

South Metro Fire Rescue Fire Protection District
Regular Board of Directors' Meeting Minutes
April 7, 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: 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 4:05 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 Anderson 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

EXECUTIVE SESSION

1. Chair Albee motioned to convene to Executive Session at 4:07 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 Contract. Director Leung seconded the motion. 7 were in favor and 0 opposed. The motion carried.

The regular meeting reconvened at 4:21 p.m. with no action taken.

2. Chair Albee motioned to convene to Executive Session at 4:21 p.m. pursuant to §24-6-402(4)(b) and (e), C.R.S., for the purposes of a conference with the District's legal counsel for purposes of receiving legal advice on specific legal questions and determine positions relative to matters that may be subject to negotiations, developing strategy for negotiations, and instructing negotiators regarding the Station 15 construction project. Director Anderson seconded the motion. 7 were in favor and 0 opposed. The motion carried.

The regular meeting reconvened at 5:25 p.m. with no action taken.

PRESENTATIONS

1. **Director Stahlman** – Chief Baker presented a Recognition Plaque to Director Stahlman thanking him for his service on the Board and for the assistance he and his wife, Kelly, provided in educating our personnel in gratitude and resilience. Chief Curtis added recognition for his work on the inclusion with the Littleton Fire Department.
2. **Wellness Program – CCTA Project Update** – Dr. Burns opened by thanking the organization and the Board and how the decisions they made have had an impact here at SMFR and around the country. Dr. Burns provided an update on the Coronary Computed Tomography Angiography (CCTA), reviewing the data from the pilot group in 2023 through today and further data collection, including publication in the American Academy of Physician Associates and Society of Cardiovascular Computed Tomography as well as presenting at the Science to Station and American Society for Preventive Cardiology seminars.

The Board thanked Dr. Burns for her work to improve the health of our employees as well as others nationwide.

Chief Baker recognized Chief Powell for driving this program forward in identifying how valuable this is for our people and providing awareness of the benefits of the project.

3. **EMS Pre-Hospital Blood Program** – EMS Chief Pietrzyk provided a preview of a new program to provide critical care intervention in the field through the administration of blood to bridge the gap between injury and definitive surgical care. The contract will be signed soon, followed by communication to the field, training in June and the program in place in July. Chief Pietrzyk displayed the cooler and reviewed how the blood would be stored and used. The program will be evaluated after 6 months to determine if expansion of the program is needed.

The Board thanked Chief Pietrzyk for the presentation.

CONSENT AGENDA

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

03/17/25 South Metro Fire Rescue Fire Protection District Special Board Meeting Minutes

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

ACTION ITEMS

1. **National Public Safety Telecommunicators Week Proclamation** – Emergency Communications Director March reminded that every year we recognized our telecommunicators for the work they do in the industry & this year's recognition week, April 13-19, coincides with the Dispatch Center's reaccreditation notification.

Director Roche read the proclamation.

Chair Albee motioned to approve SMFR Proclamation 2025-01 A Proclamation Recognizing April 13-19, 2025 as Public Safety Telecommunicators Week. Director Roche seconded the motion. 7 were in favor, 0 opposed. The motion passed.

2. **Public Hearing: Order by the Board of Directors of the South Metro Fire Rescue Fire Protection District for Exclusion of Real Property (Svitlana Syvokon)**

Chair Albee opened the public hearing at 6:14 p.m.

Chief Dell'Orfano reviewed the location, criteria and process for exclusion. This parcel is one of 13 homes in the City of Aurora that may be requesting to exclude from the District. The general area, east of E470 and south of Smoky Hill Road, used to be in the Parker Fire Protection District boundaries and much of it has since been annexed into the City of Aurora. SMFR has been excluding parcels from our District over the past several years, as we discover parcels that were missed during annexation. The Syvokon property is located at 24346 E. Canyon Drive and includes a single-family home. This property is capable of being served by Aurora Fire Rescue. The anticipated revenue loss, based on a 2024 assessed value of \$42,940, is approximately \$399. Exclusion fees have been waived in accordance with policy.

There was no public comment, and the public hearing was closed at 6:20 p.m.

Chair Albee motioned to approve the Order by the Board of Directors of the South Metro Fire Rescue Fire Protection District for Exclusion of Real Property (Svitlana Syvokon) as presented. Director Shriver seconded the motion. 7 were in favor, 0 opposed. The motion carried.

3. **Fire Chief's Employment Contract (Curtis)** – Chair Albee motioned to table this matter to the April 21st meeting. Director Leung seconded the motion. 7 were in favor, 0 opposed. The motion carried.
4. **Fire Chief's Employment Contract Amendment (Baker)** – Chair Albee motioned to table this matter to the April 21, 2024. Director Roche seconded the motion. 7 were in favor, 0 opposed. The motion carried.
5. **Station 15 Project Budget** – Chief Weller notified the Board that we have reached our contracted budget for this project and an additional \$150,000 has been identified as needed in order to finish the project and asked the Board to approve up to \$200,000 to ensure full completion of the contract.

CFO Corbo added that Staff is asking to increase the contract amount for this in the Capital Plan to cover change orders for \$150,000 and a punch list of items, increasing the budget for this project from \$10.2M to \$10.4M, which will allow Chief Weller the ability to sign change orders on this project without having to come back to the Board for approval.

