

**Falcon Fire Protection District
Board of Directors Regular Board Meeting
May 15, 2024 Approved Minutes**

CALL TO ORDER

Vice President Kupferer called the regular meeting of the Board of Directors to order at 1500 hours on Wednesday, May 15, 2024.

ATTENDANCE

James Reid, President – via conference call
Dan Kupferer, Vice President
Ray Hawkins, Treasurer
Edward (Steve) Podoll, Secretary
Thomas Kerby, Assistant Secretary

ALSO PRESENT

Joan Fritsche, Legal Counsel
Trent Harwig, Fire Chief, Falcon Fire Protection District
Jeff Petersma, Deputy Chief, Falcon Fire Protection District
Joe Cosgrove, Battalion Chief, Falcon Fire Protection District
Corey Kirt, Battalion Chief, Falcon Fire Protection District
David Smith, Battalion Chief, Falcon Fire Protection District
Rob Wilkerson, Fleet Mechanic, Falcon Fire Protection District
Twyla Kuemmerle, Administrative Assistant, Falcon Fire Protection District
Mike Collins, District Chaplain
Other members of the Falcon Fire Protection District

ABSENT

Jon Webb, EMS Division Chief, Falcon Fire Protection District
Curtis Kauffman, Lt./Fire Inspector, Falcon Fire Protection District
Gretchen Tetzlaff, Office Manager, Falcon Fire Protection District

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Director Kerby moved to approve the agenda. Director Hawkins seconded the Motion. The Motion passed unanimously.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Chaplin Michael Collins informed the Board of the passing of Retired Assistant Chief Richard “Dick” Stuart, who passed away at his home on April 28, 2024. Dick was with the Falcon Fire Department for approximately 15 years. Dick was an avid HAM Radio Operator & loved shooting. Services will be at the direction of the family.

CORRESPONDENCE

The District received a letter from El Paso County Treasurer, Chuck Broerman, regarding the assessment growth and values. Chief Harwig went over this letter with the Board in the Treasurer’s Report.

SWEARING IN CEREMONY

Scott Hierholzer was sworn in as a Fire Fighter by Chief Harwig and badged by his girlfriend, Chloe Cecale.

Aric Meleg was sworn in as a Fire Fighter by Chief Harwig and badged by Fire Fighter Justin Salinas and Lt. David Hawkins.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

Director Hawkins moved to approve the April 17, 2024 Regular Board Meeting Minutes as presented. Director Kerby seconded the Motion. The Motion passed unanimously.

REPORTS

Treasurer's Report

Chief Harwig reviewed the May's Treasurer's Report with the Board. The Chief noted 33.3% of the 2024 fiscal year is complete in this Report.

Total General Fund Budget revenues received were at 40%. Specific Ownership Tax is at 36%. Total General Fund expenditures across all categories were at 28% of the budget. Chief Harwig mentioned earlier that the District received correspondence from the El Paso County Treasurer. Chief Harwig stated that at the end of December 2023, the El Paso County Treasurer certified the District's assessed valuation assessed valuation of \$718,537,640.00. The Treasurer amended the District's assessed valuation on May 15, 2024, reducing its assessed valuation by \$13,819,910.00, causing a reduction in revenue for the year of \$205,000.00. Chief Harwig stated that he has reached out to both the County Treasurer and Assessor, to determine the cause of the reduction. He thinks the Shiloh Mesa exclusion, approved by the District Court in 2021, may be a significant factor in the revised valuation.

Chief Harwig reported the District anticipates receiving backfill funding from the State of approximately \$300,000.

The Ambulance Fund Budget transport fees were at 35%. Total revenues received were at 29%. Total expenditures were at 26%.

The Capital Improvement Fund revenues received were at 25%. Total Capital Improvement Fund expenditures were at 8%.

The Rural Water Fund Revenues had no activity or expenditures for the month of April. Total Rural Water Fund expenditures were at 0% of budget.

Staff Report

Deputy Chief Petersma reviewed the written reports for March which included the March incident counts which were at approximately 328 calls, response times, mutual aid given and mutual aid received. Director Kupferer asked what the impact would be on the District should American Medical Response ("AMR") lose its contract to Colorado Springs Fire Department. Deputy Chief Petersma advised the Board that the Eastern El Paso County Ambulance group began meeting last month concerning fire-based agencies transport operations. The consensus is that if the City implements an ambulance transport system, AMR will not renew the County contract in October, leaving a gap in County services and they are unsure if the County contract will be picked up by another agency or if the other fire districts will

start doing their own transports. Most agencies have started the process of BLS licensing of ambulances to at least start the ALS intercept. Further meetings will be held to discuss these issues. Director Kerby would like to know the call volume for Eastern El Paso County that AMR is currently serving to get a better projection on what the mutual aid volume could be since the County has an increased population from the previous model. Deputy Chief Petersma stated that AMR's call volume for the entire County was about 500 transports annually. A discussion was held regarding billing and Medicare/Medicaid payments. More updates to follow.

