

South Metro Fire Rescue Fire Protection District
Regular Board of Directors' Meeting Minutes
May 5, 2025

Present:	Jim Albee, Chair	John Curtis, Fire Chief
	Renee Anderson, Vice Chair	Mike Dell'Orfano, Chief Govt. Affairs Officer
	Rich Sokol, Treasurer	Vacant, Deputy Chief– Emergency Services
	Sue Roche, Secretary	Kristin Eckmann, Deputy Chief – Community Services
	Kevin Leung	Matt Weller, Deputy Chief – Employee Services
	William Shriver	Stephanie Corbo, Chief Financial Officer
	Bruce Stahlman (absent)	Camie Chapman, CHRO Employee Services
		Bob Cole, Legal Counsel

Others Present: SMFR Staff Members & citizens

MEETING CALL TO ORDER

Chair Albee called the Regular Meeting of the South Metro Fire Rescue Fire Protection District to order at 6:21 p.m. and welcomed everyone to the meeting.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Chair Albee led the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag at the SMFR Volunteer FF Pension Board of Trustees Meeting.

ROLL CALL

Director Stahlman's absence was excused. All of the other Board members were present in person.

PRESENTATION

Chief Eckmann introduced EMS Division Chief Pietrzyk who in turn introduced members of the Reserve National Guard & who proudly work at SMFR. Chief Pietrzyk presented Chief Curtis with a certificate from the Department of Defense recognizing him as a patriot employer by supporting employees who serve their nation. Captain Crossett, Air Force Reserve, added that SMFR has the most comprehensive military policy in the nation. Chief Curtis stated he is honored to accept the award on behalf of the organization and expressed appreciation for what they do for our country.

APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

Director Shriver motioned to approve the agenda as presented. Director Roche seconded the motion. 6 were in favor, 0 opposed. The motion carried.

CONFLICT OF INTEREST DISCLOSURE

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

- Director Stahlman – (absent)
- 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

N/A

CONSENT AGENDA

04/07/25 South Metro Fire Rescue Fire Protection District Regular Board Meeting Minutes

04/21/25 South Metro Fire Rescue Fire Protection District Special Board Meeting Minutes

Director Anderson motioned to approve the Consent Agenda as presented. Director Roche seconded the motion. 6 were in favor, 0 opposed. The motion carried.

ACTION ITEMS

1. **Second Amendment to Professional Services Agreement (Lobbyist)** – Chief Dell’Orfano stated in 2023 SMFR entered into a professional services agreement with 3015 Policy Center, Ltd. for lobbying services. That agreement expires on May 31, 2025 and staff recommends an extension through the next legislative session. During the off-season (June 1, 2025 – September 30, 2025) the cost will be \$1,750 per month. The cost during the legislative session (October 1, 2025 – May 31, 2026) will be \$3,500 per month. These costs have remained unchanged since the previous extension.

Director Sokol stated that the lobbyist has done a great job at a reasonable cost, no question. However, we are going to be asking for a tax increase and does not feel right going to the taxpayers while we still have a lobbyist on our payroll.

Director Anderson stated that she believes the services provided are what keeps us at this level and in order to do that the lobbyist has provided an opportunity for our voice to be heard in many organizations that support firefighters in the state.

Director Shriver added that with the act that was just passed to cancel special district elections in part, the lobbyist has more than paid for herself & believes the payback has been very positive. He would like to continue the push to have the elections moved to November.

Director Anderson motioned to approve the Second Amendment to Professional Services Agreement, extending lobbying services with 3015 Policy Center, Ltd. through May 31, 2026. I direct the Fire Chief or his designee to execute the necessary documents to implement this board action. Director Roche seconded the motion. 5 were in favor, 1 opposed (Director Sokol). The motion carried.

2. **SMFR Resolution No. 2025-01 Resolution to Use Integrated Project Delivery (IPD) Construction Bidding Process for Station 23 Bathroom Remodel** – Chief Milan reminded that utilizing the IPD bidding process, allows the District to award a contract to the proposal that represents the best value to the District as opposed to only the lowest cost proposal. The current shower facilities at this station are below SMFR standard both in number and quality. Remodeling will replace two (2) group shower/toilet rooms with four (4) individual shower/toilet rooms to meet the needs of assigned crews. Funds for the remodel are included in the 2025 station maintenance budget and a resolution is presented for approval.

At Director Leung’s request, Chief Milan anticipates a cost of \$395,850 is the rough estimate but won’t know until the RFP’s come back.

At Director Leung’s request, Chief Milan stated that staff is trying to improve the facilities to the SMFR Standard, the remodel is not mandated by law and is not necessarily a safety issue and we could forgo the remodel, but it is one of the neediest facilities that was built in the 1980’s. Director Leung suggested looking at our projects and waiting for the dust to settle with the revenue initiative before moving forward with these types of projects, recommending delaying it for a year.