The Board reminded that we signed a guaranteed maximum price contract for this project that set a ceiling on the total project cost, with the contractor absorbing any costs exceeding that limit.

Director Anderson motioned to increase the contract amount for the Station 15 project from \$10.2M to \$10.4M to fulfill the need for the contract capacity. Director Stahlman seconded the motion. 7 were in favor, 0 opposed.

INFORMATION ITEMS

1. **IGA Update** – Chief Dell'Orfano reported there were no new IGAs signed.

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

- CFO Corbo:
 - Staff has been reconciling the year-end financials, which are not completely finished, but found the self-insured fund needs an accounting adjustment which will improve the self-insured fund by about \$1M and it will be part of the financial presentation in May.
- Local 2086 President Dzengelewski:

- E-Board is working with Human Resources and Internal Services to address the issues identified in the latest survey. They are doing a great job educating the Line and will soon be working with Staff. Chief Curtis added it is a big lift having the HR Team and Internal Services working with the Local to rewrite the policy and really emphasize doing it the right way and the collaboration was very important to us arriving in a very good place.
- Chief Baker:
 - He will be on vacation and will miss the next Board meeting, so this is his last meeting as the fire chief.
- Chief Dell'Orfano:
 - In the last legislative update, it shows that our Senate Bill 172, allowing the cancelling of individual director districts, passed unanimously. Huge kudos to our Lobbyist Driver, Legal Counsel Cole and Director Anderson for their involvement in this great victory. Unfortunately, we will not be able to enjoy the benefits of this legislation until 2027. Director Anderson thanked Chief Dell'Orfano for the work that he and Lobbyist Driver do together for the fire community and SMFR. Chair Albee added that this is something that benefits every special district in the state and we are lucky to have the resources to help.
- Chief Eckmann:
 - Reminded that the Change of Command Ceremony is April 23rd & a table will be reserved for the Board.
- Chief Curtis:
 - There have been significant calls recently. One of the four rescued from the Oneida Street fire in March has passed away. Chief Segura and his battalion did a great job working with law enforcement to get the people to safety, which speaks to the level of training and persistence that our people put into the job. Chief Richardson added that 13 ACSO Officers responded to the fire and did a great job helping get people out of the building. A recognition ceremony is scheduled to acknowledge their service. At Chair Albee's request, Chief Everitt stated there are 126 assisted living facilities in the district, this one was sprinklered and had just been inspected by one of our compliance inspectors, but the fire had been burning for about 20 minutes on the exterior and the sprinkler system was not designed for this scenario. FMO is working with Operations to help identify and familiarize them with the assisted living facilities.
- Chief Powell:
 - 20 future FF are in week 10 of the academy. This week begins the hard-core FF skills training.
- Chief Richardson:
 - 8 personnel deployed to Tennessee & hopefully they will be getting their orders within the next 24 hours.
- Director Sokol:
 - DC court case against state board of equalization, went to district court and they voted in favor of the state board of equalization. He believes DC is within the time they can appeal but no idea if they will or not.
- Director Leung:
 - Thank you to Community Risk Reduction Manager Molitor for attending a meeting with the Douglas County Wildfire Mitigations Manager to provide information and hear the concerns of citizens regarding the significant insurance rates due to lack of fire mitigation around their homes. He also provided his revenue initiative presentation during that meeting.
- Chair Albee:
 - Wants to make sure the Board members saw the email with the update from Chief Curtis regarding the layoffs of NIOSH affecting FF safety. He thanked Chief Curtis for increasing the Board's awareness & encouraged letting the Board know if there is any form of outreach they can assist with.
 - Chief Baker will be in attendance at the May 19th meeting & the Board will do a proper recognition at that meeting.
- Thank you letters/notes:
 - An article from Military Medicine was included in the Board packet, which included contributions from Retired PM Ryan Shelton, EMS Captain Peterson, and Dr. Apfelbaum.
 - Thank you letter received for the FMO for their swift and professional response to Columbine High School in response to a fire on February 26th.
 - Thank you letter received from the National Fallen Firefighters Foundation for the District's contribution in exchange for SMFR LODD bricks placed on the NFFF Walk of Honor in Emmitsburg, MD.

- Thank you letter received from West Metro FPD thanking BCs Grosch, Knutsen, Division Chief Pietryzk and Training Chief Bartell for their participation in their recent assistant chief promotional examination.
- Thank you note received to Engine 33 C Shift for helping move a vehicle accident out of rush hour traffic to a safe place & ensuring that the vehicle passengers were okay.
- Thank you note received for Station 18 A Shift for their response to an incident on February 13th.

A break was taken at 6:51 p.m.

The regular meeting reconvened at 7:20 p.m.

DISCUSSION/POTENTIAL ACTION ITEMS

1. **Revenue Initiative Discussion** – The Board and ETeam continued discussions around future revenue needs.


NEXT MEETING

Special Board of Directors' Meeting to be held on April 21, 2025, 3:00 p.m. at 9195 East Mineral Avenue, Centennial, CO.

Regular Board of Directors' Meeting to be held on May 5, 2025, 6:00 p.m. at 9195 East Mineral Avenue, Centennial, CO.

ADJOURNMENT

Chair Albee adjourned the meeting at 9:48 p.m.

Attested by: 

Date: 5/5/2025