

South Metro Fire Rescue Fire Protection District
Regular Board of Directors' Meeting Minutes
April 1, 2024

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

Others Present: Lobbyist Camille Driver, 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 6:03 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

Director Sokol's absence was excused. All of the other Board members were present in person.

APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

Chair Albee suggested moving Information Item J1, Legislative Update after Action Item H1, SMFR Proclamation & remove Action Item H2 Lone Tree URA Financing & K1 Executive Session from the agenda since they are not ready for discussion.

Director Leung motioned to approve the agenda as amended. Director Roche seconded the motion. 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 (absent)
- Director Leung – no changes

PUBLIC COMMENT

N/A

CONSENT AGENDA

March 4, 2024 South Metro Fire Rescue Fire Protection District Regular Board Meeting Minutes

March 18, 2024 South Metro Fire Rescue Fire Protection District Special Board Meeting Minutes

Director Stahlman motioned to approve the consent agenda as presented. Director Roche seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion carried.

ACTION ITEMS

- 1. SMFR Proclamation No. 2024-01 A Proclamation by South Metro Fire Rescue Board of Directors Recognizing April 14-20, 2024 as National Public Safety Telecommunicators Week** - Chief Richardson opened with acknowledging Lobbyist Camille Driver for her work at the Capitol. Emergency Communications Director March added that this year is even more special for the Colorado Safety Telecommunicators because Governor Polis signed into law HB24-1016 a couple of weeks ago recognizing Dispatchers as first responders & asked that thanks be given to them for all that they do day in and day out.

Chief Richardson stated that in 1991, House Joint Resolution 284 was approved by congress in order to designate the week beginning April 12, 1992, as 'National Public Safety Telecommunicators Week'. Similar resolutions were passed the following two years until it was permanent with no need for a yearly introduction. These resolutions were intended to designate a time when citizens can thank public safety men and women who dispatch emergency professional and equipment during times of crisis. Today, there are more than 5,700 emergency call centers in the U.S., handling more than 240 million 911 calls every year according to the National Emergency Number Association. Currently there are about 100,000 professionals working throughout the country, with about 10,000 dispatchers being hired every year to perform this critical role for the nation's emergency services and asked the Board to approve the proclamation.

Director Roche read the Proclamation.

Director Shriver motioned to approve SMFR Proclamation No. 2024-01 A Proclamation by South Metro Fire Rescue Board of Directors Recognizing April 14-20, 2024 as National Public Safety Telecommunicators Week as presented. Director Roche seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion carried.

- 2. Agreement Regarding Lone Tree Urban Renewal Authority Tax Increment Financing** – removed from agenda.

INFORMATION ITEMS

- Legislative Update** – Lobbyist Camille Driver expressed her gratitude for everyone who testified in favor of the Governor signing into law the bill recognizing Dispatchers as first responders. The Governor gives the pen used to sign the laws to the person most impactful to the signing and it was given to Dispatcher Sara Shover.

Ms. Driver gave a quick overview of the session, highlighting that they have been active on 51 bills. Technically, SMFR testified on three bills, including the dispatch bill. Director Anderson and Chief Dell'Orfano testified against HB-1239, requiring local government to modify a building code to allow five stories of a multi-family residential building to be served by a single exit. Chief Richardson testified on HB-1091, concerning prohibiting covenants and other restrictions that disallow the use of fire-hardened building materials in residential real property, which passed bipartisan as well. Ms. Driver stated that she believes working with the legislators directly really helps getting legislation amended and passed. Director Anderson added that this is not just the work of a few, they are actually consulting with Staff when making recommendations for amendments.

Ms. Driver provided an overview of work on HB 1016, 1103 (excited delirium) as well as legislation of note 1168 (access to public meetings) and 1313 (transit oriented communities). Tomorrow the Title 32 bill proposing changes to provide revenue diversification will be presented by the State Fire Chiefs.

At Director Stahlman's request, Ms. Driver stated that the Title 32 bill impact fee could be implemented by the Board alone; however, the sales tax would need to go before the citizens for approval through an election. The flier provided tonight is what the State Fire Chiefs are distributing as their reasoning for the bill. Chief Dell'Orfano provided an overview of the diversification of revenues. Ms. Driver urged SMFR to support the bill to align with the other fire districts, even if they don't necessarily implement it.

In preparation for the next session, Ms. Driver stated that SMFR's bill to cancel elections that are uncontested, with a few tweaks to the language, will be reintroduced. CPFF and SDA are in support of the bill and, unsurprisingly, state agencies have no legal qualms with it.

