



South Metro Fire Rescue Fire Protection District
Regular Board of Directors' Meeting Minutes
August 24, 2026 at 6:00 p.m.

ATENDEES:

Present:

Board

Renee Anderson, Vice Chair
William Shriver, Treasurer
Sue Roche, Secretary
Kevin Leung, Director
Rich Sokol, Director -
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 Operations
Bob Cole, Legal Counsel

Board/Absent:

Jim Albee - Excused

OTHER ATTENDEES

SMFR Staff

MEETING CALL TO ORDER

Vice Chair Anderson called the Regular Meeting of the South Metro Fire Rescue Fire Protection District to order at 6:00 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

Jim Albee was excused and all other board members were present.

APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

Motion: Director Sokol 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

Vice Chair Anderson asked if there were any changes to conflict of interest affirmation:

- Director McCart – no changes
- Director Roche – no changes
- Director Anderson – no changes
- Director Shriver – no changes
- Director Sokol – no changes
- Director Leung – no changes



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PUBLIC COMMENT

Mark Lampert, Co-Chair of the Hook & Ladder Club, expressed his appreciation to Chief Curtis for serving as Grand Marshal of the Mile High Hook & Ladder Fire Muster Parade on June 13, 2026. He thanked Chief Curtis for dedicating his day, along with his family, to supporting the event and the organization. Mr. Lampert also expressed his appreciation to the Board for the District staff who have graciously supported the event and the Hook & Ladder Club for the past 40 years.

CONSENT AGENDA

1. **August 3, 2026, South Metro Fire Rescue Fire Protection District Regular Board Meeting Minutes**

Motion: Director Leung motioned to approve the August 3, 2026, South Metro Fire Rescue Fire Protection District Regular Board Meeting Minutes as presented. Director McCart seconded, 5 were in favor, Director Sokol abstained from the vote and 0 opposed. The motion carried.

PRESENTATIONS

1. South Metro Safety Foundation Overview: Theo Mink, Executive Director of the South Metro Safety Foundation, presented an overview of the Foundation's history, purpose, programs, and partnership with South Metro Fire Rescue. The Foundation serves as a nonprofit partner supporting Community Risk Reduction by providing instructors, resources, educational programming, community relationships, and additional capacity for large-scale safety initiatives.

The presentation highlighted the Safety Foundation's community outreach and educational programs, including hands-only CPR, Teen Crash Avoidance, adult and senior driver training, License to Survive parent education, CPR and first aid, babysitting and home-alone safety, older-adult safety, and child passenger safety. The Foundation participates in approximately 5–20 community events annually and can reach approximately 1,000 students through its high-school CPR campaign.

Theo Mink educated the Board and staff on the Foundation's driving-safety initiatives. The Teen Crash Avoidance Program has operated for approximately 20 years. A new specialized vehicle can simulate winter-driving conditions on dry pavement, allowing students to practice recovering from understeer and oversteer in a controlled environment. The system costs approximately \$100,000 and is expected to support both public and law-enforcement driver training.



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ACTION ITEMS

1. South Metro Fire Rescue Quarterly Financial Reports Quarter Ending June 30, 2026 –

Stephanie Corbo, CFO South Metro Fire Rescue: Marina Takacs, Accounting Manager, presented the second-quarter financial report and advised that the District remains in a strong overall financial position. Total fund balance was reported at approximately \$222 million, with approximately \$143 million in the General Fund and \$72 million in the Capital Fund. Cash and investments totaled approximately \$155.5 million.

Marina Takacs indicated that property tax revenues appear to be less than anticipated. She discussed factors affecting property-tax collections, including appeals, delinquencies, foreclosures, and collection timing. She noted that some delinquent taxes may be recovered through property sales and that collections typically decline after August. Finance will continue monitoring collection trends and assessment activities to inform future revenue projections.

