

South Metro Fire Rescue Fire Protection District  
Regular Board of Directors' Meeting Minutes  
March 3, 2025

|          |                            |  |
|----------|----------------------------|--|
| 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 – Employee Services      |
|          | William Shriver            | Stephanie Corbo, Chief Financial Officer           |
|          | Bruce Stahlman             | Camie Chapman, CHRO Employee Services              |
|          |                            | Allison Ulmer, Legal Counsel                       |

Others Present: Magellan/Public Alignment Team, SMFR Staff Members & citizens

**MEETING CALL TO ORDER**

Chair Albee called the Regular 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 Flag of the United States of America.

**ROLL CALL**

All of the Board members were present in person.

**APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA**

Director Roche motioned to approve the agenda as presented. Director Shriver seconded the motion. 7 were in favor, 0 opposed. 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**

02/03/25 South Metro Fire Rescue Fire Protection District Regular Board Meeting Minutes  
02/24/25 South Metro Fire Rescue Fire Protection District Special Board Meeting Minutes

Director Shriver motioned to approve the Consent Agenda as presented. Director Stahlman seconded the motion. 7 were in favor, 0 opposed. The motion carried.

## **ACTION ITEMS**

N/A

## **DISCUSSION/POTENTIAL ACTION ITEMS**

1. **Revenue Initiative: Survey Results Discussion – Magellan/Public Alignment** – Chief Dell’Orfano reintroduced the team who are here to review the survey results and the next step.

Courtney Sievers & Ryan Winger from Magellan Strategies provided the methodology and results from the preliminary citizen survey to measure the support and opposition for two potential additional funding ballot measures as well as opinion on potential messaging on why SMFR needs additional funding.

Bryan Blakely and Sara O’Keefe from Public Alignment Communications provided information on what was learned and heard from the survey, strategy and outreach programs, messaging and audience, timeline and deliverables, the Board and Staff roles and participation as well as providing three key messaging points.

The Board requested:

- Copies of the preliminary citizen survey responses
- Use the word inform rather than educate
- Sensitivity to some of the merged organizations that have experienced mill levy increases in the last 20 years.
- Clearly outline what will be impacted to avoid perception of scare tactics. The general point is status quo cannot continue without a change.
- Provide a list of key stakeholder meeting dates so the Board can attend as many as possible; confirmed focus more on the city councils to prioritize the Board’s time.
- Provide guidance on how to navigate the opposition to the legislation for sales tax.

The Board thanked the team for the very informative presentations.

A break was taken at 8:04 p.m.

The regular meeting resumed at 8:21 p.m.

2. **3/17/25 Board Meeting Reschedule** – Chief Dell’Orfano stated that the next few weeks will be strategizing on the fly with the consulting teams, working with the card deck of materials to create the most effective presentations for Board review, so no need to reschedule the meeting. At the end of March, would like to get together with a couple of Board members at a time to review the card deck, get feedback and do some train-the-trainer to make sure there is a clear message and consistent back story information. CFO Corbo added that it is an informational campaign with three top messages, reiterating no decision has been made. Staff will be polling the Board to determine their availability & in the meantime, provide feedback to Chief Dell’Orfano or CFO Corbo and they will forward it to the consultants.

## **INFORMATION ITEMS**

1. **12/31/24 Financial Statements** – CFO Corbo informed that the statements were placed in the packet for review and noted that there are almost \$2M in outstanding journal entries and an updated presentation will be provided in May that will include the capital project details.

At Chair Albee’s request, CFO Corbo stated that Station 15 is not over budget at this time and that the cost over run item listed in the summary is because the project is not completed due to some weather delays. Chief Weller added that the project is tracking within budget so there is no specific risk right now but there is some critical path work

that needs to be done. Chief Milan reported that the punch list walk through is scheduled for this Friday, substantial completion expected on the 10<sup>th</sup> and still on budget.

At Chair Albee's request, CHRO Chapman stated that she does know that we had higher claims than anticipated in the self-insured medical fund. CFO Corbo will look into it further to see if the 4<sup>th</sup> quarter trend will continue & if there are any concerns for the 2025 budget. At Director Shriver's request, Staff will also look into whether the stop loss had kicked in or not & at Director Sokol's request to see if there is a seasonality to medical expenses.

At Chair Albee's request, Chief Richardson will provide a schedule of what apparatus we have on order and when it is expected. Chair Albee suggested a quarterly update.

