

South Metro Fire Rescue Fire Protection District
Regular Board of Directors' Meeting Minutes
July 14, 2025

Present:	Jim Albee, Chair	John Curtis, Fire Chief
	Renee Anderson, Vice Chair	Mike Dell'Orfano, Chief Govt. Affairs Officer
	Rich Sokol, Treasurer	Jake Mayhew, Deputy Chief– Emergency Services
	Sue Roche, Secretary (absent)	Kristin Eckmann, Deputy Chief – Community Services
	Kevin Leung	Matt Weller, Deputy Chief – Employee Services
	William Shriver	Stephanie Corbo, Chief Financial Officer
	Phil McCart	Camie Chapman, CHRO Employee Services
		Bob Cole, 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 18:04 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

Director Roche's absence is excused. All of the other Board members were present in person.

APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

Director Leung motioned to approve the agenda as presented. Director Shriver seconded the motion. 6 were in favor, 0 opposed. The motion carried.

OATH OF OFFICE

1. **District 4 Board Member Phil McCart** – Chair Albee swore in the Oath of Office for appointed Director McCart.

CONFLICT OF INTEREST DISCLOSURE

Chair Albee asked if there were any changes to conflict of interest affirmation:

- Director McCart – no conflicts of interest; will consult with Bob Cole regarding his employment at Lockheed Martin
- Director Roche – absent
- Director Anderson – no changes
- Chair Albee- no changes
- Director Shriver – no changes
- Director Sokol – no changes
- Director Leung – no changes

INTRODUCTION

1. **Deputy Chief of Operations Jake Mayhew** – Chief Curtis provided a brief overview of Chief Mayhew's background and welcomed him to the ETeam.

SPECIAL PRESENTATION

Fire Chief Curtis presented an Exceptional Duty Award to Division Chief Jens Pietrzyk for his critical intervention during a cardiac arrest at our Mineral HQ. We appreciate his humble service and dedication to saving lives. Director Anderson personally thanked Chief Pietrzyk for his military service and dedication to SMFR.

PUBLIC COMMENT

There were no public comments.

CONSENT AGENDA

1. **06/02/25 South Metro Fire Rescue Fire Protection District Regular Board Meeting Minutes**
2. **06/16/25 South Metro Fire Rescue Fire Protection District Special Board Meeting Minutes**
3. **06/23/25 South Metro Fire Rescue Fire Protection District Special Board Meeting Minutes**

Director McCart abstained from voting because he was not in attendance at the meetings as a board member.

Consent Agenda item #2 "06/16/25 South Metro Fire Rescue Fire Protection District Special Board Meeting Minutes" was removed and tabled until it is clarified as a work session.

Director Leung motioned to approve the Consent Agenda with a minor correction to item #1. Director Anderson seconded the motion. 5 were in favor, 1 abstained, 0 opposed. The motion(s) carried.

ACTION ITEMS

1. **Public Hearing: SMFR Resolution No. 2025-03 Resolution to Amend 2025 Budget and Appropriate Sums – CFO**
Corbo stated Staff is requesting to increase the General Fund expenditure appropriation to include the following initiatives: Fire Chief selection in the amount of \$162,401 (budget rollover from 2024), revenue election consultant in the amount of \$143,343 (budget rollover from 2024), purchase of three thermal imaging cameras for Centennial Airport in the amount of \$19,431 (reimbursable), and rollover of ending 2024 Jefferson-Arapahoe consolidated CAD (JACC) balance in the amount of \$102,342 (restricted). Staff also requested to increase the Capital Projects Fund expenditure appropriation to include vehicle and apparatus budget rollover from 2024 in the amount of \$3,501,385 (delivery timing) as well as upfitting of apparatuses in the amount of \$559,399.

A motion was made by Director Albee to approve SMFR Resolution No. 2025-03 Resolution to Amend 2025 Budget and Appropriate Sums as presented. Director Sokol seconded the motion. 6 were in favor, 0 opposed. The motion carried.

DISCUSSION/POTENTIAL ACTION ITEMS

1. **Revenue Initiative** - Sara O'Keefe and Bryan Blakely from Public Alignment Communications and Courney Sievers and Ryan Winger from Magellan Strategies presented:
 - a. **2nd Survey Results** – Ms. Sievers and Mr. Winger presented the topline results of an online survey of 2,095 registered voters in the SMFR District. The interviews were conducted from June 18th – 30th, 2025. This survey has a margin of error of +/- 2.14% at the 95 percent confidence interval. The survey data were weighted to represent the turnout demographics of an odd-year election within the SMFR District.
 - b. **Stakeholder Feedback** – Chief Dell'Orfano provided a summary of feedback received during presentations to stakeholder groups. Also, questions and answers on the engagesouthmetro.org site were provided.
 - c. **General Discussion** – A decision tree was reviewed outlining the various direction needed to work toward a potential ballot measure, including whether a tax increase is needed, if a ballot measure will be submitted, whether property or sales tax will be pursued, and, if property tax, whether a property tax limit waiver or floating mill should be pursued. Individual board members indicated their preference to ask voters for additional revenues in the November 4th election but did not indicate support for the tax limit waiver or floating mill. There was discussion regarding the pros and cons of property taxes and sales taxes. Additional direction/requests included:

- i. Make necessary updates to engagesouthmetro.org prior to the board calling for the election.
- ii. Is there a short-term step a revenue increase.
- iii. Can we see the distribution of seniors and lower income citizens in our district.
- iv. Are other jurisdictions submitting ballot measures in November.
- v. If a 2026 vote is needed, what is the short-term fix.
- vi. Provide information on sales tax trends, ideally going back to the 2008 reduction.
- vii. What is the potential cost of the November election.
- viii. Provide highlights of the 2026 budget if not revenue increase is obtained.

