

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 4:07 p.m. on December 6, 2023

Board Members present: President Robert Colgrove, Vice-President James Pesicka, Secretary/Treasurer John Willcox, Director Richard Dull and Director Cindy Dent was excused absent due to family emergency. District Personnel present: Fire Chief Shawn Bittle and Administrative Chief Dottie Barrett.

Approval of Previous Board Meeting Minutes

It was moved and seconded (Pesicka/Willcox) to approve the Board meeting minutes for November 15, 2023. The motion passed unanimously with all Directors voting.

Approval of Agenda

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

Public Comment

Unfinished Business

New and Miscellaneous Business

Fire Chief Report –

- November Calls per District – due to a D/E injury and busy calls – this report will be delayed.
- Status reports
 - Chiefs' notes –
 - D/E Bosch was hurt on Monday, December 4th after she fell off the new Engine 418. She will be out until next week.
 - Saturday, December 9th around 1:30 pm Chief is inviting the Board members, staff, and public to come see the new truck, station etc. Weather pending on the “water down” process, but the crews will be able to “push back” the Engine.
 - Saturday, December 9th and Sunday, December 10th – Engine 418 and Brush Truck 440 will be in the Colorado Springs Parade of Lights and Manitou Parade of Lights. Chief invited the Board members to join as there are seats open.
 - Apparatus - (responsibility assigned to – D/E Patalano)
 - Engine 418 is the primary response vehicle for this month and there was some warranty issues that SVI came and fixed

today. There is an oil leak on the Engine and Chief will be taking it to a Cummins Engine dealer tomorrow.

- Training (responsibility assigned to – Chief Bittle)
 - The month of November and December will be training on the new Engine 418, and it is going well.
- Inspections (responsibility assigned to – Mark Stanwood)
- Recruiting (responsibility assigned to – Chief Bittle)
 - Chief is beginning to work on the next Fire Academy and staff will continue to receive more applications – hopefully there will be at least eighteen (18) students.
- Gear (responsibility assigned to – FF Jones)
- EMS (responsibility assigned to D/E Bosch)
- Wildland (responsibility assigned to D/E Ortiz)

Administrative Chief Report

- Chief Barrett included a letter from Governor Polis asking the Special Districts of Colorado to voluntarily lower their mill-levy to help alleviate property taxes for their residents next year. Discussion took place that these Special Districts cannot afford to lower their taxes and survive.

January 2024 Board Meeting date change

Chief Barrett informed the Board that due to Governor Polis and the State Legislation holding the emergency session mid-November and the result is lowering of the Property Tax Assessment Rate for 2024 – the Fire District will not receive the final budget figures from the County Assessor until on or around December 20, 2023. The deadline for reporting the final budget is Wednesday, January 10, 2024, and the Fire District can email the budget sheets to the County and DOLA. As a result of these changes, staff is requesting the January Board meeting to be held on Tuesday, January 9, 2024, instead of Wednesday, January 17, 2024. It was moved and seconded (Pesicka/Willcox) to hold the January 2024 Board of Directors meeting on Tuesday, January 9, 2024, at 3:00 pm. The motion passed unanimously with all Directors voting.

Part-time Fire Instructor position description

Chief Bittle informed the Board at the November meeting that he created this position description to assist the Fire Instructor with the Fire Academy so that all of the teaching does not fall on one person. He is requesting this position to be approved on the second and final reading. It was moved and seconded (Pesicka/Willcox) to approve the Part-time Fire Instructor position description on the second and final reading. The motion passed unanimously with all Directors voting.

Financial Reports

The November check register report where the taxes and employee retirement (Electronic Funds Transfers (EFT)) payments are highlighted was enclosed for the Directors' review. Discussion took place regarding the 2024 Mill-Levy increase that staff and the Board will be requesting in 2024. Further discussion took place regarding the Wildland funds being used to pay off Wildland Brush Truck 440 faster. It was moved and seconded (Pesicka/Willcox) to approve the financial reports as presented for the District for the month of November 2023, 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.

Executive Session

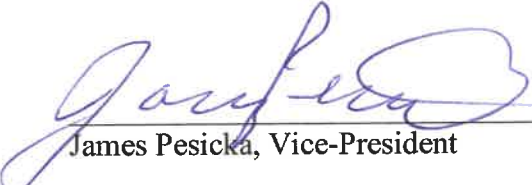
Other Business

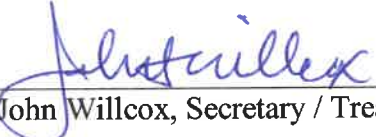
Adjournment

It was noted that the next regularly scheduled Board of Directors meeting would be held at 3:00 p.m. on January 9, 2023, at 2160 B Street, Colorado Springs, CO 80906.

As there was no further business to come before the Board, the meeting was adjourned at 4:36 pm. (Pesicka/Willcox)


Robert Colgrove, President


James Pesicka, Vice-President


John Willcox, Secretary / Treasurer


Richard Dull, Board Director