Specific Ownership Tax collections were reported above budget. Ambulance/EMS revenues were generally near budget expectations; however, ambulance bad debt totaled approximately \$3.7 million and continues to increase year over year. Wildland reimbursement revenue was estimated at approximately \$1.3 million, with actual billing delayed pending approval of employee benefit and billing rates by DFPC.

General Fund expenditures totaled approximately \$89.1 million, or 44% of budget. Personnel costs were below budget due in part to vacancies and academy timing. Minimum-staffing overtime was approximately \$1.8 million, or 32% of budget.

The Board expressed appreciation for overtime expenditures being lower than anticipated and was interested in what caused the change. Operations explained that the reduction was attributed primarily to appropriate promotions and maintaining a full staffing bench, which has reduced overtime costs. A more detailed discussion of overtime was anticipated for September.

Operating Costs and Procurement Savings: Marina Takacs reviewed expenditure categories, including building operations, audit expenses, legal costs, and insurance. She advised that insurance premiums were reduced through competitive bidding, due to higher deductibles the District assumed additional financial risk.

Procurement savings were also discussed. Negotiations with Digitech resulted in approximately \$100,000 in credit-card fee savings and approximately \$200,000 in contract savings. Procurement reported approximately \$391,000 in savings during 2026, with approximately \$1.9 million in projected savings over five years.



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ACTION ITEMS (cont.)

Capital Fund and Cardiac Monitor Replacement: Several major capital projects have not yet started, resulting in capital expenditures of approximately \$2 million, or 9% of budget. Equipment expenditure was approximately \$825,000, and PPE expenditure was approximately \$284,000.

The District has replaced its cardiac monitors through a deferred-payment arrangement with the vendor. Fifty percent of the cost will be paid in 2027 and the remaining 50% in 2028. Deployment was expected around September 1, 2026, following receipt of remaining components and completion of training.

Motion: Treasurer Shriver moved to approve the Quarterly Financial Report as presented. Director Sokol seconded the motion. Six (6) in favor and 0 opposed, the motion carried.

DISCUSSION/POTENTIAL ACTION ITEMS

1. **September Board Meetings** – Mike Dell’Orfano, Chief Government Affairs Officer – South Metro Fire Rescue: Chief Dell’Orfano discussed the upcoming September 14 and September 28, 2026, meetings, stating that the September 28, 2026, meeting falls on the fourth Monday of the month. To allow sufficient time for budget discussions and avoid scheduling a separate budget workshop, staff proposed starting September 14, 2026, meeting at approximately 4:00 p.m. All present Board members were all in agreement for the early start time of 4:00 p.m.

INFORMATION ITEMS

1. **Facilities Update** - Matt Weller, Deputy Chief of Internal Services gave a Facilities Update which included the following:

Station 41 - Foundation movement involving the hose tower that caused cracking and wall instability. Most repairs have been completed, with the CMU wall undergoing required cure time before engineering inspection. Battalion 4 remains temporarily relocated to Station 45 and is expected to return to Station 41 in mid-to-late September.

Station 23 - Demolition at Station 23 is underway. Temporary shower and bathroom facilities have been installed, allowing Engine 23 and Medic 23 to remain operational from the station during construction. Project completion was anticipated around October.



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INFORMATION ITEMS (cont.)

1. Facilities Update (cont.)

Mineral Headquarters Space Plan – Chief Weller explained that several areas within the headquarters building do not currently meet the District's operational needs, including securing the reception, clinic privacy, facility access and perimeter control, conference and training space, audiovisual capabilities, and incident management. Several proposed modifications are expected to accommodate the District's needs for approximately five years; however, additional space may be needed beyond that timeframe due to continued District growth, new stations, and increasing call volume. The current budget for the improvements are estimated at approximately \$2.5m. Director Leung expressed his view that it would be in the District's best interest to explore the possibility of pursuing a new facility rather than making modifications to the existing building, particularly given the District's co-ownership arrangement with the State of Colorado. Vice Chair Anderson noted that the matter would be appropriate for future Board discussion and consideration as a formal agenda item provided there is sufficient support from other board members.