At Chair Albee's request, Ms. Driver stated that she thinks the Property Tax Incentive bill will go to the voters and it will pass unless it is challenged in court before it is implemented. Adding that is why she feels it is important for SMFR to endorse the Title 32 bill in case the Property Tax Incentive bill is not challenged, because there is no money for backfilling & if there is any money, it would go to the K12 first.

DISCUSSION/POTENTIAL ACTION ITEMS

- 1. Engine (3 units)/Tower (2 units) Replacements 2027-2028** – Fleet Services Director Frank reported that currently Pierce Fire apparatus is quoting 45-48 months ETA of Engine and Tower units. Line Support, Fleet Services, and Operations have been working diligently to ensure we continue to replace apparatus during this challenge. Within the current Fleet Capital Replacement Schedule, Staff is anticipating replacing two Engines, one Tower in 2027, one Engine and one Tower in 2028. With extended lead times placing delivery time of units in January of 2028, Staff is proposing to order 2027 & 2028 Engine/Tower replacement units together in 2024. Finalized pricing is still to be determined and is not anticipated until approximately 14 months prior to delivery, with no prepayment option. Currently, staff is requesting \$1.5M/engine x 3 units (\$4.5M total Engine cost) & \$2.3M/Tower x 2 units (\$4.6M total Tower cost) for an all-in cost of \$9.1M, not including upfit or equipment costs, which is estimated as an additional 10-15%. Combined funding for 2027/2028 is \$10.686M, which appears to be sufficient for these purchases, although apparatus pricing has rapidly increased in recent years.

Chief Richardson added that the Board visited Fleet Services last year and saw the older apparatus that does not have replacement parts available. Fleet Services Director Frank stated that they have been dabbling in using a 3-D printer to create parts but that cannot do everything. E-One is still in business, so they are able to get some parts, but not all of them. Chief Richardson stated that Pittsburgh Bureau Fire, along with other departments, are buying up older apparatus because they do not have the proactive fleet replacement program like ours. Fire apparatus is big business, and they don't want to lose customers, so they are still taking orders, but that only adds to the slower turnaround time. Fleet Services Manager Frank stated that we could go with a less standardized unit but not sure if that is the correct solution.

At Director Shriver's request, Chief Richardson informed that the industry is having trouble getting people who want to do the work, so the backlog continues to grow.

Chair Albee reminded that it is not new to approve the purchase of items without the actual price. Approving this request would be committing a future Board's budget. But believes that this is important to the safety of our personnel as well as providing the best service to our citizens.

Director Shriver motioned to amend the agenda by turning this discussion item into an action item. Director Anderson seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion carried.

Chair Albee motioned to approve the ordering of three Engines and two Towers, that represent the 2027-2028 Engine and Tower replacement units in the Capital Replacement Schedule estimated to be a total of \$9.1M, which is \$1.5M/each for Engines and \$2.3M/each for Towers. Director Leung seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion carried.

- 2. Fire Chief Selection Process** – Chair Albee reviewed the latest board update & discussion presentation:
 - The competencies have been narrowed to 13 and broken into five key areas: Set & Execute Strategy, Allocate Resources, Building Senior Leadership Team & Set Culture, Communicate & Work Effectively with All Stakeholders, and Emergency Response.

- The Fire Chief Job Description needs to be finalized by April 15th in order to move forward with the FYI tool/process.
 - Added “or in a related field” for education requirements.
 - After further discussion, all agreed the job description is finalized enough to use.
 - Version 5 will be provided to the Board.
 - FYI process timeline was extended and maintaining a 6/30/24 deadline for the compensation package and draft employment agreement.

Information Items Continued:

- **Excise Tax Summary** – Chief Dell’Orfano reviewed the Town of Parker Excise Tax Revenues, highlighting:
 - P3: Partnering for Parker’s Progress (URA)
 - Lawsuit – Improper Division of Tax Revenues
 - Settlement – Excise Tax

At Chair Albee’s request, Chief Dell’Orfano informed that the excise taxes are included in the building permit process; these fees are only within the Town of Parker limits and unrelated to the URA; and it is the ordinance that assigns the public safety portion and it would take quite a bit to undo.

- Revenue
- Excise Tax Use
- Impact

At Director Shriver’s request, Chief Dell’Orfano stated that with the planned growth, land is dedicated for new fire stations.

