

South Metro Fire Rescue Fire Protection District
Regular Board of Directors' Meeting Minutes
September 9, 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 – Employee Services
	William Shriver	Stephanie Corbo, Chief Financial Officer
	Bruce Stahlman	Camie Chapman, CHRO Employee Services
		Allison Ulmer, Legal Counsel (absent)

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 6:01 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

Director Leung attended via Teams. All of the other Board members were present in person.

APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

Director Anderson motioned to approve the agenda as presented. 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
- Director Leung – no changes

PUBLIC COMMENT

N/A

CONSENT AGENDA

August 5, 2024 South Metro Fire Rescue Fire Protection District Regular Board Meeting Minutes
August 19, 2024 South Metro Fire Rescue Fire Protection District Special Board Meeting Minutes

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

ACTION ITEMS

1. **Patriot Day Proclamation** – Director Anderson read SMFR Proclamation No. 2024-02, an observation as a day to honor all Americans who preserve liberty and security for their fellow citizens, lest we never forget those who made the ultimate sacrifices on September 11, 2001.

DISCUSSION/POTENTIAL ACTION ITEMS

1. **Special Session & Related Legislation** – Chief Dell’Orfano reminded that a couple of weeks ago a special session was conducted to allow lawmakers to advance a deal under which the supporters of Initiatives 50 and 108 will pull their measures from the ballot. HB 24B-1001 was passed and both Initiatives 50 and 108 were removed from the ballot. Tonight’s scope is to provide more background as to what happened, what was our participation and strategy. From a budgetary impact perspective, the hope is those discussions will begin next week to understand the details of the legislation. A big thank you to Chiefs Eckman and Curtis for being at the capitol, particularly on the first day, and Lobbyist Driver for her work to represent SMFR and Fire districts funding. Hopefully, the commitment from the Governor to partner with the fire service to look at revenue diversification stays strong, which we will watch closely, and we can look to see what participation we can have in the process.

Lobbyist Camille Driver provided the four main parts of the bill:

- Cap on Property Taxes
- Statewide 5% Growth Determined by the State Board of Equalization (SBE)
- Rate Adjustments for Residential and Non-Residential Properties
- Public Voting Opportunities

At Chair Albee & Director Sokol’s request, CFO Corbo & Lobbyist Driver agreed that there are some variables that need clarification as to how it will affect SMFR.

Director Anderson commented that the voters have already voted to remove TABOR, they voted to remove Gallager and now they have to vote to undo HB24B-1001.

Chair Albee confirmed if the Board members are clear about how the assessments will be determined and how the backfill that SMFR collected affects the 2023 and 2024 assessments, the hope is that during next week’s meeting the Board can focus on the impact of the bill and not debate what the bill meant. CFO Corbo added that she has the carryover built into the budget & we do not qualify for backfill (\$11.5M) for 2025 but has included the difference in assessment rate (\$9M) for 2026. Growth will likely be about 3% for 2025. Director Sokol reminded that former CFO Miskimins always had a 3% cushion, so SMFR should not be affected.

Director Leung noted that if the Board had chosen to reduce the mill levy because we were flush, that would have had a derivative effect year after year.

Director Sokol informed that he is on the State Board of Equalization. Lobbyist Driver congratulated him and noted that he as a member of the Board he will receive the numbers in December.

At Director Leung’s request, more information about Initiative 157 and Amendment G will be provided at next week’s budget workshop.

2. **Fire Chief Selection Process** – Chair Albee stated the process is still underway and timeline seems achievable so no other update.

Director Anderson stated that the questions have not been drafted or finalized yet, so if you have something that you would like asked of a candidate, please send it to CHRO Chapman.

CHRO Chapman stated applications are steadily coming, with over 30 received to date & informed that they are still developing the process and should have more information in their next update.

INFORMATION ITEMS

1. **ERP UPDATE** – CFO Corbo informed that Microsoft 365 goes live next week. The test environment has been taken down so they are now building each of the components that will include detailed user guides. About 300 invoices have come in since Coupa was taken down, so her Team is going to start transacting them once the system goes live. The project is on budget, even though it has been a learning process and a little delayed, it is on track to go live next week. More efficiency and real time data should be available in the new system. Once the system is live and all employees are trained, Staff will bring back an update to the Board.
2. **IGA Update** – Update on the following IGA changes:
 1. There are no new IGAs this past month.

