

South Metro Fire Rescue Fire Protection District
Special Board of Directors' Meeting Minutes
August 19, 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 (via Teams)	Matt Weller, Deputy Chief – Internal Services
	William Shriver (via Teams)	Camie Chapman, CHRO - Employee Services
	Bruce Stahlman	Stephanie Corbo, Chief Financial Officer
		Allison Ulmer, Legal Counsel

Others Present: Lobbyist Camile Driver, Bell Policy Center (Former) & Thinking Forward, LLC Scott Wasserman, 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 6:12 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

Directors Shriver and Leung attended via Teams. All of the 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 Stahlman. 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
- Director Sokol – no changes

PUBLIC COMMENT

N/A

PRESENTATION

1. **Property Tax Legislation & Ballot Measures** – Chief Dell'Orfano introduced Scott Wasserman, Bell Policy Center (Former) & Thinking Forward, LLC and how it is timely to have Scott here to discuss the many property tax initiatives. Scott just wrapped up 8 years as President of Bell Policy Center and the last couple of months has been serving as a representative for Coloradans for Local Communities, highlighting:

- No on Initiative 50 and 108

- Assessed value and local revenues grew very differently across the state
- Legislative Action: A Closer Look at SB 233
- Initiative 50
- Life After the Cap – After Initiative 50
- Initiative 108
- Robbing Peter to Pay Paul – Initiative 108
- Special Session Issues
- Avoid Future Property Tax Fights

At Director Sokol's request, Mr. Wasserman stated that it is his opinion that there is a framework for the upcoming special session but there are some details that still need to be worked out.

At Director Shriver's request, Mr. Wasserman stated that proponents of the measures have until September 6th to withdraw their measures. Special sessions can be as quick as three days or longer & any changes to the assessment rates will be for 2025. No one is doing anything about the 2024 tax burden.

At Director Leung's request, Mr. Wasserman stated that there will likely be cleaner language and potential amendments to what was agreed upon. He believes there might be some drama, but no one wants to see an apocalyptic scenario.

At Chair Albee's request, Mr. Wasserman stated that hearing from the local districts is sorely needed. At some point the fire districts need a statewide revenue stream, so the Board can talk about finances and the difficulties of the budgeting process.

Director Anderson stated that the confusion is in the increased home value and talking about ways to keep the value up but yet giving money back to the homeowners.

Director Stahlman stated that a lot of people just assume they are going to get good services and are not connecting the dots between taxes that are paid and the services delivered.

Local 2086 President Dzengelewski informed that the state lobbyist will be in attendance next week. Hopefully, the special session can get something done and not have to go through all of the preparation of resolutions against ballot measures. Chief Baker added that the State Chiefs are frustrated that they get promises from the legislature that the legislature does not follow through on.

ACTION ITEMS

1. **Centennial URA Special District Representative** – Chief Dell'Orfano provided a summary of the City of Centennial Urban Renewal Authority (URA) in 2005 and the intent to create additional plan areas. This modification requires the appointment of a commissioner to the URA that represents special districts. Contingent on agreement from other special districts, Staff requests the Board formally express their interest, or lack thereof, in being the special district representative.

Director Sokol motioned to direct staff to pursue the appointment of a South Metro Fire Rescue Board Member as Commissioner of the Centennial Urban Renewal Authority, contingent on the other special districts in the city agreeing to South Metro Fire Rescue's representation. Director Roche seconded the motion. 6 were in favor. Director Leung left the meeting. The motion carried.

Director Sokol offered to be the representative as he has good relationship with the City of Centennial Council and represents communities around that area. Chief Dell'Orfano suggested doing it as an action item when SMFR is selected. The board agreed to bring the decision back at that time.

DISCUSSION/POTENTIAL ACTION ITEMS

- 1. Fire Chief Selection Process** – Chair Albee stated the job posting did go out two weeks ago and will be open through September 27th. Things are moving forward and starting discussions about the assessment process. At Director Sokol's request, CHRO Chapman stated so far about 20 applications.

