



South Metro Fire Rescue Fire Protection District
Regular Board of Directors' Meeting Minutes
June 1, 2026, at 6:00 p.m.

ATENDEES:

Present:

Board

Jim Albee, Chair
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
Allison Ullmer, Legal Counsel

Other Attendees

SMFR Staff

MEETING CALL TO ORDER

Chair Albee called the Regular Meeting of the South Metro Fire Rescue Fire Protection District to order at 6:02 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

All board members were in attendance and present.

APPROVAL OF THE CONSENT AGENDA

Director Leung requested the consent agenda items be heard separately.

1. May 4, 2026, South Metro Fire Rescue Fire Protection District Regular Board Meeting Minutes.

Motion: Director Shriver motioned to approve May 4, 2026, meeting minutes as presented, Vice Chair Anderson second, 7 were in favor and 0 opposed. The motion carried.

2. May 18, 2026, South Metro Fire Rescue Fire Protection District Regular Board Meeting Minutes.

Motion: Director Sokol moved to approve May 18, 2026, meeting minutes as presented. Director Shriver seconded the motion. Director Leung abstained from voting due to his excused absence from the May 18, 2026, meeting. The motion carried, with 6 votes in favor, 0 opposed, and 1 abstention.



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CONFLICT OF INTEREST DISCLOSURE

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

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

PUBLIC COMMENT

There was no public comment

PARTNER UPDATE

1. City of Centennial - Steve Carmine, District 2 Council Member provided updates on several city initiatives, including recent annexations, roadway and pedestrian improvement projects, and ongoing infrastructure enhancements. Notable projects include the Colorado Boulevard multimodal corridor improvements and a trail underpass project along Arapahoe Road intended to improve pedestrian and bicycle connectivity.

Councilman Carmine also discussed the City's long-term financial outlook. Centennial currently maintains one of the lowest sales tax rates in the metro area and operates without debt, historically utilizing a "save and pay" approach for capital projects. Due to increasing infrastructure needs and aging assets inherited from Arapahoe County, City Council is considering a potential 1% sales tax increase that may be referred to voters in November 2026. If approved, the increase would support ongoing maintenance, public safety services, infrastructure improvements, and future capital projects while keeping the City's tax rate below the regional average. He also engaged with Board members regarding the potential ballot measure, infrastructure funding needs, affordable housing initiatives, and other development-related matters within the city.



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ACTION ITEMS

1. South Metro Fire Rescue Fire Protection District 2025 Annual Comprehensive Financial Report - Marina Takacs, Accounting Manager – South Metro Fire Rescue, presented the South Metro Fire Protection District Annual Comprehensive Financial Report including the CAM Expense Summary.

Lisa Horn and Anna Thigpen of Forvis Mazars presented the District's **2025 Annual Financial Audit** results. The auditors reported that they expect to issue an unmodified ("clean") audit opinion, indicating that the District's financial statements are fairly presented in all material respects. They also issued the required reports on internal controls and compliance in accordance with Government Auditing Standards. The auditors reported no matters of concern related to significant accounting policies, alternative accounting treatments, or proposed audit adjustments. Significant accounting estimates reviewed included pension and OPEB liabilities, investments, compensated absences, incurred-but-not-reported claims liabilities, and valuation of contributed goods and services. Related party disclosures were also reviewed. One management letter comment was noted regarding system access controls within Dynamics 365. An accountant retained administrative-level access following system implementation. Auditors recommended limiting privileged system administrator access to IT personnel and implementing additional monitoring controls to ensure appropriate segregation of duties.

Director Sokol requested an editorial revision to the ACFR and replace the current residential property tax assessment chart with a chart showing both residential and commercial property tax assessments. Staff stated that these changes will be investigated to include the request.

Motion: Chair Albee moved to modify the agenda to move the South Metro Fire Rescue Fire Protection District 2025 Annual Comprehensive Financial Report to an action item. Director McCart seconded. 7 were in favor 0 opposed. The motion carried.

Motion: Vice Chair Anderson moved to approve the South Metro Fire Rescue Fire Protection 2025 Annual Comprehensive Financial Report with requested changes. Secretary Roche seconded, all in favor 0 were opposed. The motion carried.



