

SOUTH DAVIS METRO FIRE SERVICE AREA
BOARD MEETING
June 21st, 2021

The South Davis Metro Fire Service Area Board of Trustees held a meeting June 21, 2021 at 5:00 p.m. at the South Davis Metro Fire Service Area Station #81, 255 S. 100 W., Bountiful, Utah.

CONDUCTING: Commissioner Len Arave

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT

Leonard Arave – Chair
Ken Romney
Clark Wilkinson
Randy Lewis
Rick Earnshaw
Bob Stevenson

STAFF PRESENT

Dane Stone – Fire Chief
Dave Powers – Deputy Chief
Greg Stewart – Deputy Chief
Jessica Hardy - Accountant
Nikki Dandurand - Secretary
Todd Godfrey – Attorney

Commissioner Arave stated that this was a regularly 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.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES FOR MAY 2021

Commissioner Arave presented the minutes for the May 2021 meeting. Commissioner Earnshaw made a motion to approve the minutes, Commissioner Lewis seconded the motion. All voted in favor.

APPROVAL OF THE MAY 2021 FINANCIAL STATEMENTS-- JESSICA HARDY

Ms. Hardy reviewed the items for April 2021. This will be the last one for FY 2021. We will start our audit in two weeks. Commissioner Lewis moved to approve the disbursements as presented with Commissioner Stevenson seconding the motion. All voted in favor.

APPROVAL OF THE MAY 2021 DISBURSEMENTS-- JESSICA HARDY

Ms. Hardy reviewed the disbursements. Commissioner Wilkinson asked what the terms are for the Rosenbauer. Ms. Hardy replied we received a cash discount for payment up front and the remainder is due upon delivery. Commissioner Earnshaw moved to approve the disbursements as presented with Commissioner Romney seconding the motion. All voted in favor.

CONSIDERATION OF INTER-LOCAL PARAMEDIC AGREEMENT – CHIEF STONE

Chief Stone stated this agreement was previously signed, but a few changes have since been made. Commissioner Stevenson stated it is good to see this from a city view, not just a county. The County was able to take an informal role and look at all the cities together. Commissioner Romney moved to re-sign and approve the corrected agreement, Commissioner Stevenson seconded the motion. All voted in favor.

Commissioner Stevenson commented that this is a big deal for our county. We are working together so we can make this county better. Davis County is great to work with.

CONSIDERATION OF FY 2020-2021 AMENDED BUDGET – MS. JESSICA HARDY

Commissioner Romney made a motion to open a public hearing, Commissioner Lewis seconded the motion.

The Public Hearing opened at 5:27 P.M. and closed at 5:28 P.M. Commissioner Earnshaw moved to approve the FY 2020-2021 Amended Budget. Commissioner Romney seconded the motion. All voted in favor.

Commissioner Romney moved to approve Resolution 2021-01, Amending FY 2020-2021 Budget. Commissioner Earnshaw seconded the motion. All voted in favor.

DISCUSSION OF FY 2021-22 BUDGET

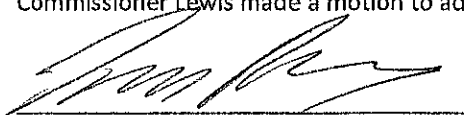
Chief Stone recapped the June meeting budget discussions about increasing city assessments and/or property tax and we approved a tentative budget to operate past July 1, 2021. Commissioner Arave stated that since this is a fire agency item, the fire agency should hold the Truth in Taxation hearing. Commissioner Earnshaw asked when do we go as a full district and taxing entity and not rely on the contributions from the city's. His city assessments were more than the property tax assessments. Commissioner Arave replied that several of them are fine with that, but Woods Cross and Bountiful had a lower property tax. Chief Stone replied the Administrative Committee still wants a "piece of the pie." We would like to be our own district, so when we need to increase the property tax, the assessments stay the same. This department is very fiscally responsible. DC Powers stated we will operate how you want us to operate, but we should keep the same rules year after year, so we don't keep having this same discussion. A policy statement would help us. Commissioner Romney asked so are we essentially freezing the assessments where they are at and any new costs will be written in the new policy? DC Powers said yes with COLA. Chief Stone stated we have used fund balance to offset the costs for the last couple of years. If we want to change that to come from property tax, then we need a new policy. That would be beneficial to us and with any new mayors coming into office, to set that policy now. Commissioner Wilkinson said the Administrative Committee should take a closer look, possibly develop a new formula, and have a new discussion. Chief Stone said that Brant Hanson, Centerville City Manager, has asked why the fire department has to ask to get what it wants? Commissioner Lewis asked Chief Stone if the Administrative committee had a disposition on this item. DC Powers replied most agreed. Chief Stone stated the Administrative Committee suggested leaving the assessments at 10% and increasing the property tax. The assessments have not been equal, and we have been buying them down, using the fund balance to offset that. That's why the cities haven't seen an increase in assessments. Commissioner Earnshaw asked if we need to memorialize this, do we need to set a resolution so that future board members can refer to it? Commissioner Romney asked if a written or practicing policy was best. Mr. Godfrey said it would be novel to have a policy, although not necessary. We do not have a written policy right now. Commissioner Stevenson commented to be careful setting a policy, to have flexibility built in as well. You don't want to end up with your hands tied. DC Powers also mentioned, that was brought up with the Administrative Committee, the cities have had a surprise with the changing of assessments every year based on property values. Commissioner Arave said there has been a slight problem with assessments but doesn't think we need a policy. If the city has a choice between the city raising taxes or the fire agency, the fire agency should do that. Chief Stone also talked about a 20-year apparatus plan and our training chief needs more assistance. DC Powers stated our department currently has 40% of our department has less than three years' experience. Commissioner Stevenson asked where all the seniority went and why just a three-year average. Chief Stone stated we were jump staffing vehicles to keep them minimally staffed. Commissioner Stevenson stated we represent the people. If this is what we can afford, how can we better manage it. DC Powers replied that is a good point. We must use technology ie. Lexipol to keep up with our policies and Target Solutions for training. We only have four chiefs looking out for 90+ people. Logistically it is a juggling nightmare. Chief Stone stated in his annual report last year, we would like to follow a strategic plan and give you, the Board of Directors, an idea of where we are heading. We do not want to be a "we need..." department. But we have already created that deficit. Commissioner Romney asked how many additional positions we need to fill. Chief Stone replied we are only creating two new positions but filling an additional seven. Ms. Hardy has been creating a pamphlet to advertise our tax increase.

FIRE CHIEF REPORT

Chief Stone reported the "B" platoon hiked over ten miles last week, with two rescues. Today, there was a rescue in the sand pits in North Salt Lake. In the court employee case, he filed a petition. Commissioner Romney asked if can do that. Mr. Godfrey said no comment. Chief Stone showed the Board the turn-out gear that our injured firefighter was wearing and stated this is what protected him. This gear is life saving and we thank you for your support of the department to purchase the right equipment.

ADJOURNMENT:

Commissioner Lewis made a motion to adjourn the Board meeting. Board meeting was adjourned.



Len Arave - Commissioner



Nicole Dandurand, Clerk