moved to the 2025 budget.

At Director Anderson's request, Fleet Services Director Frank stated that if the trailer comes in later than the Whaler, a pickup truck can haul the boat.

At Director Shriver's request, Fleet Services Director Frank stated that this is a new vendor for the department, but it has a reputation for reliability and availability of replacement parts.

At Director Leung's request, Fleet Services Director Frank confirmed that the trailer is diesel powered and at Director Anderson's request stated it should not be a problem in cold weather.

At Director Leung's request, Fleet Services Director Frank stated that this being a Freightliner, our accredited EVT fleet personnel are very familiar with maintenance and service requirements.

Director Stahlman thanked them for providing the photos so that the Board can envision the component pieces.

At Chair Albee's request, Fleet Services Director Frank stated that both road units would likely be liquidated. Chief Richardson added that there is some talk about having reserve special operations apparatus, so we don't lose capability if one of them goes out of service.

At Chair Albee's request, both Fleet Services Director Frank and Chief Richardson confirmed that if these purchases are approved the District should be in a pretty good place with special teams apparatus.

Chief Richardson stated that a performance bond would be needed for the road apparatus. CFO Miskimins added that it is an insurance policy that you prepaid for the order and any remedies in the contract are covered by a surety bond, still researching how the products may or may not differ because the vendor is out of Canada.

Chair Albee asked the Board if any additional information is desired, noting that the next meeting isn't for three weeks so they can either wait for approval or with a 2/3 vote, can turn it into an action item and vote on it tonight. All Board Members agreed to go forward with taking action.

Chair Albee motioned to amend the agenda and make the Specialty Apparatus Replacement – Dive Boat – Marine & Dive Road Unit(s) action items. Director Shriver seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion carried.

Chair Albee motioned to approve the order for two Hélie Specialty Dive Unit Apparatus for Road Units at a cost not to exceed \$820,000 and authorize the Fire Chief or his designee to execute the contract. Director Stahlman second the motion. All were in favor and the motion carried.

Chair Albee motioned to approve the order of one Boston Whaler 21 Foot boat to be a replacement for Boat 16 at a cost not to exceed \$182,000 and authorize the Fire Chief or his designee to execute the contract. Director Stahlman seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion carried.

Fleet Members Lead EVT Wayne Mittelstadt, EVTs Nick Meyers and Mike Clark distributed the new Fleet challenge coins to the Board Members.

2. **Fire Chief Selection Process** – Chair Albee noted that this will be a standing agenda item for the Special monthly meetings and add it to Regular meetings as needed. This will be a discussion item on February 26<sup>th</sup> as to what might be a process and specific activities to determine what the Board wants for the new chief. Three things to think about: what we want, find that person, go get that person. A rough timeline was presented.

Chair Albee stated that for tonight's discussion, wants affirmation of preliminary actions:

- Directors Anderson and Albee work on process with staff, report to Board - Affirmed
- Single process open to internal and external candidates - Affirmed
- Employee stakeholder involvement – Local 2086, staff - Affirmed
- Community stakeholder involvement – citizen, political, business – Agreed fair to consider, but the onus will be on the Board and input from Local 2086 and staff is more important.
- Data gathering & information needs – salary, job descriptions, qualifications, other -
  - Helpful to have Fire Chief's job description as well as 3-4 comparative ones for similarly situated special district departments.
  - Agreed CHRO Chapman be the central repository for requests.
  - Suggested resolutions at the next meeting confirming the Board and CHRO's role.
  - Legal Counsel Ulmer will consult with Legal Counsel Cole regarding the meeting requirements for a formally constituted committee.