2. **JSF Gym Project Update** – Chief Weller reminded that the Board put \$60K in the budget for a new JSF gym floor & asked Staff to go out to bid. The bid went to 4 vendors and the low-cost bid came in at \$25K. The Board approved going forward under the existing authorizations.
3. **2025 Board Election Update** – Chief Dell'Orfano reminded that the deadline to submit Self-Nomination and Acceptance Forms was Friday and the Write-In Candidate deadline was today. Chief Dell'Orfano reviewed the list of candidates for each district seat & stated that the lot drawing to determine the order of the names on the ballot will be conducted in the next few days. On March 7<sup>th</sup> the ballot will be certified, and Staff will be moving forward with securing the consultant to help coordinate printing ballots, envelopes & finalizing mailing lists. Ballot boxes have been secured with all three counties & continue along in the process.

Director Anderson reminded to put the election information back up on the website about only one name on the ballots for two of the districts. Chief Dell'Orfano stated that the information is also included on the secrecy sleeve in the envelope with the ballot. After discussion, Chair Albee asked Legal Counsel Ulmer to look into what the risks are for not running an election in the two districts where Board candidates have already been chosen. The Board agreed they are okay with it if Legal Counsel cannot find a reason where the risk is too high.

4. **IGA Update** – Chief Dell'Orfano
  - a. The Colorado Water Conservation Board TJTC Easement Agreement is an agreement to clean up old boundary conflicts on the site of the training center. In the process of performing a survey for the new fence installed a few years ago, they realized the property line goes through the storage container and fire hydrant in the northwest corner of the site, and therefore that portion of the site is actually outside of our property line. After two years, the agreement has been signed to have an easement over that area, that is a 25-year renewable lease. The cost was about \$5,600 in fees to get the easement recorded.

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

- Chief Curtis:
  - In the coming weeks, he will be transitioning with Chief Baker, he's excited about that, and outlining the initial communication to the organization.
  - It is a huge priority using the information presented tonight to present to our constituents.
- Local President Dzengelewski:
  - The Foundation Hockey Tournament is May 16-18. On Saturday May 17<sup>th</sup> the NHL Avalanche Alumni are playing against SMFR. Suggested the Board come out to support this great fundraising opportunity.
  - He had the opportunity to meet with Chief Curtis today, which went well, and look forward to getting the E-Board up to speed and moving forward.
  - Director Leung offered to come and speak before the membership about the revenue initiatives, if they would like him to do so.
- Director Shriver:
  - Parker had a couple nice events last week where Chiefs Baker and Dell'Orfano were in attendance.
- Chair Albee:

- Reminded that it is the time of the season for the state of the cities & towns. These are open to everyone and thinks it is good if the Board members are able to attend and build those relationships.
- Thank you notes:
  - Maps of SMFR's US Representatives and Senate, Colorado State Senators and Colorado House of Representatives were provided in the packet.
  - A Happy Valentine's Day Card & Thank you Letter to the Awesome Firefighters were received.
  - Letter from MDA for SMFR's support in their Fill the Boot campaign, recognizing the hard work of Jessi Scrivner, Jacob Gamboa and Drew Schwiethale.
  - Letter from Central Pierce Fire Rescue to SMFR's HPO Division for meeting with their team answering questions and showing them around the impressive facilities.
  - Note thanking SMFR for helping save a coyote that had entered a citizen's back yard.
  - Note thanking E38 and M12 A Shift for their assistance with a citizen who fell in their kitchen.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION (UPON MOTION)**

A motion was made by Chair Albee at 9:03 p.m., pursuant to §24-6-402(4)(e),C.R.S., for the purpose of determining positions relative to matters that may be subject to negotiation, developing strategy for negotiations, and instructing negotiators related to the Fire Marshal's Office services. Director Sokol seconded the motion. 7 were in favor, 0 opposed, the motion carried.

The regular meeting resumed at 9:38 p.m. with no action taken.

A motion was made by Chair Albee at 9:40 p.m. pursuant to §24-6-402(4)(e),C.R.S., for the purpose of determining positions relative to matters that may be subject to negotiation, developing strategy for negotiations, and instructing negotiators related to the Fire Chief's Employment Contract. Director Shriver seconded the motion. 7 were in favor, 0 opposed. The motion carried.

The regular meeting resumed at 10:35 p.m. with no action taken.

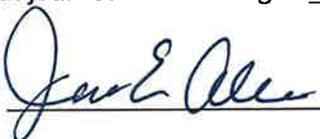
**NEXT MEETING**

Special Board of Directors' Meeting to be held on March 17, 2025, 3:00 p.m. at 9195 East Mineral Avenue, Centennial, CO.

Regular Board of Directors' Meeting to be held on April 7, 2025, 6:00 p.m. at 9195 East Mineral Avenue, Centennial, CO.

**ADJOURNMENT**

Chair Albee adjourned the meeting at 10:35p.m.

Attested by: 

Date: Apr 7, 2025