

South Metro Fire Rescue Fire Protection District
Special Board of Directors' Meeting Minutes
May 19, 2025 – **AMENDED**

Present:

Jim Albee, Chair	John Curtis, 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 (absent)	Matt Weller, Deputy Chief – Internal Services
William Shriver	Camie Chapman, CHRO - Employee Services
	Stephanie Corbo, CFO - Business Services (absent)
	Allison Ulmer, Legal Counsel

Others Present: Civil Air Patrol's BlackSheep Squadron Senior Commander Dennis Erskine, Littleton Adventist Hospital CEO Rick Dodds & Chief Medical Officer Matt Mendenhall, Staff, SMFR Staff, Citizens

MEETING CALL TO ORDER

Chair Albee called the Special 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 United States of America.

ROLL CALL

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

APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

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

CONFLICT OF INTEREST DISCLOSURE

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

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

PUBLIC COMMENT

- Littleton Adventist Hospital CEO Rick Dodds introduced himself and Chief Medical Officer Matt Mendenhall, welcomed everyone and stated that it is an honor to have SMFR here as they truly value what SMFR does. CEO Dodds provided an overview of the new Health and Vascular Tower that will be a comprehensive center for cardiovascular care, offering a full spectrum of services in one location in a continuing effort to advance cardiac care.
- Kelly Stahlman, widow of SMFR Board Member Bruce Stahlman, introduced her son Jay and stated that she believes Bruce having a place to go and a place to service was part of the reason that he lived another two years. His last night had some very special goodbyes with SMFR personnel staying and holding his hand until he passed. He loved serving on the Board, loved the firefighters & paramedics and thanked Chief Baker for all that he has done during his career.

OATH OF OFFICE FOR RE-ELECTED BOARD MEMBERS

Chair Albee swore in the Oath of Office for Directors Sokol and Shriver.

PROCLAMATIONS

1. Chief Curtis noted that Kelly Stahlman's statement was a big testament to Chief Baker and speaks to his story. It is hard to say goodbye & thanked him for everything he has done for the organization. Chief Curtis presented Chief Baker with a flag that was flown over the state capital on April 30th.
2. Civil Air Patrol BlackSheep Squadron Senior Commander Dennis Erskine introduced himself and explained that the Civil Air Patrol is the civilian auxiliary of the U.S. Air Force. Commander Erskine recognized Chief Baker for going above and beyond to support their ongoing training & presented Chief Baker with their rarely given Above and Beyond Thank You for Your Support Award.
3. Chair Albee recognized that this is Chief Baker's last Board Meeting and wanted to take the opportunity to recognize him for his support and collaborative and constructive work with the Board, most recently through the Fire Chief selection process. Chair Albee read SMFR Proclamation No. 2025-02 A Proclamation by the South Metro Fire Rescue Board of Directors Honoring the Retirement of Fire Chief Bob Baker.

WELCOME TO LITTLETON HOSPITAL

The hospital staff provided the group with a tour of the new Cardiac Tower.

DISCUSSION / POTENTIAL ACTION ITEMS

1. **EMS Update** – Chief Piche & Dr. Apfelbaum provided an update on the EMS Goals, Operational Demand and Medic Unit Utilization, 2024 Cardiac Arrest Performance, ALS Interventions, 2024 EMS Accomplishments & 2025 EMS Updates & Progress.

At Chair Albee's request, Chief Piche will confirm the numbers presented match the totals that the Board and Chiefs have been using as statistics for the revenue initiative presentations & Chief Dell'Orfano will make sure this is incorporated into their presentation packets.

2. **Revenue Initiative 2nd Survey Input – Public Alignment / Magellan Strategies** – Sara O'Keefe and Bryan Blakely from Public Alignment Communications stated that the media launch began about three weeks ago and reviewed the preliminary website traffic, acquisition and behavior data, website poll #1 vs #2, referral data, and reminded the information is available on the website for sharing. Courtney Sievers and Ryan Winger from the Magellan Strategies Team informed that the media ad will finish in the middle of June and then the second survey will be pushed out. This will be shorter and more of just the initial benchmark questions and added questions on whether they have seen the media and if it has changed their opinion, then the survey will go into the sales versus the property tax. There may be a question about voting to remove the cap on the amount of total tax revenue that a local government may collect each year based on information received from Legal Counsel Cole & CFO Corbo.

At Director Anderson's request, it will be a random sample of people who will receive the second survey, but there may be some who will receive it a second time.

At Director Shriver's request, it was confirmed the goal is to get at least 2,000 responses.

At Chief Dell'Orfano's request, the initial survey was sent out to about 40,000 text messages to registered voters with cell phone information on the county clerk's records. Chief Dell'Orfano stated that there was some feedback from the first survey that texts were received outside of the district and we need to try to get the name and phone number, so we are able to figure out why.

The Board thanked Public Alignment & Magellan Strategies for the updated information.

- 3. Board District #4 Vacancy** – Chair Albee on behalf of the Board and the organization expressed heartbreak over the recent passing of Director Bruce Stahlman. Bruce represented Board District #4 and so that board seat is now vacant. Colorado Revised Statutes require the board of directors to fill a vacancy within 60 days. At that time, the board of county commissioners may appoint a director to fill the vacancy with at least 30 days' notice of their intention to do so, during which time the SMFR board can still be pursuing their own appointment. The appointee will serve until the next regular election in May 2027.

After discussion, Staff was directed to post the vacancy and find the appropriate way to advertise it. Chief Eckmann will pull up the process from the last time and post it on all of the social channels. Director Anderson asked if we could also find the list of questions that were used previously.

