

South Metro Fire Rescue Fire Protection District
Special Board of Directors' Meeting Minutes
November 13, 2023

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| Present: | Jim Albee, Chair | Bob Baker, Fire Chief |
| | Renee Anderson, Vice Chair | Mike Dell'Orfano, Chief Govt. Affairs Officer |
| | Rich Sokol, Treasurer | John Curtis, Deputy Chief – Emergency Services |
| | Sue Roche, Secretary | Kristin Eckmann, Deputy Chief – Community Services |
| | Kevin Leung | Dillon Miskimins, CFO Business Services |
| | William Shriver | Camie Chapman, CHRO Employee Services |
| | Bruce Stahlman | Allison Ulmer, Legal Counsel |

Others Present: SMFR Staff Members & Guests

MEETING CALL TO ORDER

Chair Albee called the Special Meeting of the South Metro Fire Rescue Fire Protection District to order at 6:10 p.m. and welcomed everyone to the meeting.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited at the South Metro Fire Rescue Volunteer Firefighter Pension Board of Trustees' meeting.

ROLL CALL

All of the Board members were present in person.

APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

Director Roche motioned to approve the agenda as presented. The motion was seconded by Director Anderson. All were in favor and the motion carried.

PUBLIC COMMENT

N/A

PRESENTATION

1. **Public Health Program** – SMFR's Community Clinician Mary Friedman and Community Paramedic Tyson Hungerford provided an overview of the Public Health Program, highlighting the growing need to provide access to resources to those utilizing 911 for non-emergent calls such as aging in place, behavioral health, and those experiencing a housing crisis.

At Director Shriver's request, PM Hungerford stated that if the person is living in a nursing home or receives funds for in-home care, that is probably funded by the State and not the target audience.

At Director Leung's request, PM Hungerford stated that the State has a focus on children's safety through the Child Protective Services, but they did not have a focus on assisting the elderly & that they use the same language lines that Dispatch uses to provide foreign language support.

At Director Anderson's request, DCSO also uses Julota and that helps connect the services that were available through tri-county before it disbanded & different referral services are recommended to ensure that the home is safe and the proper homecare services are available for more long-term patients.

At Director Sokol's request, PM Hungerford stated that the former SMFR ARM Car was a partnership with Dispatch Health that provided a nurse practitioner or physician's assistant to respond with a paramedic on calls that likely would not require transport. The change to a Public Health Program came about through the needs of the community and how best to find the resources to assist with their psychological and social issues.

At Director Anderson's request, PM Hungerford stated that the Public Health Program does not currently bill for the services provided. CFO Miskimins added that it is more of a Federal issue, Medicare and Medicaid do not allow this to be a billable service with our providers. Chief Curtis stated that there is a program called ET3 that was created to find another avenue for billing but that did not work out so working now to see what the other options are, adding that the ARM Car responded to anything from 20 calls a month up to 40-50 calls a month, which was very sporadic. Clinician Friedman and PM Hungerford are creating a consistent contact and establishing relationships.

At Director Anderson's request, CFO Miskimins stated that although Health Care Districts are funded, we cannot bill for the paramedic's care if the patient is not transported.

Chair Albee stated that he and several members of the Executive Staff were in Washington, D.C. at the Congressional Conference and saw Colorado Springs receive the award for developing a multi-tiered response program that dispatches appropriate resources and personnel based on the patient's actual needs, including super-utilizers, the elderly, mentally ill, homeless, and incarcerated which gave a sense and scope of what is needed and asked if we have passed the exploratory stage and ready to move forward. Chief Curtis replied that COVID taught the department where the community needs are and being able to take care of aging in place, etc. is not going away so broaching the alternative responses. Clinician Friedman stated that the program that SMFR is modeling is very flexible.

Director Anderson stated that it seems like we are back to needing to track data. In response to Director Anderson's request, Clinician Friedman stated that as of right now they are limited to applying for Federal grants, because the district covers more than one county, and these are much harder to obtain.

Chair Albee stated he believes we need to maintain the internal commitment to this program. PM Hungerford stated that the Line and Staff are in support but need's the Board's support to maintain the program after the grant funds used for Clinician Friedman's position expires in April. The Board agreed to try to secure Clinician Friedman's position as an employee and support continuing to build the program.

CONSENT AGENDA

- 2. October 2, 2023 South Metro Fire Rescue Fire Protection District Regular Board Meeting Minutes**
- 3. October 16, 2023 South Metro Fire Rescue Fire Protection District Special Board Meeting Minutes**

Director Leung requested that in the October 16th minutes, the motion to move SMFR Resolution 2023-09 to an action item reflect that six were in favor and that he was opposed.

