

South Metro Fire Rescue Fire Protection District
Regular Board of Directors' Meeting Minutes
December 11, 2023 - **AMENDED**

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	Bob Cole, Legal Counsel

Others Present: SMFR Staff Members and Citizens

MEETING CALL TO ORDER

Chair Albee called the Regular Meeting of the South Metro Fire Rescue Fire Protection District to order at 6:04 p.m. and welcomed everyone to the meeting.

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.

APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

A motion was made by Renee Anderson and seconded by Sue Roche to approve the agenda as presented. All were in favor and the motion carried.

PUBLIC COMMENT

There was no public comment.

RECOGNITION

1. **Park Meadows Home Town Hero** – Communications Manager Chris Carnahan informed that on November 4th Park Meadows Mall held a holiday lighting ceremony, a part of which they recognized 10 members of the community which included a mix of teachers, military personnel, and our own Community Services Support Specialist Amelia Retureta for her work supporting Community Services as well as Emergency Communications.

PRESENTATIONS

1. **Elizabeth Garner, State Demographer** - Chief Dell'Orfano introduced Ms. Garner and provided an overview of her responsibilities as a demographer. Ms. Garner gave an overview of Colorado's demographics, highlighting:
 - If.... Then, Population and Economic Trends and Transitions
 - Big Picture Trends
 - Big Picture Numbers
 - The Economy
 - Age Matters
 - Total Population
 - Implications from Age and Aging

- Housing and Households
- Monitoring Conditions
- Forecast

The Board thanked Ms. Garner for her presentation.

CONSENT AGENDA

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

Rich Sokol motioned to approve the consent agenda as amended. Sue Roche seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion carried.

ACTION ITEMS

1. **October 2023 Financial Statement** – CFO Miskimins presented the financial statements executive summary.

At Directors Sokol's and Albee's request, CFO Miskimins confirmed his expectation that the overall budget and overtime/minimum staffing budgets will continue to align through the rest of the year. Chief Baker confirmed that there was a total of 22,261 transports in 2022 as compared to the 19,835 through October, so should be on track to do the same or exceed.

At Director Leung's request regarding 2023 funds left in professional services, Chief Dell'Orfano reminded that there were two big ticket rollover items charged to the professional services budget for the service plan and the board election. CFO Miskimins reminded that there are also still two months left in the year and \$200,000 was spent in October. Staff will review the details and bring the information back to the Board.

Rich Sokol motioned to accept the October 2023 Financial Statements as presented. Kevin Leung seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion carried.

2. **January Board Meeting Schedule** – Chief Dell'Orfano stated the official schedule is usually set in January so want to keep options open for the month. The Board already discussed a January 8th meeting and asked if the Board was agreeable to hold a second meeting on January 22nd, dependent upon information regarding the TIF, EMS Initiatives if ready. Director Sokol informed that he will be in Israel on January 8th but will try to attend the meeting remote. Director Leung stated that he will not be able to attend the meeting on January 22nd.

A motion was made by Chair Albee that the Board agreed to hold a regular meeting on January 8, 2024 and a special meeting on January 22, 2024. Bruce Stahlman seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion carried.

DISCUSSION/POTENTIAL ACTION ITEMS

1. **Legislative Update** – Chief Dell'Orfano introduced new contract lobbyist who came on a couple of months ago. Adding that there are a lot of things going on and spoke of the value to be up front and involved in the legislation.

- i. Lobbyist Camille Driver stated she is honored to represent the SMFR organization, which has such a great reputation, locally and nationally. Ms. Driver provided a short personal background and reviewed the following talking points:
 - Confidentiality
 - Legislative Organization
 - State board of Equalization Update
 - 2024 Session Engagement
 - Our partners
 - Our legislators
 - Our bill
 - 2024 South Metro Bill (HB24-0664)

- Special Session Recap
 - Bills introduced
 - Bills engaged on

At Director Stahlman's request, Chief Dell'Orfano stated that there's always a baseline of what we are supporting, for the good of SMFR, for special districts and 99% of the time working with our supporting groups (SDA, CPFF, etc.). This just allows more involvement at the forefront of legislation. Director Anderson added that there are also bills in process that can be discussed by Chief Dell'Orfano, Ms. Driver and the Board Liaison. Ms. Driver stated that she wants to make sure that SMFR is not left behind, lose out on any money, and has the advantage of a board liaison to assist with strategy during the legislative sessions. The plan is to present the bills to Chief Dell'Orfano, do a pulse check with stakeholders and partners, stay in our lane, and transparency as to where SMFR stands.

The Board agreed to have Renee Anderson serve as the Board Liaison. Ms. Driver requested that Board members reach out to Director Anderson with questions or suggestions.

The Board thanked Ms. Driver for her presentation.

2. 2024 Budget Discussion – CFO Miskimins highlighted:

- Property Taxes
- Budget Revisions
- 2024 Draft Budget SB 238-001

Chair Albee created a preamble that the Board had the opportunity to reduce our mill levy and seeing the different scenarios, which were pretty consistent in each scenario that there were uncertainties around legislation in each point in time, it was agreed the Board was not interested in lowering the mill levy rate. Now that things have settled and there is a potential for a \$30M transfer to the capital fund, asked the Board if they feel it is fair and appropriate to discuss whether or not to lower the 2024 mill levy.

Discussion continued regarding the importance of expense growth being tied to revenue growth & potentially lowering the mill levy.

