

South Metro Fire Rescue Fire Protection District  
Special Board of Directors' Meeting Minutes  
January 23, 2023

Present:	Jim Albee, Chair	Bob Baker, Fire Chief
	Renee Anderson, Vice Chair	Mike Dell'Orfano, Chief Govt. Affairs Officer (absent)
	William Shriver, Treasurer (via Teams)	John Curtis, Deputy Chief – Emergency Services
	Sue Roche, Secretary	Jon Adams, Deputy Chief - Internal Services (via Teams)
	Kevin Leung	Kristin Eckman, Deputy Chief – Community Services
	Rich Sokol	Dillon Miskimins, CFO Business Services (absent)
		Camie Chapman, CHRO Employee Services
		Bob Cole, Legal Counsel

Others Present: Board District #4 Applicants & SMFR Staff Members

**MEETING CALL TO ORDER**

Chair Albee called the Regular Meeting of the South Metro Fire Rescue Fire Protection District to order at 6:03 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 or via Teams.

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

N/A

**ACTION ITEMS**

**Board Vacancy – District 4**

Chair Albee stated that tonight's meeting is to look at filling the Board vacancy created by Cindy Hathaway's resignation. Each of the two applicants here tonight have provided resumes and a short description of why they want to fill this short-term vacancy and what skills and abilities they would bring to the Board. Based on the discussions over the past two meetings, what was envisioned for this evening is that the two candidates would have up to three minutes to make a comment and then there are a couple of questions that the Board has pre-identified that will be asked of each candidate and then there will be the opportunity for the Board members to ask additional questions. Once the Board feels that they have gathered everything they need, there can be discussion regarding the information provided, the process, and prepare to vote if that is the Board's desire.

After the applicants question and answer period, Chair Albee stated that he has thought a lot about this recently and feels that we should not fill the vacancy primarily because, although these two individuals have indicated their intent to self-nominate and run for the seat, there are possibly at least one or two additional people that will be running for the seat and is uncomfortable with allowing a candidate a considerable leg up as a candidate. Adding that he is not concerned with having six board members instead of seven & a stale mate on an issue is not a concern and even with the possibility that the Douglas County Board of Commissioners could appoint someone to the position, which is unlikely due to the timing, the appointment would never be out of the Board's control.

Director Anderson added that anyone who has been considering putting their name in the hat had the opportunity to submit an application so not sure it would be a huge leg up because they can still come to meetings and learn about the organization and the Board.

Director Sokol agreed with Chair Albee and upon reflection that incumbency carries an advantage and the person chosen would have a huge advantage we would be putting our thumb on the scale, especially when we have two outstanding candidates.

Director Leung stated that quite honestly if we chose someone today and they lose in May that would be the worst outcome & prefers to let the people choose and the current Board can deal for three months and six or seven meetings.

Chair Albee stated that not filling the vacancy would also be eliminating the longer runway for the chosen candidate.

Director Roche stated that she has been in favor of not filling the position, expressed her deep gratitude to the candidates for coming and it would have been a difficult decision; however, she is not worried about being a six-member Board for a short period of time.

Director Anderson stated that it is her preference to appoint someone but is happy to go along with the majority of the Board.

Director Shriver stated that they both are great candidates but with 95 days until the election, he would be happy to give it back to the people to decide.

A motion was made by Kevin Leung and seconded by Sue Roche to table filling the vacant board seat. Five were in favor and Director Anderson was opposed. The motion carried.

Chair Albee expressed appreciation for the investment in time by the candidates, hopes to see them on May 2<sup>nd</sup> and invited them to attend any meetings and reach out to chat.

#### **INFORMATION ITEMS**

- Chief Dell'Orfano joined the meeting late and stated that he just returned from the DC Planning Commission meeting where they voted to approve the Service Plan. Chief Dell'Orfano reviewed the upcoming meetings, noting that the Service Plan is on Jefferson County's consent agenda, so may not need to attend. At Chair Albee's request, the only question during the DC Planning Commission meeting was regarding SMFR's 2022 expenses exceeding revenues so he explained the reserve plan, capital goals and focus on budget.
- Director Sokol reported that he addressed a group of second graders last Friday and because they knew he was on the SMFR board they asked if he was a real firefighter. When he said no, the teacher asked if he could pretend he was one, so he agreed and received a lot of questions about firefighting and hopes that he answered them correctly.
- Director Leung stated that he attended a Chinese New Year celebration and as a representative of SMFR, explained why they should not set off fireworks & all that SMFR is doing for them.
- Director Anderson informed that she was talking to a constituent at Windcrest who has concerns about some dead trees and foliage along the canal that was originally addressed with CRRS Jensen. She will forward along the email to see if Staff can address the concern.

#### **EXECUTIVE SESSION (UPON MOTION)**

N/A

#### **NEXT MEETING**

The next Regular South Metro Fire Rescue District Board of Directors' meeting will take place on February 6, 2023, at 6:00 p.m. at 9195 East Mineral Avenue, Centennial, CO.

**ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting was adjourned by Chair Albee at 7:17 pm.

Attested by: James E. Albee

Date: Feb 6, 2023