Director Anderson asked if the Board is recommending putting everything on hold. Director Leung stated he thinks if they are safety issues or legal issues, then move forward, but would table anything additional.

Director Leung motioned to table this action item.

At Director Shriver's request, Chief Milan stated that the project ranks very high in the list of budgeted improvements.

At Director Sokol's request, Chief Milan stated that the stations constructed within the past 10 years have individual showers.

Director Sokol reiterated Director Leung's comment that it is hard to go to the voters and ask for more money and spend \$400K for upgrades. We are on a need to have, not a nice to have trajectory.

Director Anderson stated that it does feel like a lot of money, but we are trying to get another 30 years out of the station & is in support of spending dollars that we have already budgeted and allocated for it.

Director Sokol stated that if it was the roof or brick replacement, he would agree, but not for a shower upgrade.

Director Roche said she understands Director Sokol's stand but also understands that these are men and women we have very competent people making the recommendation. Maybe we don't need \$2M worth of new apparatus right now. She would rather do the upgrade and look elsewhere for savings.

Director Shriver stated that yes, it is in the budget, but it would be irresponsible not to wait and see how this pans out.

Chief Milan clarified that this is a request for IPD. CFO Corbo added that this project is within the construction budget and not a detailed specific project. It falls within the \$1.2M facilities maintenance budget to manage projects every year.

At Director Sokol's request, Chief Weller stated that Staff is conducting a facilities assessment of each facility to identify where the needs are. There are some foundation and concrete repairs needed at the stations. Last year the kitchens at Stations 17 and 18 were upgraded. This was identified last year with the plan to execute in 2025 but have run into extended timelines so tried to take a proactive look and this is the highest dollar project that is slated to be completed.

Director Anderson stated that it was her understanding that we put aside \$15M to avoid deferred maintenance.

Director Leung motioned to table this action item until after the November 2025 election. Director Sokol seconded the motion. 4 were in favor, 2 opposed (Director Anderson, Director Roche). The motion carried.

3. **2028-2029 Apparatus Replacement** – Division Chief Richardson stated that the current SMFR FCRS reflects funding for three (3) Pierce Velocity PUC Engines #1339 at an estimated cost of \$3,855,542.00 with delivery being approximately 48.0 to 51.0 months, and two (2) Pierce Velocity 100' Platforms PUC #1338 at an estimated cost of \$4,548,729.00 with delivery being approximately 45 to 48 months. These prices are in line with comparable department and manufacturer costs industry wide.

At Director Sokol's request, Chief Richardson stated that there is no transfer of funds, just putting it on a PO that can be pulled back at any time before finalizing the drawings & manufacturing begins.

Chief Curtis added that we are at the price point that it puts us in the range that other departments are paying, based on the analysis.

Director Shriver motioned to approve the order & purchase placeholder for three (3) Pierce Velocity PUC Engines #1339 at an estimated cost of \$3,855,542.00 (\$1,285,180.60 each) and two (2) Pierce Velocity 100' Platforms PUC #1338 at an estimated cost of \$4,548,729.00 (2,274,364.50 each) to align with the Department's apparatus

replacement schedule as presented. Director Sokol seconded the motion. 6 were in favor, 0 opposed. The motion carried.

DISCUSSION/POTENTIAL ACTION ITEMS

- 1. Revenue Initiative Discussion** – CFO Corbo noted the key changes and enhancements made to the 10-year Strategic and Financial Plan since the last discussion & reviewed the mill levy needs based on various scenarios. Chief Weller provided an overview of the staffing needs for a proposed shift change from a 56-hour workweek to a 48-hour workweek & a 2025 capital projects update.

Chair Albee clarified that the polling surveys have locked us into a 3 mill revenue increase and the scenarios presented are above that number, so everything presented will not stay the same.

CFO Corbo informed that the 2026 budget process will begin in June. The Board agreed to a budget workshop at the June 2nd meeting to work through the scenarios.

CFO Corbo reviewed the areas of Financial Stewardship to Reduce Costs for Existing Services that the District has implemented & at Chair Albee's request, providing estimated savings. The Board requested CHRO Chapman bring back the average number of staff turnovers per year.

After discussion, the Board agreed Staff could continue with small facility repair projects funded out of the \$1.2M facilities maintenance budget & larger projects will be placed on hold unless they are a safety or legal issue; charge the \$200K Station 15 budget overage to the \$1.5M in reserves for Station 16 land; provide an update on work already done in relation to the new fleet facility; and look into the potential sale of the Quartermaster facility and other properties the District owns.

Chief Dell'Orfano distributed & reviewed a timeline that links the revenue initiative to the board meeting schedule.

- 2. Move the July 7th meeting to July 14th** – Chief Dell'Orfano reminded that the second revenue initiative survey results were originally scheduled to be presented at the July 7th meeting but since it is so close to the holiday, suggested giving them additional time to pull together the results by moving the meeting to July 14th. Chair Albee polled the Board, and all were available to meet on the 14th.

