

South Metro Fire Rescue Fire Protection District  
Regular Board of Directors' Meeting Minutes  
February 23, 2026

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**ATENDEES:**

**Board**

Jim Albee, Chair  
Renee Anderson, Vice Chair  
William Shriver, Treasurer  
Sue Roche, Secretary  
Kevin Leung, Director  
~~Rich Sokol, Director – Absent~~  
Phil McCart, Director

**SMFR Executive Team**

John Curtis, Fire Chief  
Mike Dell'Orfano, Chief Government Affairs Officer  
Kristin Eckmann, Deputy Chief - Communications  
Matt Weller, Deputy Chief – Internal Services  
Stephanie Corbo – CFO Finance  
Camie Chapman, Chief Human Resources Officer  
~~Jake Mayhew, Deputy Chief – Absent~~  
Allison Ullmer, Legal Counsel

**Other Attendees**

SMFR Staff  
Craig Erickson, Executive Director, Windcrest Senior Living Community  
Felipe Marquez, EMS Security Supervisor, Windcrest Senior Living Community

**MEETING CALL TO ORDER**

Chair Albee called the Regular Meeting of the South Metro Fire Rescue Fire Protection District to order at 6:09 p.m. and welcomed everyone to the meeting.

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

The Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America was recited.

**ROLL CALL**

All board members were in attendance and present.

**APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA**

Motion: Director Shriver motioned to approve the agenda as presented. Secretary Roche seconded the motion to approve. 6 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 McCart – no changes
- Director Roche – no changes
- Director Anderson – no changes
- Chair Albee- no changes
- Director Shriver – no changes
- ~~Director Sokol – Absent~~

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

A Windcrest resident conveyed appreciation for the department and sought clarification regarding the dual response of fire apparatus and ambulances to medical calls.

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**CONSENT AGENDA**

N/A

**PRESENTATIONS**

**1. EMS Division 2025 Review – Apfelbaum, Vollmer**

Chief Jason Vollmer, Battalion Chief/EMS Operations, and Dr. Jonathan Applebaum, Medical Director, provided an overview of the EMS Division's performance and initiatives for 2025. They thanked the Board for the opportunity to present and Windcrest leadership for hosting the meeting. The presentation highlighted new and innovative EMS programs implemented in 2025, key divisional accomplishments, and a focused review of the partnership between South Metro Fire Rescue and Windcrest, including service impacts and collaborative efforts. In 2025, South Metro Fire Rescue responded to just over 1,000 - 911 calls within Windcrest, a level of service proportionate to the size of the community.

The EMS Division reaffirmed its mission to consistently deliver high-quality emergency medical care through continuous improvement, advanced training, cutting-edge technology, and a patient-centered approach. Continuous improvement efforts include clinical oversight by the Medical Director; advancement of clinical practices through the Protocol Development Committee (currently being rebranded); equipment and technology evaluation through the R&D Committee; expanded EMS training at the Troy Jackson Training Center and cadaver-based labs in Denver; and the Board supported purchase of new ZOLL cardiac monitors.

Dr. Jonathan Applebaum, Medical Director, presented the newly introduced blood program that was launched in August of 2025 that is funded by the Advent Health Foundation, which is different from Advent Hospital and is a non-profit organization. Dr. Apfelbaum explained the significance of having this blood program in place and how it impacts transport and aids in the decrease in long-term care, as well as the support it provides to the hospitals. This program is evolving and has lasting impact on lifesaving survival rates; however, it is only funded for a limited time. Dr. Apfelbaum expressed they are working on other partnerships with area hospitals to ensure this stays in place.

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**PRESENTATIONS**

2. **National Emergency Response Information System (NERIS) – Grosch, McAndrews**  
Nick Grosch, Battalion Chief and Kim McAndrews, Strategic Services Manager, gave a presentation on the successful transition from NFIRS to NERIS highlighting the limitations of NFIRS and the benefits of NERIS, including cloud-based infrastructure, near real-time reporting, flexible architecture, and improved ability to identify emerging hazards. South Metro Fire Rescue outlined its internal committee and Super User process to ensure quality data and successful implementation across operations, CRR, Fire Marshal's Office, special teams, and national reporting requirements. The update included early NERIS use cases (MVA non-injury, SWAT, and assist police calls), Colorado and nationwide onboarding status as of February 23, 2026, and next steps focused on continuous improvement through user feedback, secondary modules, enhanced training, committee resizing, and expanded data reporting and visualization. NFIRS will no longer be accessible after January 31, 2026.

