

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

Present:

Jim Albee, Chair	Bob Baker, Fire Chief (absent)
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 – Employee Services
William Shriver	Stephanie Corbo, Chief Financial Officer
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 6:11 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 Shriver motioned to approve the agenda as presented. Director Anderson 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
- Director Leung – no changes

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

N/A

**PARTNER UPDATE**

1. **Centennial URA** – Economic Development Director Neil Marciniak and Planner II David King provided an overview of the Centennial Urban Renewal Authority (CURA), highlighting:
  - CURA – Centennial Urban Renewal Authority created in 2005. Centennial City Council sits as the governing body and has approved one urban renewal plan (Streets at South Glenn)
  - Purpose of URAs is to provide tools to redevelop and revitalize blighted areas within communities

- Next proposed urban renewal plan is Arapahoe Urban Center District No. 4 (AUC-4) with goals to partner with the private sector to redevelop this blighted area focusing on infrastructure (roads, utilities, etc.)
- HB 15-1348 - 2015 Colorado Legislative Session changed URA law that includes URA Boards must add four (4) new members and are required to negotiate with taxing entities for tax increments.
- CURA Board Changes include City Council members (9) will remain on the CURA Board. State law requires Urban Renewal Authorities add four (4) additional members to the URA Board for a total number of (13). This would be a (5) Year Term and is expected to be seated Q1 2025.
- New Board Members (4) would consist of: 1) Appointee of the Arapahoe Board of County Commissioners 2) Elected Board Member of a Board of Education (Cherry Creek or Littleton) serving Centennial 3) Board Member of a Special District levying a mill levy within Centennial 4) Mayoral Appointee.
- Process includes 1) Identify entities and appointees (2024) 2) Notify Special Districts of Special District appointee (2024) 3) Centennial City Council Resolution to "Reform" CURA Board (2024) 4) Seat new board members (2025)
- The Bottom Line – Asking for a Board member to serve on the CURA Board starting Q1 2025 for a (5) year term.
- City of Centennial Economic Development Director Neil Marciniak thanked the Board for their time and the opportunity to provide this information.

## CONSENT AGENDA

July 1, 2024 South Metro Fire Rescue Fire Protection District Regular Board Meeting Minutes

July 15, 2024 South Metro Fire Rescue Fire Protection District Special Board Meeting Minutes

Director Anderson motioned to approve the consent agenda as presented. Director Shriver seconded the motion. The motion carried 5-0 with Directors Roche and Leung recusing themselves from the meetings respectively. The motion carried.

## ACTION ITEMS

1. **2024 Q2 Quarterly Financial Report** – Accounting Manager Takacs was absent so Chair Albee asked for any questions that staff can follow up with answers.

Director Sokol asked why the budget and actuals show less than 50%, as we are in the middle of the 2024 year; does the recent recruit academy help with overtime costs; if SMFR makes money by billing for services when deployed on wildland fires; and, why the benchmark for comparisons have changed.

At Chair Albee's request, Chief Dell'Orfano stated that the timing of the Chandler presentation will be finalized when the new CFO starts and depending on an appropriate time for them to reflect on a certain period of time.

At the Board's request, Chiefs Weller and Dell'Orfano will research and report back on the status of the ERP implementation and a comparison to the timelines and costs originally approved.

Director Sokol motioned to accept the 2024 Q2 Quarterly Financial Report as presented. Director Anderson seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion carried.

2. **Colorado Special Districts Property and Liability Pool Repayment Agreement** – Chief Weller reminded that the District participates in the Colorado Firefighter Heart, Cancer and Behavioral Health Benefits Trust. The Heart Trust premium is paid by the District to the CSD Pool. Once paid, we apply and receive reimbursement through the Colorado Department of Local Affairs (DOLA) Firefighter Cardiac Benefit Program. The District's workers' compensation coverage is through the CSD Pool. A member benefit is that the CSD Pool pays the premium for the Cancer Award Program, with the exception of Breast and Thyroid, which we are obligated to pay separately. The CSD Pool requires the Repayment Agreement between the CSD Pool and the District acknowledging SMFR's repayment obligation in case we cancel or choose not to renew the workers' compensation coverage during the

coverage period from July 1, 2024, to June 30, 2025. The agreement needs to be executed by the governing body. We have signed previous coverage period agreements since participating in the Trust product.

Director Stahlman motioned to approve the Colorado Special Districts Property and Liability Pool Repayment Agreement as presented. Director Roche seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion carried.

## **DISCUSSION/POTENTIAL ACTION ITEMS**

- 1. Fire Chief Selection Process** – Chair Albee stated announced the job posting is up and active. On behalf of the Board, Chair Albee expressed their appreciation to CHRO Champman for the impressive job description flier that was created.

## **INFORMATION ITEMS**

- 1. IGA Update** – Update on the following IGA changes:
  1. Jefferson County Wildland Fire Management Agreement which identifies the roles and responsibilities of the county, Sheriff, and fire districts, and associated standard operating procedures such as delegation of authority, resource ordering, communications, training standards, etc.