INFORMATION ITEMS

- 3. IGA Update** – Chief Dell'Orfano reported there was one IGA signed.
 - a. Red Rocks Community College Affiliation Agreement** – 3rd Amendment, established in 2021, allows our people to be qualified instructors at the community college level to teach our personnel in classes in FF1, FF2 and certifications for college credit. This amendment continues the terms of that agreement.

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

- **Chief Curtis:**
 - Attended the Metropolitan Fire Chiefs Conference last week where there was discussion about issues at the national level such as reporting software, wildfires, and cardiovascular health. It was an informative week.
- **Chief Dell'Orfano:**
 - Tuesday, May 6th is election day & provided the latest ballot count. The election results will be distributed as soon as possible after the ballot deadline.
- **Chief Powell:**
 - June 17th from 4-8 p.m. is family night for the recruit academy. Details will be sent out later this week.
- **CFO Corbo:** She will not be at the next Board Meeting & Accounting Manager Takacs will be presenting the 1st quarter financials & will have posted a public hearing to amend the 2024 budget recommending the JACC Fund be moved under the General Fund and due to higher than anticipated medical payments causing the Self-Insured medical Fund to exceed the original 2024 budget by \$1,393,463 amend the original 2024 budget for this fund.

- Chief Milan:
 - The anticipated rain over the next few days will assist in testing the roof and drainage at Station 15.
- Emergency Communications Manager Carnahan:
 - Thank you notes and photos from the Douglas County Bridge Program were included in the board packet. Dispatch Supervisor Kern is spearheading the students coming into Dispatch 4-5 times a year to educate young people about calling or texting 911.
- Chief Pietrzyk:
 - As of this afternoon, SMFR is one of three fire departments nationwide who is now accredited and authorized to administer specialty paramedic certifications. This benefits SMFR by bringing it in-house & be able to extend it to neighboring fire departments.
- Local 2086 Board Vice President Scully:
 - Reminded the 20th Annual South Metro Foundation Hockey Tournament is May 16 – 18th. It will be a fun event with a silent auction, music and refreshments.
- Director Sokol:
 - He received a call from the publisher of the local newspapers and asked why we posted information about our revenue initiatives in the Aurora Sentinel. Chief Eckmann stated they are under the umbrella of the Colorado Community Media, and she will follow up.
- Chair Albee:
 - Acknowledged Chief Eckmann and the team of many that put on the Change of Command Ceremony. Thank you to everyone who participated. Chief Curtis added a big thanks to everyone who put together the event & thanked everyone in the room who continue working together to get as much information as possible to the Board.
- Director Roche:
 - Thanked Chief Eckmann and Director Anderson for helping her with her first revenue initiative presentation, she felt very well prepared.
- Thank you letters/notes:
 - The ECC BOD KPI Report for March 2025 was included in the packet.
 - Thank you email from Fremont Place Condos for Fire Inspector Heidi Vinduska's prompt arrival, professionalism, flexibility, information, involvement with getting annual inspection reports, and her patience was her "modus operandi".
 - Thank you email from The Goddard School of Meridian regarding Fire Inspector Brad Gleason's incredibly kind, professional, courteous, informative and helpful attitude during an unscheduled annual inspection.
 - Thank you letter from a Domino's employee regarding Dispatcher Mat Goodrich's calm demeanor and professionalism during a conflict between them and a neighboring veterinary clinic.
 - Thank you note from the website to Station 31 and Dispatcher Justin Rogers for walking his wife through stroke protocols to verify his condition and the quick pass down that got him to the hospital where the medical staff emphatically stated the fast response made all the difference.
 - Thank you note from the website to Ladder 12, who responded to a neighbor's house, who took the time after the call to interact with the "small army of children" that had congregated around the truck.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

1. Chair Albee motioned to convene to Executive Session at 9:26 p.m. pursuant to §24-6-402(4)(b), C.R.S., for a Conference with Legal Counsel for South Metro Fire Rescue for the purpose of Receiving Legal Advice on Specific legal Questions Regarding pending litigation in Cordova v. South Metro and Ryan Cityo v. South Metro. Director Roche seconded the motion. 6 were in favor and 0 opposed. The motion carried.

The regular meeting reconvened at 10:01 p.m. with no action taken.

NEXT MEETING

Special Board of Directors' Meeting to be held on May 19, 2025, 6:00 p.m. at Littleton Adventist Hospital, 7700 S. Broadway, Littleton, CO.

Regular Board of Directors' Meeting to be held on June 2, 2025, 6:00 p.m. at 9195 East Mineral Avenue, Centennial, CO.

ADJOURNMENT

Chair Albee adjourned the meeting at 10:01 p.m.

Attested by: 

Date: 6/2/2025