

South Metro Fire Rescue Fire Protection District
Special Board of Directors' Meeting Minutes
February 26, 2024

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

Others Present: SMFR Staff Members & Guests

MEETING CALL TO ORDER

Chair Albee called the Special Meeting of the South Metro Fire Rescue Fire Protection District to order at 6:08 p.m. and welcomed everyone to the meeting.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

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

ROLL CALL

All of the Board members were present in person.

APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

Director Stahlman motioned to approve the agenda as presented. The motion was seconded by Director Leung. All were in favor and the motion carried.

CONFLICT OF INTEREST DISCLOSURE

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
- Director Leung – no changes

PUBLIC COMMENT

N/A

INTRODUCTIONS

Kelli Young, AdventHealth Parker Hospital's new Rocky Mountain Regional Director of Trauma introduced herself, adding that she has been in the role since August. She welcomed everyone to the facility and thanked SMFR for everything they do for the hospital and the patients. Dr. Eugene Eby added that from the call to the patient care needs to be streamlined and we continue to improve those processes through a great partnership and wants SMFR to understand how much Parker appreciates their service.

EXECUTIVE SESSION (UPON MOTION)

Chair Albee motioned to convene to Executive Session at 6:13 p.m. pursuant to §24-6-402(4)(b), C.R.S. to receive legal advice from the District's legal counsel on specific legal questions related to the Fire Chief selection process. Director Anderson seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion carried.

The regular meeting reconvened at 6:44 p.m. with no action taken.

PRESENTATION

1. **Medical Director Update** – EMS Chief Pietrzyk & Dr. Apfelbaum provided an overview of the EMS Division's Vision, Mission, Goals and statistics for 2023; types of calls; new medic units, program implementations and paramedic certification/hiring processes.

At Director Stahlman's request, Chief Pietrzyk stated that SMFR is a strong believer in following the protocols, using an extensive QA/QM process, four training cycles per year, and the importance of having a Medical Director in place. Dr. Apfelbaum added that he is a member of the Denver Metro Prehospital Protocols Committee, which has been working on updating the protocols with the new version to be published in December which will have a clear framework of the what, why and how of the available resources, since they no longer have ketamine as an option. These protocols are used by the entire Denver area so everyone is doing things the same with consistent training cycles.

At Director Anderson's request, Chief Pietrzyk stated that the department has 250 Paramedics and close to 500-600 EMT's, some of which are office staff. Anything invasive is handled at the paramedic level.

At Director Sokol's request, Chief Pietrzyk stated that ketamine is only allowed to be used for pain management. Dr. Apfelbaum added that this is extremely unfortunate and that it will be a long time before it becomes an option for other use again and agreed that Colorado legislation would have to change in order to reinstate its use. Chief Curtis explained that proposed legislation prohibits the use of the term excited delirium and staff is working to ensure it aligns with training needs and proper terminology.

At Director Shriver's Request, Dr. Apfelbaum stated that there are a couple of alternative medications that work well but not as well as ketamine. They are Butyrophenone and Benzodiazepines, neither of which kick in as fast and neither has the same safety protocols as ketamine.

At Director Leung's request, Chief Pietrzyk stated they have not seen an increase in calls within the district due to the influx of unhoused individuals. Dr. Apfelbaum added that there are still some communities that still tend to see more calls but does not think that it has changed significantly in those areas.

At Chair Albee's request, Chief Pietrzyk stated that SMFR's ALS footprint includes all stations except three (Stations 35, 47 and 45). Staff would like to have all stations fully staffed but there is a shortage of paramedics. Luckily there are some in the two upcoming academies.

The Board thanked Chief Pietrzyk and Dr. Apfelbaum for the update.

DISCUSSION/POTENTIAL ACTION ITEMS

1. **Cardiac Monitor Replacement** – Chief Pietrzyk introduced the EMS Clinical Services Team of EMS Captains Jodi Peterson and JP Piche, EMS Training & QM Analyst Nathan Spruce and EMS BC Glenn Maxson. Chief Curtis gave credit to this group for building upon the emphasis for call review, continuous improvement and education. Chief Pietrzyk provided the replacement cycle of the cardiac monitors, noting that the LifePak 15 has been in service since 2008 and has reached end-of-life. A lot of work was put into determining what is the right replacement for SMFR. Zoll is the recommended replacement, which has been well established in the medical field. Chief Pietrzyk stated that the replacement has been in the long-term budget for a while now and Staff is just requesting to move the purchase up by one year. Chief Pietrzyk reviewed the details of the Cardiac Monitor Evaluation.

At Director Anderson's request, Chief Pietrzyk stated that once ordered, it takes only 45-60 days for delivery & training and transition could be completed by July.

At Director Sokol's request, Chief Pietrzyk informed that with the recent mergers, there were a lot of extra monitors. So, 10 have been eliminated with the new order and the remaining order will be AED's.

At Director Stahlman's request, Chief Pietrzyk stated that the LifePaks and the proposed new units need to be recalibrated annually. The quoted price includes a 1-year warranty as well as an additional 5-year bumper-to-bumper warranty purchase. Software upgrades are also included and all information going into the monitor will be wirelessly transferred to the dashboard for immediate review.

At Director Roche's request, Chief Pietrzyk informed that the pad costs are comparable between the LifePaks and the Zoll, but the Zoll pads are much more high-tech.

At Director Shriver's request, Chief Pietrzyk stated that the machine's dashboard will show the depth of compressions.

At Chief Baker's request, Chief Pietrzyk informed that Zoll will give SMFR \$1,500 per for the 50+ LifePak monitors.