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

- Chief Dell'Orfano:
  - SMFR is participating in the evaluation of the beta version of the new National Emergency Response Information System (NERIS) which will replace the current National Fire Incident Reporting System (NFIRS). The timeline for implementation are short so our participation, while burdensome in some ways, will benefit us by shortening our learning curve and helping to shape the ultimate end product.
- Chief Curtis:
  - Discussed how we staff for wildfires and the process of recalling our staff if needed for our district. This is a fine delicate balance on how to backfill our needs during deployment.
- Chief Burke:
  - Reported that July 10,2024 was the earliest we have been at a high-status level of PL5 based on Federal Level Plans. Our deployed crews work for 14 days and are then recalled to rest for 48 hours and then are back on our roster afterwards. Currently there are 42 firefighters from California and Oregon that are deployed to help with Colorado fires.
- Director Leung:
  - Asked how we interact with local Sheriff during a fire ban. Chief Valdez discussed how decisions are made within each county. "Elected Sheriffs" are the Fire Wardens for their counties and make the final decisions.
- Director Leung:
  - Asked why we are often not mentioned in other agencies' announcements of various mitigation efforts. Chief Dell'Orfano discussed our participation in the Douglas County Wildfire Action Collaborative which includes mitigation and response initiatives, how that is coordinated by a county commissioner, and the county announces the group's initiatives directly so agencies involved may not be mentioned specifically. Chief Eckmann reported that the CRR Team is often partnering in messaging and mitigation initiatives behind the scenes but may not be mentioned directly in something the agency is implementing such as offering grants. SMFR does not enforce certain mitigation standards but is a great resource to the community.
- Chief Eckmann:
  - Reminded all that we will have a memorial dedication ceremony on 9/11 at 9 a.m. at the Mineral Headquarters.
- Local 2086 President Mark Dzengelewski:
  - Gave an update on current events. The next Local 2086 meeting is scheduled for next Tuesday, 8.13.24. Local 2086 wanted to thank the Board for approving the continuation of participating in the Heart Trust and Cancer Trust programs (Mental Health programs are also an important component being offered)

- Chair Albee:
  - Presented on “East Metro Fire Rescue Authority” and the struggles they are facing to “go live” with their consolidation. Chair Albee also presented a board meeting timeline related to budget and ballot measure discussions. There may be some schedule changes to help facilitate the timing of communication strategies of any board resolutions regarding ballot measures. Director Leung would like to discuss more details on our past practices and philosophy of creating resolutions regarding ballot measures and legislative issues.
- Chief Pietrzyk:
  - Wanted to thank the Board for the purchase of the new Cardiac Monitors and gave an update on how these monitors are saving more lives than ever.
- Chief Powell:
  - Updated the Board that Academy 2024-2 is in session for 20 weeks that includes 15 paramedics and 5 firefighters.
- Fleet Services Director John Frank:
  - Reminded everyone that the 2nd Annual Car Show is this Saturday, August 10 at the JSF.
- Chief Milan:
  - Gave an update on station 15 getting ready for concrete on 2nd floor. Station 17 is undergoing a remodel of their kitchen and dayroom.
- Director Anderson:
  - Discussed the possibility of another property tax special session for 2024 – will send an article to Chief Dell’Orfano for review. The Highlands Ranch Senior Center is planning on a Grand Opening 10.25.24 and already has 1200 pre-registered senior members eager to use the facility.
- Director Anderson:
  - Asked if SMFR was affected by the recent CrowdStrike incident. SMFR does not utilize CrowdStrike directly but several of our vendors who do use this system did have temporary issues.
- Director Anderson:
  - Wanted to share a thoughtful saying: “Where you stand depends on Where you sit.” Sometimes we support an organization’s needs because we are involved in that organization (or sit on its board), even though it might conflict with our typical philosophical or political beliefs. Tax issues often fall into this category.
- Thank you notes:
  - Director Leung received was recognized by the Republic of China (Taiwan’s) Overseas Community Affairs Council Minister, Hsu Chia-Ching for his effort as an Asian American Community Leader here in Colorado to preserving peace, to safeguard human rights and democracy of Taiwan against the Chinese Communist Party’s aggression.
  - Thank you note received from Castle Pines Mayor Engerman thanking our personnel for making quick work of extinguishing a grass fire along I-25 at Castle Pines on Friday, July 26<sup>th</sup>.
  - Thank you note received from citizen expressing gratitude for the crews that responded to a grass fire at the Willow Creek open space.
  - Thank you note from Greenwood Village Manager John Sheldon to Station 32 for the station tour provided for his grandson and other family members.
  - Thank you letter received from Cherry Park Subdivision to Emergency Manager Dan Stutz for SMFR’s participation in their 4<sup>th</sup> of July parade.
  - Thank you note from the First Presbyterian Church of Littleton to the crew of Station 11 for visiting their Adventures with Grandparents Group.

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

N/A

#### **NEXT MEETING**

Special Board of Directors’ Meeting to be held on August 19, 2024, 6:00 p.m. at 9195 East Mineral Avenue, Centennial, CO.

Regular Board of Directors' Meeting to be held on September 9, 2024, 6:00 p.m. at 9195 East Mineral Avenue, Centennial, CO.

**ADJOURNMENT**

Chair Albee adjourned the meeting at 7:58 p.m.

Attested by: James E Albee

Date: Sep 9, 2024