

**Falcon Fire Protection District
Board of Directors Regular Board Meeting
October 16, 2024, Approved Minutes**

CALL TO ORDER

President Reid called the regular meeting of the Board of Directors to order at 1500 hours on Wednesday, October 16, 2024.

ATTENDANCE

James Reid, President
Dan Kupferer, Vice President
Ray Hawkins, Treasurer
Edward (Steve) Podoll, Secretary
Thomas Kerby, Assistant Secretary

ALSO PRESENT

Joan Fritsche, Legal Counsel
Trent Harwig, Fire Chief, Falcon Fire Protection District
Jeff Petersma, Deputy Chief, Falcon Fire Protection District
Joe Cosgrove, Battalion Chief, Falcon Fire Protection District?
Curtis Kauffman, Lt./Fire Inspector, Falcon Fire Protection District
Rob Wilkerson, Fleet Mechanic, Falcon Fire Protection District
Gretchen Tetzlaff, Office Manager, Falcon Fire Protection District
Twyla Kuemmerle, Administrative Assistant, Falcon Fire Protection District
Other members of the Falcon Fire Protection District
Jonathan Huang, New Falcon Herald

ABSENT

Jon Webb, EMS Division Chief, Falcon Fire Protection District
Corey Kirt, Battalion Chief, Falcon Fire Protection District?
David Smith, Battalion Chief, Falcon Fire Protection District
Mike Collins, District Chaplain

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Director Kupferer moved to approve the agenda. Director Podoll seconded the Motion. The Motion passed unanimously.

Director Reid asked if there was a need for an Executive Session, Attorney Fritsche stated that there was a need for an Executive Session.

PUBLIC COMMENT

None.

CORRESPONDENCE

None.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

Director Kerby moved to approve the October 20, 2024 Regular Board Meeting Minutes as written. Director Podoll seconded the Motion. The Motion passed unanimously.

REPORTS

Treasurer's Report

Chief Harwig reviewed the September Treasurer's Report with the Board. The Chief noted 75% of the 2024 fiscal year is complete in this Report.

Total General Fund Budget revenues received were at 101%. Specific Ownership Tax is at 83%. Total General Fund expenditures across all categories were 68% of the budget.

The Ambulance Fund Budget transport fees. The District received its COEMS Supplemental Payment (Medicaid) for 2024 in the amount of \$522,927.00, which was added to Revenues and brought the District's total revenues received to 93%. Total collections were at 75%. Total expenditure were at 56%. The District hired three full time paramedics so the salary and benefits line will increase.

The Capital Improvement Fund revenues received were 76%. Total Capital Improvement Fund expenditures were at 20%.

The Rural Water Fund Revenues had no activity or expenditure for the month of September. Total Rural Water Fund expenditures were at 0% of budget.

Director Kerby moved to accept the September 2024 Treasurer's Report. Director Podoll seconded the Motion. The Motion passed unanimously.

Staff Report

Chief Harwig advised the Board that Deputy Chief Petersma will be presenting the Operations and EMS Reports as EMS Division Chief Webb was called up to active duty and deployed to the Middle East for the next several months.

Deputy Chief Petersma reviewed the August Transport Reports which included the August incident counts of approximately 298 calls, response times, mutual aid given, and mutual aid received.

Deputy Chief Petersma reviewed the September Transport Reports with the Board and advised that the crews transported 138 patients in the month of September. Average Collections per transport including the Medicaid supplemental reimbursement is currently at \$876.66. Director Kerby asked when we started the ambulance service, Deputy Chief Petersma stated that the District started ambulance service in December of 2019. Director Kerby stated that we have been in service for four years with quite a bit of inflation, by now we should be close to \$1,000 or more per trip. We need to look at what our goal is based on today's dollars. Director Kupferer advised that we need to also look at what our cost projections were in 2019 and compare them to what we have now. A discussion was held on the costs of the ambulance transport service budget cost comparison.

Fire Prevention Lieutenant Kauffman provided a written Plan and Building Inspection Report for the Board's review.

Attorney's Report

Attorney Fritsche provided a written Attorney's Report to the Board.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Maintenance Building Project

Chief Harwig referred to Hammer's Construction Pay Application #6 for \$375,075.41. Most of the outside concrete is complete, there is a section in the front right corner that is not complete due to Hammer's Construction waiting for Colorado Springs Utilities to run the gas line that will run right through that section and expected to be completed in approximately two weeks. The pad for the generator will be completed at that time. The District has already accepted the generator. The roof is completely on, the exterior hard board is up, stucco stone should begin within the next week and the electricians are ready to begin. Hammer's Construction has a completion date of December 20th.

Director Kerby moved to approve Hammers Construction Pay Application #6 in the amount of \$375,075.41. Director Hawkins seconded the Motion. The Motion passed unanimously.

Station 1 Parcel – Tract B El Paso County Sheriff's Office Substation

Attorney Fritsche reported that after a discussion with Director Kerby, she followed up with the Deputy County Attorney on the detention pond and easement agreement. The detention pond easement has to do with the County's permit. Attorney Fritsche has not heard back from the Deputy County Attorney.

Discuss Falcon Fire Department 50th Anniversary

The Board will follow up with this at the December meeting.

NEW BUSINESS

Preliminary Proposed General Budget

Chief Harwig stated that he sent the Board a copy of the 2025 Preliminary Proposed General Budget for their review, which is also available at the District office for anyone to review. There will be changes to the Budget until the budget hearing. Chief Harwig reviewed the major items of the Preliminary Budget for the Board. The District allocated an additional \$500,000 toward principal on the lease purchase payment but has not transferred those funds. The District has \$1 million in additional funds allocated for a principal payment. Chief Harwig stated that the Board needs to decide how long it wants to keep these funds to pay off the loan. Regarding the Rural Fund, this fund has little expenditure this year; \$499.00 is all that is projected to spend this year. Next year, the District will have less interest income in all funds as interest rates are expected to drop, bringing in less revenue. Director Hawkins mentioned retiring the Rural Water Fund, Chief Harwig commented that he hopes to start utilizing the Rural Water Fund and have it available for developments to pay in to in lieu of cisterns. Chief Harwig and Lt. Kauffman have discussed that the Board needs to decide what development fees should be. A discussion was held regarding cisterns and hydrants. Chief Harwig noted the budget hearing is scheduled for December 11th.

PUBLIC COMMENT

None.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Director Hawkins moved to go into Executive Session, pursuant to C.R.S. §24-6-402(4)(b) for a conference with legal counsel for the purpose of receiving legal advice on pending litigation. Director Kupferer seconded the Motion. The Motion passed unanimously. Attorney Fritsche certified that the only matter discussed in Executive Session would involve attorney-client privileged communications, and therefore, the Executive Session need not be recorded. The Board went into Executive Session at 1612 hours.

The Board came out of Executive Session at 1618 hours.

ADJOURNMENT

Director Hawkins moved to adjourn the Board meeting. Director Kupferer seconded the Motion. The Motion passed unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 1620 hours.

I hereby attest to the accuracy of the meeting Minutes:

Edward Podoll, Secretary