

South Metro Fire Rescue Fire Protection District
Special Board of Directors' Meeting Minutes
October 18, 2021

Present:

Jim Albee, Chair
Renee Anderson, Vice Chair
William Shriver, Treasurer
Hank Eng, Secretary
Cindy Hathaway
Alison Rausch
Sue Roche

Bob Baker, Fire Chief
Mike Dell'Orfano, Assistant Chief
Tobias Kirschke, Assistant Chief
Kevin Milan, Assistant Chief
Jon Adams, Assistant Chief
Kristin Eckman, Chief Communications Officer
Camie Chapman, Human Resources Director
Dillon Miskimins, Chief Financial Officer
Breann Aragon, Controller
Bob Cole, Legal Counsel

Others Present: SMFR Staff

MEETING CALLED TO ORDER

Chair Albee called the special meeting of the South Metro Fire Rescue Fire Protection District to order at 6:15 p.m. and welcomed everyone to the meeting which was held at Station 43.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Chair Albee led the Pledge of Allegiance to the United States of America.

ROLL CALL

All Board Members were present in person.

PRESENTATION

Parker Update – Community Development Director John Fussa provided a short personal bio and provided an update on the Town's development, highlighting:

- Coordination & Partnership
- 2020 Census Update
- 2020 Growth & Development
- Challenges
- My Mainstreet – DRCOG Project
- Parker Road Corridor Plan
- Zoning Modernization
- Town Initiatives & Projects

The Board thanked Mr. Fussa for his presentation.

STATION TOUR

Station Officer Marmolejo, Engineer Johnson and Firefighter Hawkins provided a tour of Station 43.

ACTION ITEMS

N/A

DISCUSSION ITEMS

2022 Budget – Chief Baker provided a high-level overview of the Salary & Benefits discussions in response to the direction that came from the Board Work Sessions, highlighting:

- Innovative solutions
- Additional Staff for 2022 still under review
- Increased Spring Academy to 30 PM/FF Positions, accepting lateral Paramedics; Fall Academy 30 FFs to bring staffing levels high enough not to affect OT
- 2023 one additional vacation day for line
- 2024 two additional vacation days for line
- Current budget does not go below 20% in reserves
- Capital budget maintained at \$50 million
- Staff still working with the local on the rest of the employment agreement (3%/year increase, 457, RHS, Sick Leave Buyout)
- 2022 first year disparity in compensation between Line & Staff due to Local's willingness to give up benefit(s) in exchange for other benefit(s)

At Director Albee's request, CFO Miskimins stated that there are larger offsets from SB293 and Proposition 120 which have not be built into the revenue projections yet.

Chair Albee reminded the Board that at the November 1st meeting the 2022 Budget Public Hearing will be held and at the December 6th meeting the Board will adopt the budget and requested that the Board members provide their availability over the next couple of weeks for another work session, which will include Local 2086 representatives.

At the Board's request, Staff will provide an overview of the major operating expenditures for 2020-2021.

Abatements – As a follow up to last meeting's discussion, Director Anderson provided information that big companies are able to use a loophole in the system to lower their assessed value outside of the residential appeal process and spreading the cost to everyone. Chair Albee interjected that the abatement and refunds process exists to help make the district whole, nothing provocative or unique in the process, and has been utilized by both Parker Fire and South Metro in the recent past & the plan is to use the funds to benefit the District not just let it sit there. Director Shriver stated that we agree to charge the citizens 9.25 mills, we shouldn't charge or penalize them with abatements. Director Eng stated that he would vote for the collection of abatements.

Chair Albee polled the Board and 4 were in favor of collecting abatements & refunds, 3 were opposed.

Future Election – Chief Dell'Orfano, in preparation for the upcoming board election, provided an overview of the process, reviewed some legislative changes, and requested direction in order to prepare the necessary documents for the December board meeting when the Board will call for the election, including whether not it will be a polling place or mail ballot election, with the assumption of a mail ballot based on previous discussions. A copy of SB21-160, which amends Section 32-1-902.7, C.R.S. and allows special districts to choose between Directors being elected at large or by only the eligible electors within each Director district, a copy of the Director district map, and SB21-250 which has additional legislative changes for the Board's information were include in the Board packet.

Chair Albee polled the Board and 4 were in favor of a Director District Election and 3 were in favor of an At Large Election.

Chair Albee polled the Board and all were in favor of a Mail Ballot Election.

INFORMATION ITEMS

- Troy Jackson Memorial – Director Hathaway presented Chief Baker with the National Fallen Firefighter Memorial Book from Paul and Donna Jackson, who were able to attend this year's ceremony along with Lori and Carley.

- Chief Dell'Orfano provided a preview for the November Board Meeting to include the following:
 - 2022 budget public hearing
 - Volunteer Firefighter Pension Board of Trustees Meeting which will include a benefit increase discussion
 - Warehouse lease agreement
 - Hazmat unit purchase agreement
 - Quarterly investment report
- Chief Milan reported that he received an email at 6:08 p.m. informing that Oz Architecture was chosen to receive a Station Design Award for Station 20 & that we should be expecting a bronze recognition plaque recognizing their efforts and those of Chief Turner.
- Legal Counsel Cole reported that he has been invited to speak before the National Special District Coalition regarding Wildland Mitigation, with Colorado's approach being way ahead of many of the other states, which he believes the right pace at the right scale works to make a difference. Chief Dell'Orfano added that Colorado Springs has done some follow up research on the positive impact of mitigation during the Waldo Canyon Fire.
- A copy of the Dispatch Dashboard KPI for September was included in the Board packet.
- A thank you note to Station 22 A shift that went above and beyond for a patient ensuring that the patient's family was clean, safe of obstacles and had food & necessary medication.
- A thank you note from Denver Fire Chief Desmond Fulton was received thanking SMFR for their support as they navigated through the loss of one of their own.

EXECUTIVE SESSION (UPON MOTION)

A motion was made by Jim Albee and seconded by Sue Roche at 9:11 p.m. to convene to Executive Session to consult with Legal Counsel Pursuant to §24-6-402(4)(b), C.R.S. for the purpose of receiving legal advice on specific legal questions related to McKnight v. South Metro, et.al. All were in favor and the motion carried.

The regular meeting reconvened at 9:31 with no action taken.

NEXT MEETING

The next Regular Board of Directors' meeting to be held on November 1, 2021, 6:00 p.m. at 9195 East Mineral Avenue, Centennial, CO

ADJOURNMENT

Chair Albee adjourned the meeting at 9:31 p.m.

Attested by:  Date: Nov 1, 2021