

SOUTH DAVIS METRO FIRE SERVICE AREA
BOARD MEETING
MARCH 20, 2023

The South Davis Metro Fire Service Area Board of Trustees held a meeting March 20, 2023, at 5:00 p.m. at the South Davis Metro Fire Service Area Station #81, 255 S. 100 W., Bountiful, Utah.

CONDUCTING: Commissioner Brian Horrocks

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT

Brian Horrocks - Chair
Bob Stevenson
Kendalyn Harris
Ryan Westergard
Clark Wilkinson

STAFF PRESENT

Dane Stone – Fire Chief
Dave Powers – Deputy Chief
Greg Stewart – Deputy Chief
Jessica Hardy – Finance Director
Nikki Dandurand - Clerk
Todd Godfrey – Legal Counsel

BOARD MEMBERS EXCUSED:

Ken Romney

Commissioner Horrocks stated that this is a scheduled meeting and a notice of time, place, and agenda had been sent to the newspaper and to each member of the Board prior to the meeting.

CONSIDERATION OF APPROVING JANUARY 2023 MINUTES – CHIEF STONE

Commissioner Westergard made a motion to approve the minutes, Commissioner Stevenson seconded the motion. This agenda item was approved.

CONSIDERATION OF FEBRUARY FINANCIAL STATEMENTS– MS. JESSICA HARDY

Ms. Hardy presented the financial statements. Commissioner Harris made a motion to approve the financial statements, Commissioner Westergard seconded the motion. This agenda item was approved.

CONSIDERATION OF JANUARY/FEBRUARY DISBURSEMENTS – MS. JESSICA HARDY

Ms. Hardy presented the disbursements. Board members asked Ms. Hardy various questions about line items. Commissioner Stevenson made a motion to approve the disbursements, Commissioner Westergard seconded the motion. This agenda item was approved.

DISCUSSION OF FY 2023-24 BUDGET – ADMINISTRATIVE CHAIR DUANE HUFFMAN

Mr. Huffman presented a power point outlining the background of the fire district, previous years, and current status. In FY 2023, the Administrative Committee asked each city to provide the fire district with their estimated city assessment increase percentage. For this budget year (FY 2023-24) the district is starting at a 5% assessment for each city.

Mr. Huffman continued to explain each primary source of revenue and how the budget will be affected. In the Operations budget, there will be no change to the revenue, but an increase in expenditures. In Personnel, we are proposing a change in the steps from eleven to nine, with a possible pay scale adjustment and COLA. The district is in the process of conducting a wage study survey. The other main question here is whether to adjust property tax in small increments in a shorter time or a larger increase spread out. Currently the property tax should cover equipment for the next couple of years. The training facility is now in question if those funds need to be re-allocated. The Administrative Committee recommends spending down the fund

balance to balance the budget. Commissioner Stevenson asked if the department is fully staffed right now. Chief Stone responded we are down 20% in personnel. Commissioner Stevenson stated that this current Board would have to raise taxes now and again in the near future. They need to look at all the possibilities. Commissioner Horrocks stated that the cost of losing employees is very significant and costs more than hiring new employees.

Commissioner Wilkinson asked if there could be any unexpected equipment costs and if we are confident in our numbers. Mr. Huffman stated all capital projects have been included in the budget. Chief Stone stated we have a 20 yr apparatus plan, but with Covid and delays in supplies, the time frame to buy/expect apparatus has doubled. Commissioner Wilkinson asked, outside the training facility, if there are any other projects that are already slated. Chief Stone said Station 85 will be getting gates around the facility and various improvements.

Commissioner Harris asked the Board if there is a general consensus on whether to do smaller/annual increases or larger, spaced-out increases. Commissioner Horrocks thought smaller ones make better sense to the public. Ms. Hardy also stated that if we maintain our rate, it will benefit us in the long run. Mr. Huffman stated the tentative budget should be available in May. Commissioner Westergard stated that no one likes an increase in taxes, but if there was a Truth in Taxation annually, the public sees that as an ongoing item and won't hurt as much. Chief Stone stated in 2017, we were fully staffed. Safety for our employees is number one. We do not want to risk our employees responding or the public needing our help. We are in an emergency staffing situation right now. Chief Stone stated that if staffing continues to decrease and we are unable to maintain our current staff, we will need to look at closing stations to maintain a safe number at our busier stations. Commissioner Wilkinson concluded the department budget is asking for needs, not wants. That is important to remember.

FIRE CHIEF REPORT – CHIEF STONE

Chief Stone stated we are currently hiring and will have an open house to recruit on April 10th. We also have eight recruits in the academy right now.


FIRE CHAIR REPORT– COMMISSIONER HORROCKS

There is nothing to report at this time.

The meeting was adjourned by motions, Commissioner Westergard and Harris



Brian Horrocks– Chair, Commissioner



Nicole Thompson, Clerk