- 4. June 2nd Meeting Proposed Start Time of 7:00 p.m.** – Chief Dell'Orfano suggested the meeting start time be moved back one hour to accommodate Director Sokol and other Board members participating in the Greenwood Village Revenue Presentation that also starts at 6:00 p.m. The Board agreed to change the start time to 7:00 p.m.
- 5. Follow Up Discussion on May 5, 2025 Budget Requests** – Chair Albee stated that he requested this be added to the agenda to find out if there was any additional explanation needed on what to do with future requests. The Board confirmed that their philosophy is to put major purchases on hold until after the November election unless absolutely needed. The Board asked Staff to filter out the need to have versus the want to have requests, leaving the door open for Staff to come to them if they are unsure which way to go with a request.

ACTION ITEMS

- 1. Public Hearing: SMFR Resolution No. 2025-02 Resolution to Amend 2024 Budget and Appropriate Sums**

Chair Albee opened the Public Hearing at 8:23 p.m.

Accounting Manager Takacs reported that the Self-Insured Medical Fund exceeded their appropriated budget amount by \$1,393,462 and the JACC Fund moved under the General Fund in 2024 causing the need to amend the 2024 budget.

At Director Shriver's request, Accounting Manager Takacs stated it is a State of Colorado requirement to have the Board approve a budget amendment.

Chair Albee invited public comment.

There was no public comment and Chair Albee closed the Public Hearing at 8:26 p.m.

Director Shriver motioned to approve SMFR Resolution No. 2025-02 Resolution to Amend 2024 Budget and Appropriate Sums as presented. Director **Anderson** seconded the motion. 5 were in favor, 0 opposed. The motion carried.

- 2. Financial Report – Q1** – Accounting Manager Takacs informed that the statements were placed in the packet for review and noted the change that the Cherry Hills Retiree Fund is now being reported.

At Director Albee's request, Accounting Manager Takacs reviewed the Cherry Hills funds and explained how it was in the general fund in the past. As the fund balance is increasing, the Board may want at some point to increase the distribution. Once the plan is closed, the excess funds will be returned to the citizens of Cherry Hills.

At Director Sokol's request, Chief Curtis stated that Staff has been looking at the overtime and work to fill vacancies across all three shifts. Chair Albee commented that the solutions are the same and it appears that we just didn't have the budget reflect it. Director Sokol added that we have an issue every year, it does not seem like a one-off issue.

Director Sokol motioned to accept the Financial Report – Q1 as presented. Director Shriver seconded the motion.

5 were in favor, 0 opposed. The motion carried.

INFORMATION ITEMS:

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

- Local 2086 President Dzengelewski:
 - Thanked Shawn Cummings for doing a great job on the hockey tournament. It was well attended, and everyone had a great time. Chief Richardson added that he attended and there had to be hundreds of hours put into the event by the Foundation and other department members. It was very impressive. Chief Curtis also thanked everyone who attended.
- Chief Eckmann:
 - An All Personnel Meeting will be held on Thursday at 1:00 p.m. for Chief Curtis to address the organization. It will be livestreamed and recorded. Looking at doing two of these a year.
 - On Wednesday, Chair Albee is going to be recording the revenue presentation, including some mock questions, that he has been giving to our constituents and others and posted on our website and social media sites.
 - Most of the engagement on our social media sites have been the recent post regarding the cost for purchase of apparatus and equipment.
- Chief Curtis:
 - The Deputy Chief of Operations position was posted today. The posting will be open for the next couple of weeks with interviews planned for mid-June.
 - Attended the Colorado Fallen Firefighters Foundation Remembrance Ceremony in Lakewood on Saturday. He is grateful that we didn't have any names to add to the wall and is appreciative of our wellness initiatives and cardiac awareness.
 - Wished a happy EMS Week to all of our EMS personnel.
- Chief Dell'Orfano:
 - At the last meeting, the Board approved 3 engines and 2 ladders to be placed in the queue for purchase. It was discovered that this was a duplicate order for 2028 and 2029 that had already been placed. The orders are in the que, but Staff will be bringing back an amended motion for 2 engines and 1 ladder at the next meeting.
- Director Anderson:
 - Shout out to Chief Dell'Orfano and all who have been spending their evenings making the revenue presentations. Chief Dell'Orfano has been keeping track, following up and making sure we are hitting everyone. Chair Albee echoed Director Anderson's comment that there is a lot of work that goes into having these awareness meetings & the touch points. He has had a lot of feedback that the process is appreciated.
- Director Shriver:
 - Glad the election is over, and it is nice to still be on the Board.
- Director Sokol:
 - Had a conversation with Douglas County but has not been as successful at getting the actual Arapahoe County property tax numbers, but still working on them.
- Chair Albee:
 - Sent a message to the board about Director Stahlman's service on May 31st at 10:30 a.m. He believes a message will be going out to the organization soon. Director Stahlman will be honored as a retiree. To quote Kelly Stahlman, "what SMFR is doing for his service is perfect".

EXECUTIVE SESSION (UPON MOTION)

N/A

NEXT MEETING(S)

The next Regular South Metro Fire Rescue District Board of Directors' meeting will take place on June 2, 2025, at 7:00 p.m. at 9195 East Mineral Avenue, Centennial, CO.

The next Special South Metro Fire Rescue District Board of Directors' meeting will take place on June 16, 2025, at 6:00 p.m. at 9195 East Mineral Avenue, Centennial, CO.

ADJOURNMENT

Chair Albee adjourned the meeting at 9:10 p.m.

Attested by: Paul Allen

Date: 6/2/2025