#### INFORMATION ITEMS

1. **IGA Update** – on behalf of Chief Dell'Orfano, Chief Baker provided an update on the following IGA changes:
  - **Amended and Restated IGA for the Provision of SWAT Team Medics with Arapahoe County** - this is the Arapahoe County equivalent of what we discussed last month for Douglas County. It renews our agreement with them for another 3 years. The IGA is "restated" or re-written to incorporate amendments over the years but nothing significant has changed. Potential reimbursement was increased to \$100,000.
  - **CDHSEM CSEPP Equipment Transfer Agreement** – The Chemical Stockpile Emergency Preparedness Program supports communities near U.S. Army depots that store stockpiles of chemical warfare agents and munitions for more than 30 years (e.g., Pueblo Chemical Depot). As part of that program, the state received a grant to purchase training software and equipment to simulate chemical emergencies in order to improve incident management and overall preparedness activities. The state is no longer utilizing the equipment and has transferred it to SMFR. It is at the TJTC in order to virtually simulate large scale incidents related to hazmat and ARFF. The transfer is at no cost to SMFR but we will maintain and track its use through the post-grant auditing period (2029 unless properly disposed of earlier).

Correspondence items in the Board's packet are summarized below as well as other information items that were communicated:

- Chief Baker:
  - Results of the employee survey were received with 588 employees responding with 2,000+ comments anywhere from a couple of sentences to half a page. Some consistencies were noted that are actionable and others that need to be worked through. The Survey Company will put together an executive summary but that will not assist with the comments so ETeam will work closely with the Local 2086 E-

Board to put together a communication to the department. They want to make sure that folks feel seen and heard. A live stream will be conducted to address some of the consistent themes. Chief Eckmann reviewed the six narrative questions, adding that the executive summary will be qualitative and quantitative and will include where SMFR ranks in comparison with other fire districts.

- HB24-1016 to reclassify emergency communications specialists as first responders was presented last week. Emergency Communications Director March reported that the bill was heard twice earlier in the week and a third reading this morning, all passing the bill unanimously. Now that it has passed in the House it will move on to the Senate, where hopefully it will receive the same response. A huge shout out to Lobbyist Camille Driver, who did an amazing job guiding Staff through the process. Chief Baker acknowledged Chief Richardson, Emergency Communications Director March, Emergency Communications Manager Carnahan and Emergency Communications Dispatcher/Pub Ed Coordinator Shover for their work on this bill.
- Local 2086 President Dzengelewski:
  - The employee survey was a good partnership and excited to get the executive summary and work with the Chief to find out what we can do better in a fairly new merged fire department.
  - Echoed what SMPFF President Cummings stated earlier. He was the one who worked to complete the paperwork for the Foundation to become a 501C-3 organization, which is truly how we help one another out and the Foundation has donated thousands of dollars across the state.
  - Four E-Board members attended the IAFF Human Relations Conference in Orlando, FL. It was a good conference and learned a lot about how board meetings work & how to have good relationships with the Chiefs.
  - Attended the CPFF Quarterly Meeting and had the opportunity to make a motion for the State to endorse the bill that has been put forth regarding special district elections. Unanimous endorsement was received. There was also a lot of discussion regarding the unprecedented trial of the Aurora Fire paramedics. More information will be forthcoming, including legal defense funds for Firefighters. The CPFF also has a Joint Health and Wellness Committee that is Firefighters and Chiefs working together on issues such as apparatus, physical, PPE, etc. Learned that the State of Colorado received \$24M in Federal Grants last year.
  - At Director Sokol's request, President Dzengelewski stated that the two fires on Arapahoe Road last week are under investigation. Luckily no one was transported but significant damage and there is some suspicions about how it started.

#### **EXECUTIVE SESSION (UPON MOTION)**

N/A

#### **NEXT MEETING**

Special Board of Directors' Meeting to be held on February 26, 2024, 6:00 p.m. at AdventHealth Parker Hospital, Inspiration Room A, 9395 Crown Crest Boulevard, Parker, CO.

Regular Board Meeting to be held on March 4, 2024, 6:00 p.m. at 9195 East Mineral Avenue, Centennial, CO.

#### **ADJOURNMENT**

Chair Albee adjourned the meeting at 7:59 p.m.

Attested by: \_\_\_\_\_



Date: Mar 4, 2024