

South Metro Fire Rescue Fire Protection District
Special Board of Directors' Meeting Minutes
September 16, 2024 – **AMENDED**

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	Matt Weller, Deputy Chief – Internal Services
	William Shriver	Camie Chapman, CHRO - Employee Services
	Bruce Stahlman	Stephanie Corbo, Chief Financial Officer - Business Services
		Legal Counsel (absent)

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 6:00 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 Sokol motioned to approve the agenda as presented. The motion was seconded by Director Anderson. 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

ACTION ITEMS

N/A

DISCUSSION/POTENTIAL ACTION ITEMS

1. **2025 Budget** – Chair Albee continued the conversation from the Board Work Session and stated that the Board needs to resolve what the Board wants to see for the next 2025 budget discussion. Two major items identified so far: transfer into capital fund for 2025 and point of view regarding abatements in 2025.

Chair Albee agreed with Director Anderson's suggestion to transfer \$15M into the Capital budget.

Director Stahlman stated that he's reasonably ambivalent and okay with an \$8M or \$7M transfer, as it is basically an accounting entry & dependent upon how the Board is committed to the 23% reserves down the road

Chair Albee and Directors Anderson and Leung were in agreement with the transfer of \$15M and not deviating from what the group had identified as a priority and funding at a level that allows us to do what is necessary since we are not in crisis mode.

Director Shriver stated that sticking with the \$15M philosophy he looks at more like portfolio investments and is ambivalent about the amount transferred.

Director Sokol recommended an \$8.3M transfer and allow for discussion about what's going to give when having the philosophy discussion early next year.

Director Anderson stated that she believes they can discuss the philosophy at any time and is very passionate about the 23% so would lean toward transferring \$15M as agreed and maintaining the 23% reserves at this point and have further discussion at a later date.

Director Leung stated he feels strongly about the \$15M based on his experience with the school district where the capital funding was used for other issues and then they went to the voters to ask for more money each year. **The voters asked why didn't they continue to raid the capital fund each year.** The philosophy of \$15M and 23% in reserves does not show disparagement and does show why we do what we do, which he feels is a greater way to support and do good things.

Director Roche stated that she missed the work session so was not privy to the discussion.

Chair Albee summarized that the majority feel we should follow our philosophy and transfer the \$15M to the capital fund. The Board can always do a lesser transfer in a future year to keep the 23% in reserves.

Chair Albee noted that although there were no abatement numbers in the handout, if we were to charge abatements in 2025 the 9.25 mils would need to go up to 9.29 mils.

Director Shriver stated he wants to stick to his philosophy to not raise the taxes by collecting abatements and would like to keep it at 9.25 mils. **Director Sokol expressed similar sentiments.**

Directors Stahlman, Roche and Leung stated they would like to collect the abatement.

Director Anderson stated that she does not agree with splitting taxes at someone else's cost but wants to stick to her principle and does not support collecting abatements.

Chair Albee informed that he has been in favor of it in the past and would be in favor of it again, so with a majority of board members so far, directed staff to provide the numbers as a separate line item.

For the purpose of getting the 2025 budget as a draft or as part of another budget workshop, Chair Albee asked what additional analysis the Board would like to see.

Director Anderson would like to understand the cost of the different programs beyond just responding to the community's emergency situations, what our costs are versus revenue. Not specific to 2025 and can be a broader effort of looking at all possible revenues.

Director Leung would like to see the type of financial obligations that are discretionary versus compulsory for anything over \$1M over the next 10 years. Does not need to necessarily be for the 2025 budget. At Chief Baker's suggestion, Staff will provide a spreadsheet for all capital costs over \$1M that have a shelf life, identify the shelf life, as an attachment to the budget.

Director Shriver requested expected income from interest payments, as it could be a \$3M to \$4M impact over 10 years.

Chair Albee informed that the draft budget must be presented to the board by October 15th. There is one meeting on October 7th prior to that deadline. After discussion, the Staff will provide the draft budget and analysis, including an executive summary that includes a summary of what was changed, as a part of the packet for the October 7th meeting

INFORMATION ITEMS

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

- Chief Eckmann:
 - Thanked everyone who attended the 9/11 Memorial Ceremony last week. There is a link to the livestream available and incredible feedback has been received from elected officials and others. Thank you to the Board, Chief Milan and lots of others for their work on the project. Chief Milan stated that Chief Eckmann and her team deserve all of the credit. Local President Dzengelewski concurred adding that it was a great ceremony.
- Local President Dzengelewski:
 - Reminded that Saturday is the IAFF Memorial in CSP starts at 11:00 a.m. and he will send another email out with the time and location. For uniformed personnel, dress code is Class A. For Board Members it is business casual.
 - Thanked the Board and Executive Staff for their work during the budget session earlier.
- Director Stahlman:
 - Chief Milan was not sure how the steel for the memorial was moved out of New York City, but it moved from its original location to the fabricator shop on a flatbed and then to the JFS. A crane was used to lift it into place.
- Director Anderson:
 - Could not attend the memorial because she was as at the SDA Conference where there were good presentations and breakout sessions. It was nice to meet new people. Chief Dell'Orfano added that there is a Zoom meeting on September 24th to do a deeper dive on HB 1001, so hopefully a lot of key questions will be answered.
- Chair Albee:
 - Chief Baker sent out an International Study on Mental Health. Between that conversation and conversations with Fire Chief candidates, he is able to talk for a few minutes about what we do for physical wellness but not sure he can speak at all about mental health. Would like to be equipped with information about what it is that we do. Chiefs Powell and Dell'Orfano will schedule a presentation on resources at a future meeting.

EXECUTIVE SESSION (UPON MOTION)

N/A

NEXT MEETING

The next Regular South Metro Fire Rescue District Board of Directors' meeting will take place on October 7, 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 October 21, 2024, at 6:00 p.m. at 9195 East Mineral Avenue, Centennial, CO.

ADJOURNMENT

Chair Albee adjourned the meeting at 6:39 p.m.

Attested by: _____

Date: _____

ADJOURNMENT

Chair Albee adjourned the meeting at 6:39 p.m.

Attested by: James E Albee

Date: Oct 7, 2024