INFORMATION ITEMS

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

- **Chief Baker:**
 - Introduced new CFO Dr. Stephanie Corbo. He and the rest of the ETeam are thrilled to have her on board. She comes to us from Jefferson County & he reviewed her background & education.
 - He will be getting two total knee replacements before he retires, September 26th and November 21st.
 - Got back into town on Saturday night and was scheduled to have dinner at Station 22. The crew went out on a semi tractor trailer that was parked and they were loading up drywall to ship to Guana. The whole container shifted and tilted to about 45 degrees toward a residential sidewalk. Tech Rescue and others were out there stabilizing the container and crews went above and beyond by helping to unload the drywall off of the truck.
- **Chief Eckmann:**
 - The Board should have received an invitation to the 9/11 memorial. It will also be live streamed for anyone who is unable to attend in person.
 - The next Recognition Ceremony is Wednesday night for the new hires and presentation of awards at Arapahoe Community College.
- **Chief Curtis:**
 - Castle Pines is hosting the BMW Golf Tournament and SMFR will be providing medical coverage and unified command control in conjunction with law enforcement. The event goes through the week with the highest exposure days expected to be Saturday and Sunday. Chief Valdez added that the Fire Marshal's Office has also been involved with the event over the past few months with Staff members conducting pre-event inspections and diligently working to ensure the tents and grandstands are safe. Director Anderson stated that these are the types of things that our citizens don't realize what all is involved. Would like to see an estimate on how many hours are spent on the event so they can let constituents know. Chief Eckmann informed that PIO Willie will be doing a ride along with one of our medic units to capture what is going on.
 - Earlier this month, after 15-20 years in conjunction with the Local and the current and past Boards, we met the 4-person staffing goal on all front-line apparatus. Local 2086 President Dzengelewski stated this is one of the first hurdles we worked on with Chief Baker when he was the Operations Chief. Very proud of this accomplishment and setting the course for the right reasons. A lot of thanks is owed to the past and present Boards.
- **Chief Powell:**
 - A couple months ago, it was noted at a Board meeting that Dr. Burns was going to be honored with the Nancy C. Burke Innovation in Public Safety Athletic Training Award by the public Safety Athletic Training Society. The official notification was received. Dr. Burns has received a lot of inquiries from throughout the country asking about our wellness program.
- **Local 2086 President Dzengelewski:**
 - The MDA event is coming up over Labor Day Weekend. This is one of the District's biggest charity events. Historically, SMFR has been one of the better participants. Recognition goes to Jessi Scrivner, who is coordinating the event for SMFR.
 - Denver's Annual Chili Cookoff takes place on October 4th at McGregor Square downtown. More information will be provided as it becomes available.
 - Next week is the IAFF Convention in Boston. The Board will be there representing their membership.
- **Chief Richardson:**
 - The new Tiller's in-service date is September 6th.
 - The Type 3 and two Type 6's that were ordered are done and being inspected.
- **Director Shriver:**

- Lone Tree URA scheduled a meeting for next Monday. He is not aware of any projects, probably more of a meet and greet for the new mayor and council members.
- Director Stahlmann:
 - He and his wife will be making a presentation about gratitude and resilience at 9:00 a.m. in the Board Room. It will also be video recorded. He wanted to personally thank Chiefs Baker, Eckmann and Dusty King for coordinating everything and they are proud to be able to do it for SMFR.
- Director Roche:
 - Attended an ACSO Citizens Academy Alumni Event at the JSF. Captain Brian Delasantos and other crews were there. They kept everyone engaged and wanted to thank them for their participation.
- Director Sokol:
 - He was biking on the Cherry Creek trail on Sunday and stopped to help a woman who had fallen. A medic unit and engine responded. At first it seemed like a lot but noticed that they had to lift her onto the gurney. Wanted to bring it to the forefront that we don't want to send excess resources, but rather the right response. This time it was the right response.

EXECUTIVE SESSION (UPON MOTION)

N/A

NEXT MEETING

The next Regular South Metro Fire Rescue District Board of Directors' meeting will take place on September 9, 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 September 16, 2024, at 6:00 p.m. at 9195 East Mineral Avenue, Centennial, CO.

ADJOURNMENT

Chair Albee adjourned the meeting at 7:49 p.m.

Attested by: 

Date: Sep 9, 2024