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

- Chief Baker:
 - May be seeing some potential Fire Chief candidates at budget and board meetings as well as other site visits. He has spoken with about 12 potential candidates over the last couple of weeks. Local President Dzengelewski stated he has also had several IAFF members reach out asking questions about the Fire Chief hiring process.
- Chief Dell'Orfano:
 - The City of Lone Tree's URA commission approved the IGA with SMFR for TIF sharing. Director Shriver added that the URA Board approved 7 of the 10 URA proposals for Special Districts so far & there are several new members on the Board.
- Chief Curtis:
 - Also wanted to thank Chief Dell'Orfano for his help with the Special Session testimony.
- Chief Eckmann:
 - Reminded that the annual 9/11 ceremony will take place on Wednesday starting at 9:00 a.m. at the Memorial outside the Mineral HQ and will last about 45 minutes to an hour. Thanked Chief Dell'Orfano and Lobbyist Driver for their help get some state representatives to speak at the ceremony as well as a retired FDNY Fire Chief who was at ground zero. The event will be recorded for anyone who is unable to attend.
- Chief Pietrzyk:
 - Paramedic testing took place last Friday through Sunday and ended up with 16 qualified candidates for the Spring 2025 academy.
 - Dr. Apfelbaum received the Humanitarian Award from AdventHealth for his work to support the delivery of medical supplies to Ukraine and South America.
- Local 2086 President Dzengelewski:
 - SMFR participated in the MDA Fill the Boot Campaign last weekend and collected \$70,746 which does not include the funds that will be raised at the Chili Cookoff downtown at McGregor Square on October 4th. Chair Albee stated it is a lot of fun and he plans to be there.
 - The Local 2086 Event Calendar was distributed so everyone can see what is upcoming.
 - The Annual IAFF Memorial in Colorado Springs takes place on September 21st. It is a very meaningful event that, if you have never gone, is an experience you won't forget. Chair Albee stated he attended last year and concurred that everyone who has the opportunity should go at least once, it's well worth it.
 - The Bi-Annual IAFF Convention which was held in Boston was very successful. The Local's VP Pete Scully deserves recognition for his work done toward a specific resolution that was passed called the Fidelity Fund, which helps to cover legal fees for criminal activities, a significant improvement from the situation faced by Aurora's paramedics. Other significant resolutions were also passed.
- Fleet Services Director Frank:

- The new Tiller update is complete. Pierce as completed the train the trainers with the Fleet technicians & Line members. Next is Emergency Services having everything ready for it to go into service on September 24th.
- Two new Type 6 Engines are in the state & once detailed, will go into service shortly thereafter.
- The Dive Boat has arrived at Great Lakes Marine and hope to have it here in early 2025.
- Chief Mullane:
 - Topping Off Ceremony will take place at Station 15, following the 9/11 ceremony. The Topping Off Ceremony is a tradition that takes place when the highest piece of steel is put in place at the station.
 - The FedEx BMW Golf Championship at Castle Pines in August was more than a year's worth of coordinated planning with DCSO. Feedback has been very positive & stated they could not have been more pleased with the support received from both organizations. Director Anderson stated that she spoke with a DCSO Deputy who worked traffic management at a very busy intersection, and she noted that it was very hot and their feet were killing them. She asked if there is anything in the AAR that could be done better and, although she said no and that SMFR did a great job, maybe SMFR could find a way to be more supportive of individuals doing the footwork. Chief Mullane informed that DCSO approaches the staffing different than SMFR in that they are required to work all four days.
- Director Leung:
 - Emailed a summary of the URA meetings to the Board.
 - Photos of him participating in the MDA collection with Stations 17, 36 and 39 were included in the Board packet. He really enjoyed the experience.
- Director Anderson:
 - Loved the BMW Golf Championship wrap up video. It was very impactful. She got permission and forwarded it to some Douglas County community leaders and friends and family. Not sure how much work it entails but it was well done and makes a big difference.
- Director Shriver:
 - The Lone Tree URA Board was very open to the ability for renegotiation, especially if it affects call volume, which was good news.
- Thank you notes:
 - A thank you note from LODD John Elling's widow, Kerry, to the Department for honoring John and his family with a beautiful commemorative badge.

EXECUTIVE SESSION (UPON MOTION)

N/A

NEXT MEETING

Special Board of Directors' Meeting to be held on September 16, 2024, 6:00 p.m. at 9195 East Mineral Avenue, Centennial, CO.

Regular Board of Directors' Meeting to be held on October 7, 2024, 6:00 p.m. at 9195 East Mineral Avenue, Centennial, CO.

ADJOURNMENT

Chair Albee adjourned the meeting at 7:08 p.m.

Attested by: 

Date: Oct 7, 2024