Deputy Chief Petersma reported that there were 0 Reserve hours for the month of April.

EMS Division Chief Webb was absent, Deputy Chief Petersma reported the corrected 24-month totals for March for the Board.

Fire Prevention Lieutenant Kauffman was absent, no report was given.

Attorney's Report

Attorney Fritsche provided a written Attorney's Report which was sent separately to the Board.

Attorney Fritsche provided a correspondence update on the Colorado Digital Accessibility Rules. The Board has previously discussed the accessibility rules for Colorado at the April 17, 2024 Board of Directors Meeting. These recent developments were discussed: Colorado Legislature passed House Bill 24-1454 on May 5th, this provides a one-year extension to July, 2025 for fines for failure to comply with the set standards. This one-year extension will provide a safety net for those not in compliance by the July deadline. There is one change regarding documents generated prior to 2023, these archived documents are not required to be converted into an ADA accessible format. Chief Harwig stated that the District engaged an SDA recommended company called Streamline to manage and monitor its website in anticipation of the July 1, 2024 deadline.

Attorney Fritsche also provided the Board with a summary on Senate Bill 24-233. As required by legislation passed in 2023, the Legislature and Governor formed a Property Tax Task Force that met several times over the year. At its last meeting held in March, the Task Force issued recommendations to the Legislature on long term stabilization of property tax assessment rates. SB24-233 was introduced on May 6th and passed on May 8th by the General Assembly, establishing a limit on specific property tax revenue collection for local governments starting in 2025. A discussion was held on how this bill will affect District's tax revenue with new and lower assessment rates. Attorney Fritsche also provided the Board with a summary on Senate Bill 24-194. This bill as discussed at the last Board of Directors meeting, authorizing fire protection districts to impose an impact fee on new construction and authorizing a sales tax to generate additional revenue for the District's services, if approved by District voters. A discussion was held on how this bill could affect the District.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Maintenance Building Project

The Board considered Hammer's Construction Pay Application #2 in the amount of \$215,946.40 and, after discussion, declined to approve. Chief Harwig stated that he will meet with Hammer's on May 16th. The metal building is set to be delivered on Friday, May 17th and stored on site. This pay application primarily covers the cost of the metal building. The building permit plans have not yet been approved by Regional Building, although Hammers expects the building permit to be issued shortly

and dirt work to start this month. The District needs to find a place to store the metal building, either on site or possibly across the street if permission is granted. Director Kupferer stated that Hammer's is requesting payment on a building that has not been delivered. Director Kerby stated that the contract states payment is made on materials delivered. Director Kerby and Attorney Fritsche researched the contract, which requires payment for materials delivered or on site after approval of the building permit. A discussion was held regarding the payment and Hammer's Construction contract. The Board agreed that Pay Application #2 did not follow the terms of contract, and determined not approve Hammer's Construction Pay Application #2. Director Kerby noted the County made a note on the plans that the District owed a road impact fee of \$23,000.00. Director Kerby met with the County engineer and had the impact fee waived for a local government entity.

Director Kerby moved not to approve Hammers Construction Pay Application #2 in the amount of \$215,946.40. Director Hawkins seconded the Motion. The Motion passed unanimously.

Station 1 Parcel – Tract B El Paso County Sheriff's Office Substation

Chief Harwig stated that new information was posted from EDARP and changes or corrections were not fire related. The revised plans show the fire hydrant in back of the County building as requested, where the previous drawings showed the hydrant in the front of the building. Chief Harwig noted that the District was still waiting on the maintenance agreement for the dentition pond use, easement legal descriptions and the District's request that the current fire hydrant be moved to the front of Station 1 near the FDC.

NEW BUSINESS

None.

PUBLIC COMMENT

None.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

None.

ADJOURNMENT

Director Hawkins moved to adjourn the Board meeting. Director Kerby seconded the Motion. The Motion passed unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 1640 hours.

I hereby attest to the accuracy of the meeting Minutes:

Edward Podoll, Secretary