INFORMATION ITEMS

1. **Town of Parker Fire Code Permitting Services** – The Town of Parker has designated SMFR as the Town’s fire code official, which means our Fire Marshal’s Office will resume issuing permits for all construction and events, duties that were removed back in 2015. Parker Town Council will take action on ordinances that address start-up costs and fire code revisions at a later date.
2. **Station 32’s Water Quality Permit Withdrawal** – Chief Dell’Orfano informed that when Station 32 was built, SMFR was required to monitor contaminants in the ground water. These were naturally occurring, not the result of SMFR’s activities. CDPHE has recently changed their rules and we are no longer required to perform this monitoring and reporting. Therefore, SMFR submitted a notice withdrawing us from the permit process. The State could re-introduce regulations in the future.
3. **IGA Update** – Chief Dell’Orfano informed there were no new IGAs signed.
4. **Board Officer Election August 4th** – Chief Dell’Orfano reminded that per the SMFR district bylaws, the Board shall elect officers at the first regular meeting after the election or “at such time as deemed appropriate” by the Board. With the vacancy and appointment at the last meeting, this process will be addressed at the August 4th meeting. The positions to be elected include Chair, Vice-Chair, Secretary and Treasurer.
5. **Medicare/Medicaid – Future Challenges** – Chief Curtis discussed the future challenges of Medicare/Medicaid. With funding reductions at the federal level, the potential impacts include the elimination of SMFR’s Medicare Supplement (totaling about \$7M this year), reductions in transport revenue, reductions in coverage for some of our community, and an increased reliance on 911 for medical services.

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

- Chief Mayhew:
 - Update on the Airport Fire is now 90% contained
- Chief Pietrzyk:
 - A recently injured FF from Idaho will be transported to Craig Hospital for rehabilitation.
- CHRO Chapman:
 - Next Academy has a start date of 7.25.25 with a class of 18.
- Chief Weller:
 - Station 15 Open House was well attended. The station is almost complete with some concrete work still pending.
- Chief Richardson:
 - SMFR currently has 4 FF working wildland fires in California with a relief crew swapping out in 2 days.
- Fire Marshal Everitt:
 - FMO attended 10 events/concerts including Fiddlers Green during the 4th of July holiday. This is a great opportunity to work with Community Relations to remind the public about proper disposal of used fireworks.
- Local Union Member Pierce reporting for President Dzengelewski:
 - Good results from the recent Golf Tournament
- Director Leung:
 - Enjoyed the local 4th of July Parade

- Attended Last Shift Ceremony for Reggie Hyatt
- Director Anderson:
 - Expressed gratitude to everyone who helped support the 4th of July events.
 - Recently toured the recently opened Mesquite Fire Station in Nevada.
- Director McCart:
 - Currently reading the book "Crucible of Fire".
 - Getting up to speed on SMFR Board happenings.
- Chair Albee:
 - Station 15 Grand Opening had over 700 people attend. Thank you to all who helped to make this newest rebuilt Fire Station happen!
 - Thank you to all who help the Board in every aspect. It is much appreciated.
- A copy of the 2024 Annual Report was included in the Board packet.
- Thank you letters/notes:
 - Thank you note received from website expressing support for the brave men and women of SMFR.
 - Thank you note received from the website expressing appreciation for Station 33 A Shift and Dispatch Supervisor Matt Whipple for assistance with a potential fireplace gas leak.
 - Thank you letter received from the Parker Police Department for SMFR's invaluable participation in the Parker Days Festival.
 - Thank you note received for SMFR's assistance provided at a gas station on Arapahoe Road after they had run out of gas.
 - Thank you note received for Station 45 and 18 B Shift for rescuing a dog from a burning building which was seen on Tik Tok.
 - Thank you letter to Station 46 for assistance with a persistent upstairs fire detector issue.
 - Thank you note received from Highlands Ranch Community Association for Fire Inspector Burgess for his help making their 4th of July parade event a huge success.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

N/A

NEXT MEETING

Special Board of Directors' Meeting to be held on July 21, 2025, 6:00 p.m. at 9195 East Mineral Avenue, Centennial, CO.

Regular South Metro Fire Rescue Volunteer Firefighter Board of Trustees Meeting to be held on August 4, 2025, 6:00 p.m. at 9195 East Mineral Avenue, Centennial, CO

Regular Board of Directors' Meeting to be held on August 4, 2025, 6:00 p.m. at 9195 East Mineral Avenue, Centennial, CO.

ADJOURNMENT

Chair Albee adjourned the meeting at 9:24 p.m.

Attested by: 

Date: Aug 4, 2025