

MINUTES OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF STRATMOOR HILLS FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT

The regular monthly meeting of the Board of Directors for the Stratmoor Hills Fire Protection District was held pursuant to notice at 3:00 p.m. on August 21, 2024.

Board Members present: President Robert Colgrove, Vice-President James Pesicka, Secretary/Treasurer John Willcox and Director Cindy Dent and Director Richard Dull.

District Personnel present: Fire Chief Shawn Bittle via telephone and Administrative Chief Dottie Barrett. Audience members: John O'Donnell and Steve Carter.

Approval of Previous Board Meeting Minutes

It was moved and seconded (Pesicka/Willcox) to approve the Board meeting minutes for July 18, 2024. The motion passed unanimously with all Directors voting.

Approval of Agenda

It was moved and seconded (Pesicka/Willcox) to approve the amended agenda. The motion passed unanimously with all Directors voting.

Public Comment

Unfinished Business

New and Miscellaneous Business:

Fire Chief Report

- July Calls per District – due to deployments – this report will be delayed
- Status reports
 - Chiefs' notes –
 - Chief passed out the 2022/2023 Annual Report to the Board members.
 - Chief informed the Board of a incident that took place on Thursday, August 15th where a single mother of three (3) small children; whose house had a sewer back up and was having problems getting help. Chief Bittle reported that he responded and contacted the Management company in Texas who offered no help. As a result, Chief Bittle has contacted the Colorado State Attorney Generals Office and is working on getting them involved.
 - Apparatus - (responsibility assigned to – D/E Patalano)
 - **418**: -Returning from Oregon after a rainstorm.
 - **441**: Repaired with new transmission

- Training (responsibility assigned to – Chief Bittle)
 - Lt. Bosch, Senior Driver Aragon, and Wildland Coordinator are all registered for the Chief's conference in October.
 - Chief Bittle is signed up for a leadership conference in Tulsa in the first part of October.
- Inspections (responsibility assigned to – Mark Stanwood)
- Recruiting (responsibility assigned to – Chief Bittle)
 - Strong work by the Recruit Class. Finished Firefighter 1 with a class average of 89.7 percent.
- Gear (responsibility assigned to – FF Jones)
- EMS (responsibility assigned to D/E Bosch)
- Wildland (responsibility assigned to D/E Ortiz)

Administrative Chief Report

- Reminded the Board that at the September Board meeting they will be doing Fire Chief Bittle's annual employee evaluation. The current form was given to the Board in this month's packets for use.

John O'Donnell Campaign Update

John O'Donnell gave the Board an update on the campaign and the literature that he plans to provide for the campaign.

Resolution No. 2024-003 – Opposition to the Statewide Proposals, Initiatives 50 & 10

Chief Barrett informed the Board that the Special District Association (SDA) and the Colorado State Fire Chiefs' (CSFC) have strongly encouraged all Fire Districts to have their Board of Directors passed a Resolution to oppose Initiatives 50 & 108 that will appear on the November Ballot. Governor Polis has called for a Special Session on August 26, 2024, and has proposed a Bipartisan "fix" to the Property Tax problems and to remove the citizen Initiatives 50 & 108 from the Ballot. Chief Barrett feels that the Board should still approve the resolution enclosed to show their opposition to the initiatives. It was moved and seconded (Pesicka/Willcox) to approve Resolution No. 2024-003 – Opposition to the Statewide Proposals, Initiatives 50 & 108. The motion passed unanimously with all Directors voting.

Intergovernmental Agreement (IGA) with El Paso County

Chief Barrett informed the Board that they must approve the IGA with El Paso County for the November participation in the coordinated General Election. At this time the Board must also appoint a Designated Election Official (DEO), and staff is recommending Dorothy R. (Dottie) Barrett as the DEO. It was moved and seconded (Pesicka/Willcox) to approve the Intergovernmental Agreement (IGA) with El Paso County and elect Dorothy R. (Dottie) Barrett as the DEO. The motion passed unanimously with all Directors voting.

Board of Directors letter to the public

Chief Bittle and Chief Barrett informed the Board of Directors that Steve Parker initially wrote the enclosed letter and he did a fantastic job and staff feels it is a letter that the Board of Directors can be proud to present to the public upon acceptance. It was moved and seconded (Pesicka/Willcox) to approve the Board of Directors letter to the public for the Mill-Levy increase question on the November ballot. The motion passed unanimously with all Directors voting.

Blue-Ribbon Panel (BRP) letter to the public

Chief Bittle and Chief Barrett presented the Blue-Ribbon Panel letter to the public that was written by Jen Buckley. Jen did a fantastic job, and the letter thoroughly explains the process that the BRP went through to come to the conclusion that they did. This letter, along with the Board letter will be mailed to all residents through the Campaign.

Financial Reports

The July 2024 check register report where the taxes and employee retirement (Electronic Funds Transfers (EFT)) payments are highlighted was enclosed for the Directors' review. Chief Barrett informed the Board that the District has received that last of the big property tax checks and the District will need to cut back on their expenses. It was moved and seconded (Pesicka/Willcox) to approve the financial reports as presented for the District for the month of July 2024, subject to audit. The motion passed unanimously with all Directors voting. Copies of the financial reports are attached to these minutes and made a part hereof.

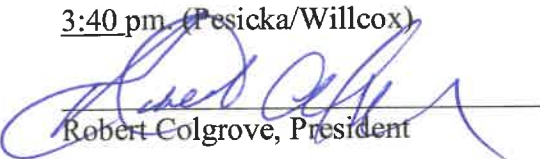
VII. Executive Session

Other Business

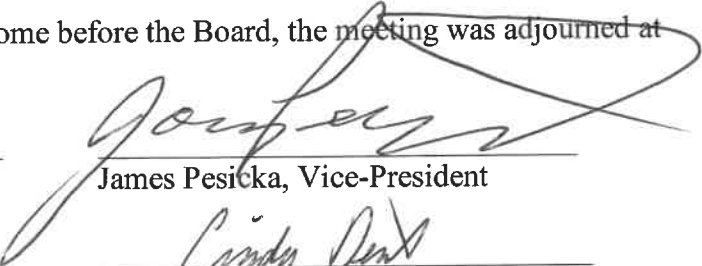
Adjournment

It was noted that the next regularly scheduled Board of Directors meeting would be held at 3:00 p.m. on September 18, 2024, at 2160 B Street, Colorado Springs, CO 80906.

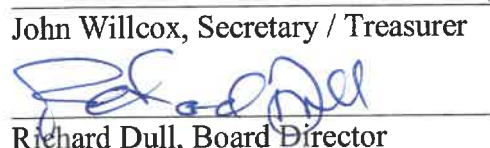
As there was no further business to come before the Board, the meeting was adjourned at 3:40 pm. (Pesicka/Willcox)



Robert Colgrove, President



James Pesicka, Vice-President



John Willcox, Secretary / Treasurer



Cindy Dent, Board Director



Richard Dull, Board Director