

SOUTH DAVIS METRO FIRE SERVICE AREA
BOARD MEETING
DECEMBER 16, 2024

The South Davis Metro Fire Service Area Board of Trustees held a meeting on December 16, 2024, at 5:00 p.m. at the South Davis Metro Fire Service Area Station #81, 255 S. 100 W., Bountiful, Utah.

CONDUCTING: Commissioner Clark Wilkinson

BOARD MEMBERS

Clark Wilkinson – Chair
Kendalyn Harris – Vice Chair
Ken Romney – excused
Ryan Westergard
Brian Horrocks
Bob Stevenson

STAFF PRESENT

Greg Stewart – Fire Chief
Jeff Larsen – Deputy Chief
Jessica Hardy – Finance Director
Nikki Thompson – Clerk
Todd Godfrey – Legal Counsel

Commissioner Wilkinson stated this is a scheduled meeting and a notice of time, place, and agenda was sent to the appropriate agencies and to each Board member before the meeting.

MEETING SUMMARY

The meeting commenced with the unanimous approval of the November minutes. Jessica presented the November financial statements, revealing a cash balance of \$10,947,379, year-to-date revenues of \$5,751,024, and expenditures of \$8,034,290, resulting in a deficit and a noted decrease in property tax collections by \$100,000 compared to the previous year. Disbursements for garage door repairs and vehicle purchases were also unanimously approved. The board discussed an increase in the participation commitment for the Cooperative Wildfire System Agreement from \$36,000 to \$45,000 starting January 1, 2025, and strategies for wildfire risk mitigation, highlighting community engagement with over 12,000 volunteer hours. The meeting addressed the purchasing of data analytics software to improve data management and discussed a potential change in budget format. The 2025 board meeting schedule was adopted without changes, and the role of Mayor Westergaard in upcoming elections was lightly discussed. Updates were provided on the training ground project and the legislative session concerning a firefighter cancer bill and ambulance billing practices. The meeting concluded with a reminder to support colleagues during the holiday season.

CONSIDERATION OF APPROVING NOVEMBER MINUTES – COMMISSIONER WILKINSON

Commissioner Westergard made a motion to approve the minutes, Commissioner Stevenson seconded the motion. All Commissioners voted “aye.” This item was approved.

CONSIDERATION OF NOVEMBER FINANCIAL STATEMENTS – MS. HARDY

Ms. Hardy presented the disbursements. Commissioner Westergard noted property taxes are down from last year at this time. Ms. Hardy stated it could be the actual posting time, or some could be in arrears. Commissioner Horrocks made a motion to approve the disbursements, Commissioner Westergard seconded the motion. All Commissioners in attendance voted “aye.” This item was approved.

CONSIDERATION OF NOVEMBER DISBURSEMENTS – MS. HARDY

Ms. Hardy presented the disbursements. No other comments were made. Commissioner Harris made a motion to approve the disbursements, Commissioner Westergard seconded the motion. All commissioners in attendance voted "aye." This item was approved.

DISCUSSION OF 2025 CWPP UPDATE – FIRE MARSHAL COLE FESSLER

FM Fessler gave a brief historical background of the Cooperative Wildfire System Agreement with the state. He stated the participation commitment for the CWS will increase to \$45,000 starting January 1, 2025, up from \$36,000. The previous funding structure required 50% from mitigation, 25% from preparedness, and 25% from prevention, but now only the total dollar amount is required. Currently, the total amount documented is \$49,000, which can be rolled over to next year's participation commitment statement. Most of this amount is reflected in in-kind work with fuel reduction projects, etc. FM Fessler stated any future work done on trails (including Legacy Trail), spring/fall city clean-up projects, 9/11 day of service, public works departments fuel reduction projects and all residential fuel reduction/property clean-up work can be counted towards this. If everyone knows they can track it online, we can possibly add hundreds of hours we are missing. The suggestion was made to begin city newsletter information campaigns.

CONSIDERATION OF PURCHASING DATA ANALYTICS SOFTWARE – CHIEF STEWART

Chief Stewart stated this item was included in this year's budget. We currently do not have a data analyst within the department. We use data to make almost every decision in the department. This software will provide us with the charts, graphs, etc. with live data that we can present to you. This is data already being collected on incidents in the field. Commissioner Harris asked who this will best serve, i.e. the Board, internal, etc. Chief Stewart replied the biggest benefit will be to assist in making decisions for the department. Commissioner Stevenson made a motion to approve the purchase, Commissioner Westergard seconded the motion. All commissioners in attendance voted "aye." This item was approved.

DISCUSSION OF BUDGET FORMAT – CHIEF STEWART

Chief Stewart stated we are working with the Administrative Committee to make the change from enterprise to government format. We have met with Mr. Hanson (CT) and Mr. Hill (BT). We would like to bring the Board a resolution early next year. This change is based on the budget officer's recommendation.

CONSIDERATION OF ADOPTING RESOLUTION 2024-05; 2025 BOARD MEETING SCHEDULE – CHIEF STEWART

Chief Stewart presented the schedule and resolution. Commissioner Stevenson made a motion to approve Resolution 2024-05, Commissioner Horrocks seconded the motion. All commissioners in attendance voted "aye." This item was approved.

ELECTION OF CHAIR AND VICE-CHAIR FOR BOARD OF TRUSTEES – CHIEF STEWART

Chief Stewart presented the historical timeline of past positions. Commissioner Stevenson made a motion to elect Commissioner Harris as Chair and Commissioner Westergard as Vice-Chair. Commissioner Horrocks seconded the motion. All commissioners in attendance voted "aye." This item was approved.

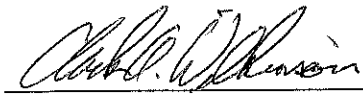
FIRE CHIEF REPORT – CHIEF GREG STEWART

Chief Stewart updated the Board on the Training Ground progress. We are conducting our due diligence with surveys and Geotech analysis. Some legislative issues we will be tracking closely this session are a firefighter cancer bill that addresses adding 12 presumptive cancers to the workers compensation benefit. This bill would allow for the screening of firefighters who meet certain criteria and funding for a state program for three years. As of right now this has passed committee and carries a fiscal note of six million dollars. There is also another bill for ambulance billing, which would address how supplies are billed and may increase the base rate allowed. Currently, at least one insurance company is refusing to pay any supplies and defers that balance billing to the patient. January 9th, 2025, is Metro's 20th Anniversary. Invitations were sent out and we hope to see you there.

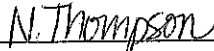
CHAIRMAN REPORT – COMMISSIONER WILKINSON

Commissioner Wilkinson expressed his gratitude for the department and asked everyone to remember those around you.

Commissioner Westergard made a motion to adjourn to a closed meeting to discuss the acquisition or sale of real property, pending litigation and/or to discuss the character and/or competency of an individual(s) (Utah Code §52-4-205), and close the regular scheduled meeting concluding the closed meeting (36:40). Commissioner Harris seconded the motion. All commissioners in attendance voted "aye."



Clark Wilkinson, Chair



Nicole Thompson, Clerk