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DISCUSSION/POTENTIAL ACTION ITEMS

(With a two-thirds (2/3) vote of the board members in attendance, the board has the discretion to amend the Agenda to move any Discussion/Potential Action Item to an Action Item).

1. South Metro Fire Rescue Building Rental Fund/Common Area Maintenance (CAM) Expenses Mineral Headquarters – Marina Takacs, Accounting Manager – South Metro: The Common Area Maintenance (CAM) Expenses Mineral Headquarters expense summary was presented as part of the Annual Comprehensive Financial Report (ACFR) discussion.
2. Facilities Update – Matt Weller, Deputy Chief; Berry Jones, Construction Manager, South Metro Fire Rescue: A facilities update was presented to the Board and staff by Chief Weller and Berry Jones, including the status of ongoing construction and facility planning projects, consultant selection procedures, and project delivery methods for future capital projects.

Project status is listed below:

Station 41 Structural Repair: Palace Construction was selected as the contractor with a bid of \$101,795.09. The Board approved the contract on May 18, 2026, and a pre-construction meeting was scheduled for June 3, 2026.

Station 23 Bathroom Renovation: The project is currently out for bid, with a pre-bid conference scheduled for June 11, 2026, and bid opening on July 2, 2026.

Stations 33 and 16: Construction Management is initiating the consultant selection process and needs assessment to evaluate future station needs, operational requirements, and lessons learned from previous station projects. Project delivery methods under consideration include Design-Bid-Build, Construction Manager/General Contractor (CMGC), and Design-Build.

Mineral Building Projects: Construction Management/Facilities is conducting a comprehensive assessment of current and future space needs, including security, technology, training facilities, emergency operations capabilities, and shared-use spaces. Mineral Basement Phase 1 improvements for the Clinic, IT, and Wellness areas are underway, while Phase 2 planning for Dispatch and training room renovations continues. Evaluation of the FBI lease renewal is also in progress.

Sterling Ranch and Fleet/Logistics Facility: A site has been identified for a new station in Sterling Ranch. The site is currently in the planning process.

There is an ongoing evaluation of partnership opportunities and potential sites for a future fleet and logistics facility. Meetings have been completed with regional partners, and multiple site options are being evaluated based on location, cost, fee structure, and project schedule. Development proposals and recommendations will be presented to the Board at a future meeting.



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INFORMATION ITEMS

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

Chief Dell'Orfano provided an update on the accreditation review process, thanking the Board members who were able to attend the district tour and dinner, as well as the opening presentation that morning. He reported that the first day of the site visit went very well. He thanked the Board members who participated in meetings with the accreditation team and noted that their involvement was beneficial to the overall evaluation process. The accreditation team will present its final recommendations and determination regarding reaccreditation at a wrap-up meeting scheduled for Thursday morning 06/04/26 at 8:00 a.m. Preliminary feedback received from the evaluators has been positive, with only minimal comments identified during the review.

Chief Curtis reported that he recently participated in an event with U.S. Senator Michael Bennet and representatives from the Nancy Gardner School to discuss the Multi-Cancer Early Detection Screening Act, which received bipartisan support and was signed into law in February 2026. He noted that the legislation provides an important opportunity to increase awareness of cancer prevention and early detection, particularly within the fire service. Chief Curtis emphasized the importance of advancing early detection efforts for firefighters and supporting the long-term health and wellness of District personnel. He also shared that Senator Bennet expressed appreciation for the work being performed by South Metro Fire Rescue in service to the community. He also shared that the CEO of the Colorado Bioscience Association is the sister-in-law to our fallen fighter Tony Palato. The Colorado Bioscience Association is a non-profit organization in support of the legislation.

Chief Curtis announced the second big recognition ceremony of the year will be on June 18, 2026, at Arapahoe Community College at 6pm and participation is encouraged.

Lastly, Chief Curtis informed the Board of the unexpected passing of Facilities Engineer Kevin Winter. He shared that Kevin Winter joined South Metro Fire Rescue in 2020 after a career with FedEx and was widely respected throughout the organization for his dedication, work ethic, and willingness to assist others. Chief Curtis noted that Kevin Winter's loss has been deeply felt across the district and that the organization is focused on providing support to his family, colleagues, and employees during this difficult time. Kevin was known to always help when he had a chance, therefore this has been a tremendous loss around the whole organization. Chief emphasized that the support is extended by the organization to his family, as well as organizationally.



