

South Metro Fire Rescue Fire Protection District  
Special Board of Directors' Meeting Minutes  
February 27, 2023

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

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

**MEETING CALL TO ORDER**

Chair Albee called the Special Meeting of the South Metro Fire Rescue Fire Protection District to order at 6:03 p.m. and welcomed everyone to the meeting, which was held at the Sierra Nevada Corporation, 8073 S. Wallace Court in Englewood, CO.

**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.

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

N/A

**PRESENTATION & TOUR**

**Sierra Nevada Corporation** – Chief Scott Richardson introduced Manager – Aviation, Safety & Training Duane Perry and Senior Director of Operations Elliott Olson.

Mr. Perry provided an overview of the Sierra Nevada Corporation, IAS Operations, and the Centennial, Colorado Springs and Dayton, OH locations. Mr. Perry reviewed the mutually beneficial partnership between the Sierra Nevada Corporation's and SMFR.

Chief Richardson provided an overview of the Special Operations – ARFF program, including the status of the two new ARFF apparatus, brief history of fire trainings, overview of the proposed mobile aircraft training prop and will why it will be advantageous to SMFR's ARFF Team and Centennial Airport. Lieutenant Jacoway and Captain Althouse provided specifications and capabilities of the mobile aircraft fire training prop. Chief Richardson reviewed the vision of a regional training facility and the training opportunities for other airport entities in Colorado.

The Board expressed appreciation for the presentation.

A tour of the Sierra Nevada Hangars began at 6:45 p.m.

The meeting reconvened at 7:23 p.m.

## **DISCUSSION ITEM**

**Third Amendment to Agreement, Training Simulator Purchase** – Chief Dell’Orfano informed that on February 9<sup>th</sup>, the Centennial Airport Authority (CAA) Board of Directors unanimously approved a \$750,000 budget item to partner with SMFR in the acquisition of a mobile ARFF Training Prop. This is the latest step CAA has taken in proactively building on the relationship between CAA and SMFR. In addition, since 2020, CAA has developed and completed an extensive drainage, and resurfacing project resulting in an enhanced training area for SMFR Special Operations, and provided up to \$1M matching funds to enable SMFR to acquire two state of the art ARFF apparatus.

Division Chief Richardson added that the mobile ARFF Training Prop will be purchased by SMFR and reimbursed 100% by CAA. The prop is scheduled to arrive in late summer and will coincide with the arrival of the two new apparatus.

At Director Sokol’s request, Lieutenant Jacoway and Captain Althouse provided an estimate on the potential number of training hours on the simulator and expansion of ARFF Certified members of SMFR.

Director Anderson stated the ongoing cost is agreeable. Chief Richardson agreed as it is a minimum of \$1,000 to go to DIA for training.

Chief Dell’Orfano informed that Centennial Airport has preliminarily approved the agreement, a copy of the agreement was included in the Board packet, contingent on SMFR’s approval of the same at the March 6<sup>th</sup> meeting.

## **INFORMATION ITEM**

**Board of Director Election Update** – Chief Dell’Orfano reminded that the deadline to submit Self-Nomination and Acceptance Forms was Friday, the deadline to submit an Affidavit for Intent to be a Write In Candidate was today & the board candidate orientation is scheduled for March 3<sup>rd</sup>.

Executive Assistant Andrews provided the names of the individuals who submitted self-nominations for each District seat.

Chief Dell’Orfano reported that Staff has met with all three counties and will be able to use their ballot drop boxes. Douglas County is offering the use of their personnel to open and close the boxes. Jefferson County will have their personnel escort us to open and close the boxes and Arapahoe County is looking into creating a similar arrangement utilizing their personnel. Friday is the candidate orientation which is intended to help the candidates understand who we are, timelines and important benchmarks for the election. The lot drawing will also take place during the orientation, which is how the order of names on the ballot is finalized.