Chair Albee noted that this is on the agenda as a discussion item; however, the Board has the option to move this to an action item. Chair Albee asked if there is any additional information that the Board would like from Staff that they would like to know between now and next week's meeting. At Director Sokol's request, CFO Miskimins stated that the 2024 budget had \$2.2M budgeted for the purchase of 34 monitors, the current recommendation is to increase the purchase to 51 monitors, which was a \$3.5M budget item in the long-term plan, so the Board would need to approve supplementing that budget item by \$910,000. The Board agreed to move this to an action item.

Chair Albee motioned to amend the agenda to consider the Cardiac Monitor Replacement from a discussion item to an action item. Director Roche seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion carried.

Chair Albee motioned to approve the purchase of 51 Zoll Cardiac Monitors for a cost not to exceed \$3,500,000. Director Roche seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion carried.

2. **Fire Chief Selection Process** – Chair Albee reminded that three weeks ago the original presentation contained a general timeline. The Board's first process is defining what we want, and the second part of the process is finding candidates that we want.

Chair Albee & Director Anderson reviewed the Fire Chief job description considerations, leadership competencies and proposed timeline.

After discussion, the Board agreed to forego the use of a recruiting firm and instead contract with Facilitator Dan Peterson, meeting him at the March 18th meeting and start a "Card" Process at the April 15th meeting to begin defining competency preferences.

INFORMATION ITEMS

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

- Chief Baker:
 - Employee Survey Update: Chief Eckmann reported that the employee survey closed a few weeks ago and received the executive summary of the data, comments and themes last Friday. Currently, different levels of leadership meetings are being conducted and an all personnel, in person and virtual, meeting will be

held at the Local Union Hall, where representatives from the survey company will be present for the first hour to go over the results of the results. The executive summary will also be made available to all personnel and the Board as Staff continues to roll out the plan to address issues. Local President Dzengelewski added that this was a good collaborative process and the Local E-Board is working on some Q&A's regarding some intimate items that came up to address with their membership.

- He leaves tomorrow to attend the CPSE Conference in Orlando, FL with Digital Business Leader Chris Cleary, Chief Curtis and Health and Wellness Officer Macklin. He and Officer Macklin will be speaking on Human Performance & Optimization and how SMFR developed its program and how it is already saving lives.
- Local President Dzengelewski has been brought into the office for the next couple of months to assist with responding to the survey, working on the collective bargaining agreement and other projects.
- Local President Dzengelewski:
 - He will be attending the National IAFF Conference in Washington DC next Sunday through the following Wednesday. Nothing groundbreaking is expected but they will have a chance to meet with our State representatives.
 - Although SMFR's high level of training and QA/QI process provides some protection, Aurora's ketamine case is groundbreaking that Paramedics are in prison, this has caused a big concern moving forward. He added that the State is looking at some sort of legal defense fund for first responders.
 - The Foundation is holding an event on Thursday night at 105 West Brewing Company in Castle Rock starting at 1600 hours to benefit SMFR's Foundation. Foundation President Shawn Cummings will be at the event to education people on the Foundation's work.
- Chief Curtis:
 - Thanked the Board for their support of EMS and the work that they do.
- Chief Dell'Orfano:
 - The majority of Lone Tree URA Special Districts, although it has taken a while, are in support of SMFR representing the special districts on the Board. Their first meeting was held today where some administrative matters were handled. An item will be on next Monday's agenda to select one of the Board Members to sit on the URA Board. The IGA is still in progress but will potentially be ready for presentation at the second meeting in March.
- Chief Richardson:
 - Last week, he and a group from Dispatch spent a couple of days at the State Capitol testifying in support of HB 24-1016, which defines emergency communication specialists in Colorado as first responders. The bill passed the Senate in a unanimous vote on Friday & it is anticipated the Governor will sign it into law sometime in March. In the meantime, Emergency Communications Director March and Emergency Communications Manager Carnahan will be in Washington DC to support the effort to get this approved on a national level.
 - Five years in the making, HazMat teams from across the metro area got together for a first of its kind Special Operations Expo last week. 20 area agencies participated for information sharing and collaboration. Staff will be meeting with West Metro about a regionalized HazMat Team. Director Anderson recommended information about the 20 agencies working together be brought up to the legislators.
- Director Anderson:
 - HRMD Board Member Nancy Smith took a pretty bad spill, and SMFR responded and transported her to Sky Ridge. She had nothing but wonderful things to say about treatment, response time, and professionalism of the responders.
 - Reminded the Board Members should have recently received a legislative update. Noting that our Lobbyist is doing a fabulous job working with Chief Dell'Orfano and thanking them for how well they are representing SMFR.
- Director Stahlman:
 - Sat in on the SDA legislative update. Interesting, nothing earth shattering.
- Director Leung:
 - He and Director Anderson attended the Lone Tree's State of the City event.

- After six months, the Castle Pines URA Board met. All administrative stuff and agreement we have with Castle Pines was passed and is now official. Another meeting in early March. Then the Board is probably not going to meet until there is actually a project to discuss.
- He will be out of the country and remotely attending the meeting next week.

NEXT MEETING

The next Regular South Metro Fire Rescue District Board of Directors' meeting will take place on March 4, 2024, at 6:00 p.m. at 9195 East Mineral Avenue, Centennial, CO.

ADJOURNMENT

Chair Albee adjourned the meeting at 9:02 p.m.

Attested by: James E. Allen

Date: Mar 4, 2024