Rich Sokol made a motion to amend the agenda and move the 2024 discussion to an action item. William Shriver seconded the motion. Rich Sokol, William Shriver, Jim Albee, Bruce Stahlman and Sue Roche were in favor. Renee Anderson and Kevin Leung were opposed. The motion passed.

Rich Sokol made a motion to direct staff to prepare a resolution to reduce the mill levy to 9.0 mills. Bruce Stahlman seconded the motion. Rich Sokol, Bruce Stahlman and William Shriver were in favor. Kevin Leung, Jim Albee, Renee Anderson and Sue Roche were opposed. The motion did not pass.

3. State of the District – Chief Eckmann informed that the event in October had been planned for about two years and cost roughly \$25,000 & asked if the Board would like to have Staff plan it for every year or every other year.

The Board suggested a every other year event, potentially highlighting special areas (Dispatch, Wellness, Ultrasound, Fire Chief hiring process, etc.) and evaluating the potential for more citizen involvement.

INFORMATION ITEMS

1. IGA Update – Chief Dell'Orfano provided an update on the following IGA changes:

- i. **MOU Between Douglas County Sheriff's Office and SMFRA for Dive Member Aid Terminated – the person involved no longer with DCSO so requested terminated.**

- ii. **SMFR Radio Systems specialist IGA – 6th Amendment** – sharing cost for help with programming, repairing our radios by paying a part of the salary with the intent to renew each year with updated costs and a new amendment. For 2024 the cost comes to \$81,700.

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

- Baker:
 - Will be in Michigan January 4th through 14th.
 - Selected new Deputy Chief of Internal Services Matt Weller, who will start in the position on January 1st.
 - Great feedback from Mary Cameli from Mesa Fire who spoke highly about the four candidates who she helped interview.
- Curtis:
 - Reviewed a call several weeks ago where Ladder 12, Medic 11 and Dispatch responded to Euclid Middle School where a child was hit by a car. He responded on his way to work and was reminded of how these types of calls take a toll on the crews. We have come a long way in how we take care of our own by providing the tools they need, such as Peer Support. He participated in a Littleton Police Department debriefing where they are dealing with the same issues. Staff is talking about how we get into the schools and work with our law enforcement agencies to make sure that everyone is taken care of and how we are better assimilated to support our community partners.
- Local 2086 President Dzengelewski:
 - Introduced E-Board Members Brent Chapman and Nick McKibbin.
 - Thanked Chief Curtis and Director Anderson for their comments related to the Line and the board's financial support.
 - Thanked the Board for a great year and looking forward to negotiations in 2024.
- Milan:
 - The original occupancy date for Station 15 was June 28, 2024. Staff is working through some delays and expect to have a productive meeting next week to see what this does to both the time and budget.
- Valdez:
 - Wants to give kudos to the Investigation Unit. There was a two-alarm fire in Downtown Littleton in mid-November and actively worked with the Littleton Police Department and ATF, staying diligent and pushing it through with the partnering agencies to get a warrant issued for the individual who allegedly started the fire. A public information announcement will be released soon. Director Stahlman commended the people who responded to the fire. He went over the next morning and saw the investigators and Chief Valdez combing through the mess. A tremendous job was done containing the fire as there was no damage to the apartments next door. The video was also exceptional.
 - An informational item was in the Board packet regarding the Highlands Ranch fireworks display. Director Anderson stated that the show is on Saturday and has been assured that the Sheriff and the Fire Marshal's Office will shut down or pause the event if there is any significant risk. Chair Albee informed that a letter was received addressed to the entire Board expressing concern about the fireworks display, so he asked Chiefs Eckmann and Valdez to provide an update.
- Macklin:
 - Wellness has worked hard to maintain a high profile at the **Capitol** in support of the Colorado Firefighter Heart, Cancer and Behavioral Health Benefits Trust. He accepted the nomination to serve on the Board for the next couple of years.
- Sokol:
 - Former Centennial Mayor Cathy Noon passed away this morning after 5.5 years battling pancreatic cancer.
- Shriver:
 - Was proud to spend the day at the **Capitol** with Ms. Driver and Chief Dell'Orfano.
- Anderson:

- Holiday gifts for the stations and staff are on their way. She will reach out to the Board members when they are ready for distribution.
- Chair Albee:
 - Thanked everyone for a great year. The Board does good work because of all the good work done by Line and Staff for the community.
 - A couple of weeks ago caught up with Captain Dave Ullery, whose last shift is next week after 39 years of service. He stated that Captain Ullery started at Castlewood and was the officer on the call where John Hager lost his life, so he watched the video again on YouTube. It reminded him of the resources that need to be provided to keep everyone safe. Congratulations to Captain Ullery & thankful that we have not had a LODD like that since.
- Thank you notes:
 - Received from Aspen Crossing Elementary School to Engine 23, C Shift for participating in their Veterans Day festivities.
 - Received from Colorado Springs Fire Chief for SMFR's support and participation in the memorial service for their Driver/Engineer Bobby Keese.

EXECUTIVE SESSION (UPON MOTION)

N/A

NEXT MEETING

Regular Board of Directors' Meeting to be held on January 8, 2023, 6:00 p.m. at 9195 East Mineral Avenue, Centennial, CO.

ADJOURNMENT

Chair Albee adjourned the meeting at 10:04 p.m.

Attested by: 

Date: Jan 8, 2024