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INFORMATION ITEMS (cont.)

Chief Eckmann announced that the District's annual Remembrance Ceremony will be held on June 20, 2026, at 9:00 a.m., she noted that the ceremony time was moved from 11:00 a.m. to 9:00 a.m. to accommodate warmer summer temperatures. Chief Eckmann also reported that South Metro Fire Rescue received the AdventHealth Choose Safe Award in recognition of the Community Risk Reduction (CRR) team's partnership with Chaparral, STEM School Highlands Ranch, and Ponderosa High Schools. Through this program, students develop peer-led traffic safety awareness campaigns focused on reducing motor vehicle crashes and injuries among high school students. Chief Eckmann recognized CRR team members Colleen Polton and Katie Becker for their leadership and contributions to the initiative. She further noted that the South Metro Safety Foundation was also recognized for its support of the program. Chief Eckmann notified the Board that the PIO Team will be going around taking photos for the new website which will include new photos of the Board. More information is to come as to when those photos will be taken.

Mark Dzenglewski thanked District leadership for including union representatives in the accreditation process, noting that participation provided valuable insight into the accreditation review and enabled representatives to better communicate the process and its benefits to union members. He also reported that personnel remain actively engaged in emergency response operations, training activities, academy programs, and promotional processes, and commended members for their continued hard work and dedication. Mark Dzenglewski also noted that our crews conducted a significant dog rescue recently of a Yorkie Terrier "Hank the Tank" that hit national news and YouTube.

Director McCart shared information from a recent research paper examining potential links between nitrate exposure and firefighter health. The study explored possible mechanisms that may contribute to the elevated risk of heart disease among firefighters and highlighted ongoing research into occupational health risks within the fire service. He also provided information regarding the upcoming annual Fire Truck Festival in Littleton, a community event supported by a local nonprofit organization. The event includes a bicycle donation program that provides free bicycles to children and families in need, and community members were encouraged to support the effort through bicycle donations.

Vice Chair Anderson notified the Board and Staff that for the next four months at the intersection of Highlands Ranch Parkway and Broadway construction will be underway to update the intersection, as well as installing a new stoplight at the senior center, as well as a stop light at John Styles by the Schwab building.

Director Sokol commended South Metro Fire Rescue personnel for their response to a significant residential structure fire that occurred within the district in his neighborhood. He noted the complexity of the incident, which involved extensive fire damage and a subsequent reignition the following morning. Director Sokol praised the professionalism, training, and expertise demonstrated by responding crews and shared that several community members had expressed their appreciation and admiration for the exceptional work performed by District personnel during the incident.



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EXECUTIVE SESSION

1. Chair Albee moved to go into executive session pursuant to Section 24-6-402(4)(b), C.R.S. for the purpose of a conference with the District's legal counsel regarding specific legal questions pertaining to Cordova V. South Metro at 8:25 p.m. Vice Chair seconded the motion. 7 were in favor 0 opposed. The motion carried. The executive session ended at 8:39 p.m. with no further action taken.
2. Chair Albee moved to go into executive session pursuant to §24-6-402(4)(f), C.R.S., for discussion of a personnel matter involving the performance review and compensation of the Fire Chief, who has been notified of the executive session and has consented to it at 8:40 p.m. Secretary Roche seconded the motion. 7 were in favor, 0 opposed. The motion carried. The executive session ended at 9:18 p.m. with no further action taken.

NEXT MEETINGS

Regular Board of Directors' Meeting to be held on June 15, 2026, at 6:00 p.m. at **Arapahoe County Adult Protection Services Facility 1690 W. Littleton Boulevard, Littleton, CO 80120 in the Oak Room.**

ADJOURNMENT

Chair Albee adjourned the meeting at 9:18 p.m.

*****SIGNATURE PAGE FOLLOWS*****



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Signature Page Only

The foregoing minutes of the Board of Directors Meeting held on 6/1/26, were approved by the Board of Directors on 8/3/26

Attested by: James L. Allee

Date: Aug 3, 2026