- **IGA Update** –Chief Dell’Orfano provided an update on the following IGA changes:
 - a. Nothing new to report

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

- **Chief Baker:**
 - His term on the Colorado Fire Commission Board is up and Denver Fire Chief Desmond Fulton took his place.
 - April 23rd and 24th have been reserved for Local 2086 contract negotiations.
 - A meeting will be hosted for staff and line personnel who are not members of Local 2086 on Wednesday, April 3rd to review the results of the recent Workplace Culture Survey. The next step will be to come up with an integrated plan to address the issues brought up in the survey.
 - Will be speaking at the Denver Southeast Rotary Club on April 11th.
 - Will also be speaking at the Littleton Leadership Academy on April 12th along with Littleton Police Chief Doug Stephens.
 - Local 2086’s Hockey Team lost the first game in a final shootout but ended up winning the entire tournament.
- **Chief Dell’Orfano:**
 - With all of the organizational changes since the merger, upcoming changes with a new fire chief, the desire to improve our strategic planning, and the board’s desire to be updated on culture initiatives, it was recommended that the Board and ETeam spend some time off-site to talk about culture, strategy, and build relationships. The Board agreed it is a good idea.
- **CHRO Chapman:**
 - The next promotion ceremony will take place on Wednesday, April 10th at Arapahoe Community College and starts at 5:00 p.m. The ceremony will include recognizing the Staff and Firefighter of the year.
 - A recruitment notice was just posted for Paramedics.
- **Chief Weller:**

- The incumbent physical testing process began on March 1st and includes the cardiac screens, thanks to the Board's approval to purchase the tests. Potentially 300 screens will be done by September.
- Local President Dzengelewski:
 - Tomorrow night is the 2nd Rock Bottom Fire Chief Ale event at the Park Meadows location from 5-8 p.m. 15% of the total sales goes to the foundation as well as 100% of the Fire Chief Ale sales.
 - Scheduling meetings with Chief Baker to work through the integrated plan to address culture initiatives and other topics.
- Chief Powell:
 - Hit the halfway mark in the Academy and still 20 recruits in the program.
 - HR is getting close to dialing in the next academy of 20 that is anticipated to start around August 2nd.
- EMS Captain Piche on behalf of Chief Pietrzyk:
 - Received the Zoll monitors last week and everything went well for a June deployment.
 - SMFR's notoriety encouraged two Paramedic students from Finland to spend a month with our paramedics. They were very impressed with our paramedic program.
- Director Stahlman:
 - Working with Chiefs Burke and Dell'Orfano on some rotary speaking engagements. Appreciates their efforts to engage.
- Director Anderson:
 - The Senior Center in Highlands Ranch has been under construction for a very long time, so when Chief Dell'Orfano provided an update to the Highlands Ranch Metro District recently stating when Station 15 would be finished, it has now turned into a competition to see which project will be finished first.
- Director Leung:
 - The Castle Pines URA has met twice but the April meeting has been cancelled.
- Chair Albee:
 - Noted that there was a lot of positive and encouraging feedback in the survey that did not go unnoticed.
 - Appreciates the update on the website, making public facing items much easier to search and find. Chief Eckmann gave credit to Executive Communications Manager Christian.
 - At the last meeting, Director Sokol asked to see the take home vehicle policy and further discussion is planned on this item for the May 6th meeting.
 - He and Chief Dell'Orfano have been talking to people about strategic planning and a way for the Board to express their strategic thoughts and determine priorities. Just wanted to inform that this is percolating in the background and something that will be added to the list of things that are being done, likely with the assistance of outside resources.
- Thank you notes:
 - A thank you letter was received from West Metro FPD to Captains DeWolfe, Hendee, Lingle, Petau, Peterson, Sims and Urban for participating as assessors in their recent captain promotional process.
 - A thank you note was received for Community Clinician Mary Friedman, Paramedic Tyson Hungerford and CRRS Selena Silva for the assistance during a home visit to one of our citizens.

EXECUTIVE SESSION (UPON MOTION) – Removed from agenda.

NEXT MEETING

Special Board of Directors' Meeting to be held on April 15, 2024, 6:00 p.m. at 9195 East Mineral Avenue, Centennial, CO.

Regular Board of Directors' Meeting to be held on May 6, 2024, 6:00 p.m. at 9195 East Mineral Avenue, Centennial, CO.

Regular South Metro Fire Rescue Volunteer Pension Board of Trustees Meeting to be held on May 6, 2024, 6:00 p.m. at 9195 East Mineral Avenue, Centennial, CO.

ADJOURNMENT

Chair Albee adjourned the meeting at 7:46 p.m.

Attested by: James Allen

Date: May 6, 2024