**ACTION ITEMS**

N/A

**DISCUSSION/POTENTIAL ACTION ITEMS**

N/A

**INFORMATION ITEMS**

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

**Remarks:**

Chief Curtis, on behalf of Chief Mayhew, reported ongoing evaluation of operational efficiency and resource deployment to ensure the right apparatus and personnel are assigned to the right calls at the right time, while maintaining current standards of care for fire suppression, EMS, and hazardous materials response. Leadership, in collaboration with operations, labor, executive staff, and finance, is exploring alternate response models, including a potential pilot of single-certification paramedic ambulances. This could improve efficiency, expand ALS coverage, address paramedic recruitment and retention challenges, and reduce costs without compromising patient care. The concept would allow South Metro Fire Rescue to supplement current dual-certification staffing with single-certification paramedics under the department's training and quality standards, potentially expanding ALS reach, improving staffing flexibility, supporting future unit placement in high-call-volume areas, and achieving long-term cost savings. A formal working group will develop and evaluate the model, including staffing, training, academy impacts, labor considerations, and implementation timelines, with the ability to adjust or discontinue the approach if outcomes do not meet operational and care standards.

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**Remarks:**

Chief Curtis also shared that he presented at the Highlands Ranch Citizens Academy, as well as at the Littleton Leadership Academy last week and both were great experiences and well received from our end.

Chief Dell'Orfano reminded all that the DRAFT strategic plan will be coming out at the March 9, 2026, board meeting. All employees have reviewed the DRAFT plan during several meetings that took place this past week both in person and virtually. He expressed gratitude for the attendance turnout and is excited to share the draft plan on March 9<sup>th</sup>. He also expressed that this draft will draw an overall picture, as well as dig in to see what is being worked on.

Director Anderson expressed her appreciation for the accommodation for the meeting, as well as all the exceptional work that is done at Windcrest that she personally has witnessed in the amazing care for her two elderly parents who have lived at Windcrest for the last five years. She expressed how fortunate she is to be a part of both South Metro Fire Rescue and Windcrest Senior Living. She thanked all in attendance for being here to see the work that is done by the organization.

CRO Chapman updated that final offers were made to 17 applicants for the next fire academy starting on April 3, 2026. Chief Curtis made a video final offer to all 17 applicants, and it was a very special gesture that they all were extremely excited to accept.

Director McCart shared that the Littleton Leadership Academy is a well-regarded program established by the Mayor and former City Council members of the City of Littleton to develop a leadership pipeline for engaged community members. He noted that he participated in the first post-COVID academy two years ago and was recently invited back to speak and reflect on his experience. Director McCart credited the program as a meaningful contributor to his leadership development and to his current role serving on the South Metro Fire Rescue Board. He also has been reviewing the Standard of Cover and he thought it was well improved and will be finished in the next few weeks with comments.

Director Leung wanted to give a special thank you to South Metro Fire Rescue for their assistance in approving the new playground at the STEM School in Highlands Ranch, Co.

Director Shriver reminded that the State of the Town is on Wednesday, February 25<sup>th</sup> from 3:00p-5:00p at the PACE Center in Parker, Co.

Local President, Mark Dzengelewski noted that he will not be attending the March 9, 2026, meeting, he and four members of the leadership team are in Washington, D.C., attending a legislative conference. Topics to be addressed at the national level include alternatives to PFAS in bunker gear due to cancer risk concerns, wildfire emergency preparedness, public safety officer free speech, and cancer screening, among other legislative priorities. During the next meeting, leadership representation will be provided in his absence.

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**Remarks:**

Chair Albee wanted to make sure that everyone is aware that the next two meetings are very important regarding participation and input to influence the strategic plan. He is confident that the organization will be pleased with the finished product that includes our expectations, motivations and desire in development. He also wanted to highlight the First Quarter Public Health Newsletter that came out last week and he highly encourages to read it for the effectiveness of what the program does and how effective it can be to reduce emergency department visits and hospital visits. Proof positive for reframing and the impact it can have on the community. He also reflected on last year, February 24 2025, this board meeting was the meeting that chose the new Fire Chief, Chief John Curtis. In amazement of what a great year it has been full of achievements and hard to believe a year has passed. Lastly, he echoed Director Anderson's appreciation for the public participation and attendance at this meeting.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION**

Chair Albee moved to enter executive session at 8:29p.m. pursuant to § 24-6-402(4)(b), C.R.S., conferences with an attorney for the public entity to receive legal advice on specific legal questions, and pursuant to §24-6-402(4)(e), C.R.S., determining positions relative to matters that may be subject to negotiation, developing strategy for negotiations, and instructing negotiators regarding Station 15. Director Shriver seconded the motion. 6 were in favor, 0 opposed. The motion carried.

The executive session ended at 9:23 p.m. with no action.

**NEXT MEETINGS**

Regular Board of Directors' Meeting to be held on March 9, 2026 at 6:00p.m. at 9195 E. Mineral Avenue, Centennial, CO 80112.

**ADJOURNMENT**

Chair Albee adjourned the meeting at 9:23 p.m.

Attested by: 

Date: Mar 9, 2026