

South Metro Fire Rescue Fire Protection District  
Special Board of Directors' Meeting Minutes  
August 15, 2022

Present:

Jim Albee, Chair	Bob Baker, Fire Chief (absent)
Renee Anderson, Vice Chair	Mike Dell'Orfano, Assistant Chief
William Shriver, Treasurer	John Curtis, Deputy Chief
Sue Roche, Secretary	Jon Adams, Deputy Chief
Cindy Hathaway (excused absence)	Kristin Eckman, Deputy Chief
Kevin Leung	Kevin Milan, Assistant Chief
Rich Sokol	Camie Chapman, Chief Human Resources Officer (absent)
	Dillon Miskimins, Chief Financial Officer
	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 6:00 p.m. & welcomed everyone to the meeting.

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

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

**ROLL CALL**

Director Hathaway's absence was excused. All of the other Board Members were present in person.

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

N/A

**DISCUSSION ITEMS**

Partner Agency Update – Cherry Hills Village City Manager Chris Cramer provided a short personal biography, a description of the unique make-up of the city and its residents and expressed gratitude from both him and the city council for the great working partnership with SMFR.

City Manager Cramer provided background on the relatively new City Hall, which opened in 2019; overview of the city's master plan which is in the process of being updated; fire prevention education and awareness (thanks to SMFR CRRSs Chelsea Tegtmeier and Einar Jensen); conservation planning for Quincy Farm; water maintenance study for the Highline Trail, underground utilities infrastructure project; and adoption of the 2021 International Building Code in the spring of 2023.

City Manager Cramer apologized for the Mayor not being able to attend but he sent his regards and appreciation for the group coming to the city and using the joint facility.

Station Tour & Special Teams – Chief Richardson & Station 38 Crew – HazMat Coordinator Captain Chris Wells apologized that Chief Richardson was not present because he was out on a call and introduced the team members. Captain Wells explained how the SMFR HazMat Team is, as a result of the merger, comprised of two hazmat stations with 6 HazMat Technicians at Station 17 and 4 at Station 38 and supplemented by Line personnel from

other stations who are trained at the operational or technician level. Captain Wells reviewed the common and emerging threats & how the team works with law enforcement and also Arapahoe and Douglas Counties' teams, as well as Buckley AFB, in a coordinated effort for larger events.

The crew provided a tour of the Station & Fleet Manager Frank provided a tour of the new Engine 47 and provided an overview of the process to inspect a new apparatus prior to its arrival.

Captain Wells displayed a YouTube video of the newly approved hazmat unit & thanked administration and elected officials for their support to make the team one of the best in the state.

### **INFORMATION ITEMS**

Title 32 Special District Governing Body Orientation – Legal Counsel Cole provided a comprehensive overview of the governing body's responsibilities, highlighting:

- Nature of the Fire Protection District
- Service Plan
  - Cole and Dell'Orfano are working on updating service plan and getting it approved with the counties.
- Open Meetings Law
- Colorado Open Records Act
- Conflicts of Interest and Code of Ethics
- Governmental immunity
- Board Bylaws – Meetings

At Chair Albee's request, Legal Counsel Cole confirmed that Open Records Requests should be as specific as possible and that it is acceptable to ask for clarification to ensure that Staff is not spending extra time pulling together a broader response than intended by the requestor.

At Director Leung's request, Legal Counsel Cole clarified that gifts deemed to be worth \$50 or less in value is non-substantial unless it is given to influence your decision. Adding that the District can reimburse Board members for costs incurred while doing district business. However, if you attend another entity's conference and you are paid to attend/participate, it should probably be disclosed.

ARPA Request Status – CFO Miskimins, as talked about a few meetings ago, reported that Staff is in the process of working with the counties to determine their list of priorities as it relates to how they are distributing grant funds. Arapahoe County did not feel that the radio purchase was as high on their list as others but Staff did submit three proposals for other grants relating to firefighter wellness. Staff will be attending the Arapahoe County Commissioner's Meeting on September 13<sup>th</sup> and would like a Board member to attend. Discussions with Douglas County are in the beginning stages. The portable radio purchase potentially meets some of their priorities and checking into a regional coordination. Staff also reached out to Jefferson County regarding potential funding for wildfire mitigation but no response yet.

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

- Notice regarding the Colorado Firefighters & Fire Chiefs Support National Fentanyl Prevention and Awareness Day on August 21st was included in the Board's packet.
- Chief Adams reported that Memorial Service information for SMFR Retired Member Steve Allen was in the Board packet.
- Former Castlewood Fire Chief Jim Etzel passed away on Saturday morning. He was the fire chief from 1979 – 1993 and was also a founding member of the Colorado Fallen Fire Firefighter Foundation. Staff will pass along the information once the services are finalized.
- Local President Dzengelewski provided the following update:

- Local is hosting the State of Colorado Professional Firefighters Meeting on August 29<sup>th</sup> at their new Union Hall.
- Board just returned from the IAFF Conference in Ottawa, Canada where discussion included firefighter issues and safety. He will provide a more detailed report at the September 12<sup>th</sup> meeting.
- MDA Collections will take place over the Labor Day Weekend, Friday through Monday. Board Members and Staff are invited to participate by contacting Operations or a Station Officer to find a location where they can help. This year's goal is \$125,000 & we continue to be the top fundraiser in the country.
- IAFF Fallen Firefighter Memorial ceremony will take place in Colorado Springs on Saturday, September 17<sup>th</sup>. Chief Troy Jackson's name will be added this year and Firefighter/Paramedic Tony Palato's name will be added next year. Chief Milan added that it was Tony's family that requested next year. President Dzengelewski noted that 75% of the names that will be listed are due to job-related cancers.
- A couple of months ago a committee was formed to research a reduced-hour shift schedule for the Line in preparation for the next negotiation session in 2024 & Mark introduced Engineer Corey Sutton, who is the one who proposed the committee. Engineer Sutton, who has been on Line for 10 years, explained the intent is to educate on how more time on shift means more exposure, adding that the District has provided great accommodations but feels it is time to reengage and look at options. He looks forward to working with the Board and the Chiefs.
- Director Sokol stated that he received a call today from a friend who was in a bad car accident in Cherry Hills Village & wanted him to pass along his gratitude for the kindness and care provided by the crews.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION (UPON MOTION)**

N/A

**NEXT MEETING**

The next Special Board of Directors' meeting (Budget Workshop) to be held on August 29<sup>th</sup>, 6:00 p.m. at 9195 East Mineral Avenue, Centennial, CO

The next Regular Board of Directors' meeting to be held on September 12, 2022, 6:00 p.m. at 9195 East Mineral Avenue, Centennial, CO

**ADJOURNMENT**

Chair Albee adjourned the meeting at 9:32 p.m.

Attested by: James E. Albee Date: Sept 12, 2022