Director Sokol requested that in the October 2nd minutes, in 2024 Draft Budget discussion regarding benefit percentages the wording regarding benefits equaling 39% of salary be corrected and duplication deleted; in paragraph 10 change the wording to "no good deed goes unpunished"; and, in paragraph 12 change the wording to "reality is that we need to match our expenses to our revenues".

Director Sokol motioned to approve the consent agenda as amended. The motion was seconded by Director Leung. All were in favor and the motion carried.

ACTION ITEMS

1. Public Hearing – 2024 Budget

Chair Albee opened the public hearing of the budget at 7:18 p.m.

CFO Miskimins stated that this presentation is largely the same as the last presentation, and highlighted:

- Updates since Last Meeting Special Session
- Budget Process Discussion
- 2024 Draft Budget Special Session (SB 303)
- Revenues Special Session (SB 303)
 - Components of Property Taxes
 - Property Taxes Special Session
 - Components of Other Revenue Categories
 - Other Income
- Expenses
 - Components of Total Salaries
 - Components of Benefits
 - Overtime
 - Operating Expenses
 - Capital Expenses Request
- Long-Term Plan (SB 303)

At Director Sokol's request, CFO Miskimins stated that there is a 3-day minimum to vote on new legislation.

Director Anderson asked how the State gets to use the Tabor surplus if the voters voted against it, what if it is just shenanigans & should the Board have a special meeting on December 4th for further discussion, even if we end up at the same spot.

Director Leung stated it seems like the capital fund will be used to fill any gap & he is unsure how it appears that capital seems to be less important. Director Anderson replied that the Board's philosophy was \$15M into the Capital Fund and stated that anything over that could be used to cover the gap.

At Director Sokol's request, CFO Miskimins stated that Staff has received the preliminary assessed valuations, but the final are on hold until the special session & at this point in the scenario, Staff has taken into consideration the 4% reduction approved by Douglas County.

At Director Anderson's request, CFO Miskimins believes that Clinician Friedman's salary has been included in the budget.

At Director Anderson's request, CFO Miskimins stated that most of the funds have been paid out for the apparatus purchases but won't hit the budget as an expense until they go into service.

After discussion, the Board directed Staff:

- \$20M is the threshold for the Capital.
- Schedule a meeting for December 4th at 5:00 p.m. in case more discussion is needed before the budget is officially approved at the December 11th meeting (or as dictated by new legislation).

Chair Albee asked for public comment. Hearing none, the public hearing was closed at 8:37 p.m.

2. September 2023 Financial Statements – CFO Miskimins presented the financial statements executive summary.

CFO Miskimins stated that as a follow up from last meeting, the Financial Statements reflect that we have sold \$390,000 of the District's assets that have been taken out of service.

Chair Albee noted that the quarterly investment reports were included in the Board packet and felt it needed acknowledgement that Chandler Asset Management does say that the District complied.

Director Sokol motioned the September 2023 Financial Statements be accepted as presented. Director Stahlman seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion carried.

1. **Lone Tree URA** – Chief Dell’Orfano reminded that part of the Lone Tree Urban Renewal Authority implementation is to appoint a commissioner to the URA that represents special districts. Feels at this time can hold off on selecting a particular board member but decide if we are interested. Once we have all of the information needed, can keep that under the purview of executive session.

At Director Anderson’s request, Chief Dell’Orfano stated that whoever is representing the special districts will be representing all special districts. If there are other special districts, in addition to SMFR, that want to represent we can work that out.

Director Anderson motioned to direct Staff to pursue the appointment of a South Metro Fire Rescue board member as Commissioner of the Lone Tree Urban Renewal Authority, contingent on the other special districts in the city agreeing to South Metro Fire Rescue’s representation. Director Shriver seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion carried.

DISCUSSION/POTENTIAL ACTION ITEMS

1. **Cardiac Screening** – Wellness Director Macklin and Dr. Carrie Burns reviewed the results of two Firefighter Cardiac Screening Pilot Programs, the plan to extend to additional SMFR firefighters, and plans for a large-scale study with other fire departments.

Wellness Director Macklin introduced Wellness and Occupational Physician Dr. Carrie J. Burns, provided a short personal background and the reasoning behind being in the process of implementing a pilot program designed to improve the screening for cardiac disease amongst firefighters.