District roofs are being evaluated based on age, frequency of leaks and visible issues. Recommendations will identify whether roofs should be repaired or completely replaced. Repairs/replacements will be bundled into an RFP. The anticipated bid period is approximately 30 days. The goal is to complete the work by the end of 2026, subject to weather and procurement timelines.

Future Facilities – Staff continues to work with two developers for potential site for the fleet maintenance facility. One developer recently proposed an additional site across the street from a previously discussed site. The additional site had previously presented topographical/buildability challenges, however the developer has since begun site improvements that may make it viable. Staff anticipates to have plans to bring site proposals to the Board at the next meeting, depending on completion of the evaluation.



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2. **2026-2030 Accreditation** – John Curtis, Fire Chief – South Metro Fire Rescue: Chief Curtis announced that South Metro Fire Rescue successfully completed its accreditation hearing in Chicago and received a unanimous 12–0 vote in favor of accreditation. The commission reviewed the District's public health, community risk reduction, prevention education, aging-in-place, wildfire mitigation, EMS, battalion operations, response-time benchmarks, dispatch-to-arrival performance, special teams, and use of data platforms, including NERIS. The South Metro Safety Foundation's role in community education and prevention was also highlighted. Commissioners expressed strong support for the District's programs, service levels, personnel, and organizational culture. Chief Curtis noted that approximately 330 fire agencies nationwide are accredited, making this a significant accomplishment for the District.

The Board discussed the importance of publicly communicating the District's accreditation achievement. Chief Eckmann, assured the Board that Communications staff is currently developing internal and external messaging, with the accomplishment being promoted through the District's website and social media. Future communications may include longer-form videos, short social media content, and behind-the-scenes information about the accreditation process.

Remarks:

Mike Dell'Orfano - A State Representative and the Colorado Competitive Council are scheduled to visit the Highlands Ranch Law Enforcement Training Center on Wednesday 08/26/26 morning. Approximately 60 business/lobbying and state representatives are expected. The visit will highlight public health, EMS advancements, wildfire training and helicopter/field operations. He also mentioned Lone Tree's new Justice Center grand opening is scheduled for **September 8, 2026, at 3:30 p.m.**

Roxy Ligrani - The IAFF's annual memorial event is scheduled for **September 19, 2026**, At Memorial Park, Colorado Springs, CO at 9:15a.m. The new cardiac monitors discussed earlier are expected to be in service in the final week of August/early September following training. South Metro participated in a charity event at Centennial Airport benefiting childhood cancer research. A special thanks and gratitude for Fleet personnel for keeping aging aerial apparatus operational during a difficult manufacturing/supply environment, including maintaining several approximately 20-year-old aerial units.

Vice Chair Anderson expressed the importance of supporting positive messaging and engagement with fire-rescue agencies on social media.



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Remarks (cont.):

Secretary Roche recognized current participants in a Franktown Fire volunteer firefighter interview program; three of 11 candidates interviewed had South Metro connections.

Director Leung expressed gratitude to the Fire Marshals' office for their work breaking ground on the Sterling Ranch elementary school on behalf of Douglas County School District.

Director Sokol, announced a documentary commemorating the 25th anniversary of 9/11 is being produced in Denver, with South Metro Emergency Manager Dan Stutz expected to participate on a panel following a Denver-area screening. Attendance will be focused on those who participated in 9/11 operations and additional attendance to be determined.

NEXT MEETINGS

Regular Board of Directors' Meeting to be held on September 14, 2026, at 4:00 p.m. at 9195 E. Mineral Avenue, Centennial, CO 80112.

ADJOURNMENT

Vice Chair Anderson adjourned the meeting at 8:27 p.m.



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The foregoing minutes of the Board of Directors Meeting held on 8/24/26, were approved by the Board of Directors on 9/14/26

Attested by: James E. Allen

Date: 09/14/2026