Chief Dell’Orfano informed that Staff has checked into cancelling uncontested Districts, and the law states that we cannot partially cancel an election, so the eligible electors of two districts will receive a ballot with only one name on it. Legal Counsel Cole confirmed this is the law and we will need to continue to comply until legislation is changed.

Chair Albee reminded that we have the opportunity to decide to have our election as a mail ballot or polling place election. The Board is aware that there may be unopposed candidates so that it not new. After a lot of discussion, the decision was that we want more participation and that the mail ballot is the better choice & he wanted to confirm that is still the direction of the Board.

At Director Sokol’s request, Chief Dell’Orfano provided cost estimates for a mail ballot vs. polling place election & at Chair Albee’s request, Chief Dell’Orfano outlined the costs incurred with each type of election and the similar overhead costs.

Director Anderson stated that the mail ballot achieves the principle agreed upon. Director Leung agreed and does not want to change the rules for half the districts voting. Director Shriver reminded that several years ago the polling place election resulted in very low numbers.

Chair Albee polled the board and all were in agreement to move forward with a mail ballot election.

Legal Counsel Cole and Chief Dell'Orfano stated that Staff will be working with SDA to do more research and potentially get the law changed.

Chair Albee recommended changing the order of the agenda by convening to executive session for the Fire Chief's Employment Contract, come back and finish the regular meeting and reconvene to executive session. All agreed.

#### **EXECUTIVE SESSION**

A motion was made by Jim Albee and seconded by Kevin Leung at 7:42 p.m. to convene to Executive Session pursuant to §24-6-402(4)(e), for the purpose of determining positions relative to matters that may be subject to negotiations, developing strategy for negotiations, and instructing negotiators related to the Fire Chief Employment Contract. All were in favor and the motion carried.

The regular meeting reconvened at 8:16 p.m.

#### **ACTION ITEMS**

**Fire Chief Employment Contract** - Chair Albee stated that the Board has had the opportunity over the last several weeks to talk to Chief Baker about entering into a new employment contract, currently through December 31, 2024, to one that is through April 30, 2026. If action is taken tonight, a communication has already been drafted that will go out from the Board explaining what has been done and why. Chair Albee added that Chief Baker wanted to be sure to express his appreciation and the vote of confidence and desire to have him continue and accepts the offer to continue for another 16 months and looks forward to the future.

A motion was made by Rich Sokol and seconded by Kevin Leung to approve the Fire Chief Employment Contract with agreed upon changes. All were in favor and the motion carried. Chair Albee polled each board member, and all were in favor. The motion carried.

#### **INFORMATION ITEMS**

- Local President Dzengelewski:
  - Wished all of the board candidates good luck in the election.
  - Fire Chief Ale Keg Tapping took place last Friday night with proceeds benefitting the Foundation. Thank you to Director Anderson for attending.
  - Hockey Tournament coming up in May. He will forward more information.
  - Hopes to get Foundation President Cummings and a Local 2086 E-Board Member on a future agenda to make a presentation to the Board.
- Director Anderson stated that she is grateful to be running unopposed for both the SMFR and HRMD Boards.
- Chair Albee stated he is also grateful for running uncontested for the SMFR Board.
- Director Shriver stated that he and Director Anderson were at the Douglas County Commissioners Hearing for our updated service plan and Chief Adams did a great job. Chief Adams recognized Chief Dell'Orfano for putting together the presentation.

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

A motion was made by Chair Albee and seconded by William Shriver at 8:27 p.m. to convene to executive session pursuant to §24-6-402(4)(b), for the purpose of receiving legal advice on specific legal questions related to the Saiz Claim. All were in favor and the motion carried.

Shortly after the Executive Session began, Director Sokol recused himself due to a potential conflict of interest.

The regular meeting reconvened at 9:33 p.m. with no action taken.

**NEXT MEETING**

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

**ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting was adjourned by Chair Albee at 9:37 p.m.

Attested by: 

Date: Mar 6, 2023