Dr. Burns added that current cardiac screenings miss a lot of things. The District’s initial pilot program, consisting of 10-line members, found significant cardiac issues at a higher level than a civilian group of the same age and 5/10 had plaque and 1 required a cardiac stent. The second pilot program consisted of 18-line members and 17/18 had plaque and 1 required a cardiac stent.

At Director Shriver’s request, Dr. Burns stated that shift workers tend to have a higher incidence of plaque and she believes firefighter will be an occupation with higher incidences.

At Director Anderson’s request, Dr. Burns stated that they work with various agencies that share information so all she needs to do is pull up the individual’s name and number and can review the results directly with the individual.

At Director Shriver’s request, Dr. Burns outlined how the artificial intelligence (AI) is able to pull out the images and greatly reduce the turnaround times.

At Chair Albee’s request, Dr. Burns stated that the results for the individuals that do not qualify for a stent are graded.

At Director Anderson’s request, Dr. Burns stated she believes this is going to change the cardiology testing process. This process was presented at the Science to the Station Conference in Phoenix a couple of weeks ago and there was a great deal of cardiologists that were interested in the program.

Wellness Director Macklin stated that they are now looking for 1,000 firefighters to participate and pull the results together for publishing. Chief Curtis added that finding out about this technology and having 25% of the people tested

having blockage and two needing stents speaks to impressing this on other fire departments for the well-being of the people doing the job. Chief Curtis praised Wellness Director Macklin and Dr. Burns for their work.

INFORMATION ITEMS

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

- IGA Update –Dell'Orfano
 - University of Colorado Data Transfer Use Agreement: they are studying pre-hospital, hospital care, and patient outcomes related to strokes.
- Baker:
 - Deputy Fire Chief promotional process has started. CHRO Chapman stated 12 candidates pursuing the position and they are starting the first round of interview this week. They hope to have someone selected before mid-December.
 - At the Science to the Station Conference in Phoenix, many of the sessions ended up asking what is SMFR doing, from the instructors to the people who were attending, which speaks well of the Wellness team.
 - Israel donation is wrapping up the first round of donations. Quite a lot of supplies from Colorado and areas outside of Colorado which includes everything from N95 masks to ballistic vests.
 - Cardiac screening presentation will be made at the CPSE (accreditation) conference in Orlando in March.
- Eckmann:
 - Attended third week with cohorts at Fire Service Executive Development Institute. 23 other fire departments are part of her cohort, talking about fire service leadership and other issues that fire districts are facing. She feels very fortunate to be a part of the program and it is one of the best she has experienced.
- Curtis:
 - Thanks to C Shift and the crews who helped when Porter Hospital lost their generator by assisting with moving patients and running the operation.
- Dell'Orfano:
 - Centennial Airport has provided a lot of assistance to the department and Staff has created a recognition plaque for presentation at one of their future board meetings. When confirmed he will invite the Board.
 - Getting ready for special session this week. Draft bills are anticipated by Wednesday, lobbyist is aligning with SDA and some other organizations, and potential presence at the hearings by Staff and Board members.
- Dzengelewski:
 - Already engaged with the State CPFF on the special session. It is well known to their leadership how the Local feels about potential tax bills, so voicing the opinion and hoping to minimize any impact.
 - Very proud of our employees going into the busy holiday season.
- Thank Yous:
 - West Metro Fire Protection District thanked Engineers Allen, Plumber, Carbonaro and Grothe for their participating as assessors for their 2023 Engineer Promotional Exam.
 - West Metro Fire Protection District thanked SMFR for sending apparatus and crew members to the memorial services for WMFR FF/PM Jeffrey Kaiser.
 - Mother of a 15-year-old with Down Syndrome thanked Station 11 for their connection with her son.
 - Someren Glen Retirement Community Resident thanked Station 14 for their nice, kind, and respectful assistance when they responded to her call for assistance.

EXECUTIVE SESSION (UPON MOTION)

N/A

NEXT MEETING

The next Special South Metro Fire Rescue District Board of Directors' meeting will take place on December 4, 2023, at 6:00 p.m. at 9195 East Mineral Avenue, Centennial, CO.

The next Regular South Metro Fire Rescue District Board of Directors' meeting will take place on December 11, 2023 at 6:00 p.m. at 9195 East Mineral Avenue, Centennial, CO.

The next regular South Metro Fire Rescue Volunteer Firefighter Pension Board of Trustees meeting will take place in May, 2024.

ADJOURNMENT

Chair Albee adjourned the meeting at 9:29 p.m.

Attested by: 

Date: Dec 11, 2023