

South Metro Fire Rescue Fire Protection District  
Special Board of Directors' Meeting Minutes  
July 15, 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 (absent)
	Sue Roche, Secretary	Kristin Eckmann, Deputy Chief – Community Services (absent)
	Kevin Leung (absent)	Matt Weller, Deputy Chief – Internal Services
	William Shriver	Camie Chapman, CHRO Employee Services
	Bruce Stahlman	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 6:04 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**

Chair Albee stated Director Leung's absence is excused. All of the other Board members were present in person.

**APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA**

Director Anderson motioned to approve the agenda as presented. The motion was seconded by Director Sokol. 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 Leung – no changes (absent)
- Director Sokol – no changes

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

N/A

**ACTION ITEMS**

**DISCUSSION/POTENTIAL ACTION ITEMS**

1. **Capital Projects** – Chief Dell'Orfano informed that he and Chief Weller will provide an overview of the future, large-scale capital projects that are forecasted to occur over the next 5-15 years. This is a high-level overview of facility additions, remodels, and relocations to address future growth, improved performance, and organizational needs. Although there is not a detailed financial analysis provided, this discussion is hoped to provide a foundation for future financial planning and prepare for near-term board actions necessary to move projects forward.

The Facility Overview included the needs for Station Planning, Support Facility Planning, and Future Financial Opportunities. There are a variety of options to expand SMFR's "Standard of Coverage" including new stations, upgrading current aging stations to "care for what we have", adding additional apparatus to stations, and relocation of current stations. Discussions included potential new fire stations for the following locations: Tanterra/Hess Ranch/Trails at Crowfoot areas; a new station at Sterling Ranch while keeping Station #40 in place ; and the Relocation of Station #44 at RidgeGate East ; Relocation of Station #36 at The Canyons ; Relocation of Station #16 at Mineral & Santa Fe due to growth.

Chief Weller recommended to move ahead on the purchase of a parcel of land just off Mineral and Santa Fe this year to relocate Station #16 in the future as we are not the only interested party in the proposed property. (The current response time for Windcrest 911 calls would remain the same at either location.)

Discussion also included the condition of our Fleet and Training Center facilities. JSF opened up servicing 10 stations. Now at 30 stations Fleet needs more room to maintain a growing number of current and larger apparatus. If a new location could be found for Fleet then the Training Center could expand into the current JSF property. Douglas County has no plans to relocate their school bus facility at this time.

The Board agreed to further discussions and directed staff to pursue purchasing land for Station #16 relocation and to see if possible to add a new facility for Fleet in the 10 year plan if more financial information was provided.

2. **Board Workshops** – Chief Dell’Orfano stated that the Board and Staff are interested in continuing discussions on strategic topics as well as beginning to prepare for the 2025 budget. Staff would like to discuss ways to accomplish those goals while recognizing the difficulty of scheduling these workshops. One proposal is to cancel the July workshops, incorporate strategic topics into our scheduled board meetings, and begin identifying availability in early fall for budget discussions, after estimates are received from the counties and the November ballot measures are confirmed.

Chief Dell’Orfano discussed the recent E-Team retreat and how to incorporate some great ideas in future Board meetings. Looking to schedule Budget Workshops from September 15 thru end of October. Director Anderson requested these workshops not be added to a regular meeting but scheduled independently and that the dates be determined sooner rather than later as calendars are getting full. Director Shriver suggested these workshops can be scheduled during the Special Board meetings. Dates to be determined. Staff will send out a request for board member availability.

3. **November Ballot Measure** – Chief Dell’Orfano informed that Arapahoe, Jefferson and Douglas Counties contact us prior to the general elections to see if we want to participate in a coordinated election. Staff would like the Board’s direction on whether we are interested in submitting any ballot measures for the November 5, 2024 general election.

The Board agreed there was nothing to add to the ballot measures at this time.

4. **Fire Chief Selection Process** – Chair Albee stated the Fire Chief selection process is still on track with posting the job position by August 5<sup>th</sup> and the closing date of September 27<sup>th</sup>. The goal is to have the best candidate hired by the end of January 2025. (will send updated spreadsheet email to Board Members)

## **INFORMATION ITEMS**

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

- Chief Baker: Leaving for vacation on Wednesday. Plans to be present for the second Board Meeting in August. Chief Weller will be Acting Fire Chief in his absence. Discussed CFO process.

- Mark Dzengelewski: Local #2086 is excited to host the 2025 CPFF State Convention next June at the Inverness Hotel with the goal of being the largest conference held in Colorado to date. More information to come. There are several upcoming memorial services in the next few months.
- Chief Dell'Orfano: Will schedule tours for local Legislators for potentially 8/6 & 8/29.
- Chief Valdez: Gave an update on Littleton's Prince Street fire that led to the arrest and conviction of a suspect in connection with another similar case in Denver. A guilty plea was entered and the suspect is now serving an 8 year sentence. The expertise of our investigators and their collaboration with law enforcement were critical to the success of this case.
- Chief Milan: Station #15 construction is coming in great! Kristin is working on organizing a 9-11 memorial dedication that will include a speaker who was present at the actual event. More information to come.
- Chief Mullane: K. Tasker and D. Becker have recently retired. We are grateful to have worked with these highly trained firefighters and wish them both a happy retirement. Updated the Board that the station #16 Dive Team has been transitioning to station #19 and that overall coverage has not been affected.
- Chief Burke: We currently have 2 apparatus on deployment in California helping with fires.
- Director Anderson: Upcoming event with the State Demographer on this Wednesday at 7:00 A.M. at the Highlands Ranch Mansion (RSVP is required)

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

N/A

#### **NEXT MEETING**

The next Regular South Metro Fire Rescue District Board of Directors' meeting will take place on August 5, 2024, at 6:00 p.m. at 9195 East Mineral Avenue, Centennial, CO.

The next Special South Metro Fire Rescue District Board of Directors' meeting will take place on August 19, 2024, at 6:00 p.m. at 9195 East Mineral Avenue, Centennial, CO.

#### **ADJOURNMENT**

Chair Albee adjourned the meeting at 8:28 p.m.

#### **DISPATCH TOUR**

Attested by: 

Date: Aug 5, 2024