

SOUTH DAVIS METRO FIRE SERVICE AREA
BOARD MEETING
JUNE 12, 2023

The South Davis Metro Fire Service Area Board of Trustees held a meeting June 12, 2023, at 5:30 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
Ken Romney
Ryan Westergard
Clark Wilkinson

STAFF PRESENT

Dane Stone – Fire Chief
Dave Powers – Deputy Chief
Greg Stewart – Deputy Chief
Jessica Hardy – Finance Director
Nikki Thompson - Clerk
Jayme Blakesley– Legal Counsel

BOARD MEMBERS EXCUSED

Kendalyn Harriis

ADMINISTRATIVE COMMITTEE PRESENT

Duane Huffman – Chair
Brant Hanson

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 MAY 2023 MINUTES – COMMISSIONER HORROCKS

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

CONSIDERATION OF MAY DISBURSEMENTS – MS. JESSICA HARDY

Ms. Hardy presented the disbursements. Commissioner Stevenson made a motion to approve the disbursements, Commissioner Romney seconded the motion. This agenda item was approved.

CONSIDERATION OF MAY FINANCIAL STATEMENTS – MS. JESSICA HARDY

Ms. Hardy presented the financial statements. Commissioner Westergard made a motion to approve the statements, Commissioner Romney seconded the motion.

FIRE CHIEF REPORT – CHIEF DANE STONE

Chief Stone stated we had 7 graduates from the academy last week and five more will start onboarding on June 20th. EMS Chief Larsen received grant money and purchased two e-bikes for the department. These will be helpful in getting up the mountains and trails to do quick assessments of anyone injured before crews can arrive.

CHAIRMAN REPORT – COMMISSIONER HORROCKS

Nothing to report.

CONSIDERATION OF FY 2023-24 BUDGET – CHIEF DANE STONE

a. PUBLIC HEARING ON FY 2023-24 TENTATIVE BUDGET

b. CONSIDERATION OF RESOLUTION 2023-02 – APPROVING FY 2023-24 BUDGET AND SETTING THE TAX RATE

Mr. Huffman presented the Board members with a PowerPoint presentation with the background, financial sources, and tentative budget. All major capital expenses have been budgeted, the new expenses will be for wages, and we are planning on a 5% growth in the upcoming year. Commissioner Wilkinson asked how many positions the department has had to replace. Chief Stone stated no one has been replaced, but there are seven new recruits that just graduated, and five more will start on June 20th. There are no laterals. All are from the academy.

After Mr. Huffman presented the PowerPoint, the Board asked various questions to clarify the tentative budget. Commissioner Wilkinson asked about specific allocations and Commissioner Stevenson asked why the district is not their own taxing entity. Mr. Huffman explained the background of the district and why it was created this way. The recommendation of the Administrative Committee was mixed, but overall, they voted to do a larger tax increase now. Mr. Huffman then explained how a Truth in Taxation will work and the dates, events involved. He suggested the Board open to public comment and make a decision after.

Commissioner Horrocks proceeded to open the public hearing.

OPEN: 6:30 p.m.

Ron Mortensen, Bountiful – the Board has a responsibility to the community to have paramedics and firefighters. This money is to compensate these individuals. Would like to pay directly to the district and not through the city. Fully supports an increase in wages for the district.

Gary Davis, Bountiful – We can't kick this idea down the road anymore.

Rick Earnshaw, Woods Cross – has been in the Board's seat. Supports the tax increase. We need to pay these people for what they work for. Commends the Chief's and says thank you. He hopes for a taxation district that could support themselves.


CLOSED: 6:34 p.m.

The Board continued their discussion. Commissioner Wilkinson inquired about the enterprise and apparatus plan. DC Stewart replied we have the apparatus schedule planned out until 2036. Mr. Huffman stated the only wild card at this point is the training facility. Commissioner Wilkinson asked if any residents asked to view the budget prior to the meeting. Staff responded no. Commissioner Horrocks read Commissioner Harris's comments, via email. Commissioner Romney doesn't want to raise taxes and believes in a "pay as you go" theory. But due to Covid, inflation, costs, etc. he suggests we proceed with the TnT with a new rate for the wage increase. Commissioner Romney makes a motion to approve the tentative budget and Resolution 2023-02 with a tax rate of .000563 and proceed with a TnT; July 1st expenditures will be under the new budget. Commissioner Westergard seconded the motion. Commissioner Wilkinson confirmed the dates for a TnT. Commissioner Horrocks asked for a roll call vote. Commissioner's Westergard, Horrocks, Romney and Wilkinson vote "aye." Commissioner Stevenson vote "nay." This item was approved with a 4/1 vote and passed. Commissioner Stevenson explained he is not against helping the employees, this is just a budgetary item and still suggests the district use fund balance first.

The regular scheduled meeting was adjourned by Commissioner Westergard.



Brian Horrocks- Chair



Nicole Thompson, Clerk