

**Falcon Fire Protection District
Board of Directors Regular Board Meeting
June 16, 2021
Approved Minutes**

Call to Order

President Kerby called the regular meeting of the Board of Directors to order at 16:00 hours on Wednesday, June 16, 2021.

ATTENDANCE

Thomas Kerby, President
Ray Hawkins, Treasurer
Michael Collins, Secretary
Dan Kupferer, Vice President

ALSO PRESENT

Joan Fritsche, Legal Counsel – Arrived at 16:05 hours
Trent Harwig, Fire Chief, FFPD
Jeff Petersma, Deputy Chief, FFPD
Joe Cosgrove, Battalion Chief, FFPD
Jon Webb, EMS Division Chief, FFPD
Gretchen Tetzlaff, Office Manager FFPD
Other members of the Falcon Fire Protection District
Pete Gawda – The New Falcon Herald
Members of the public

ABSENT

Cory Galicia, Assistant Secretary

Director Hawkins moved to excuse the absence of Director Galicia. Director Kupferer seconded the Motion. The Motion passed unanimously.

ADDITIONS/DELETIONS TO THE AGENDA

None.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Director Collins moved to approve the Agenda as written. Director Hawkins seconded the Motion. The Motion passed unanimously.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Director Kupferer advised the Board that he had a medical issue recently, but he's okay. The crew did a great job and he really appreciated everything they did for him.

Director Hawkins stated that he thought that it really awesome that Shield 616 donated 24 sets of active shooter gear to the department, which was about one third of what is needed for the crews. Shield 616 are continuing to raise funds for local fire and police departments.

CORRESPONDENCE

None.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

Director Hawkins moved to approve the May 19, 2021 Regular Board Meeting Minutes as written. Director Collins seconded the Motion. The Motion passed unanimously.

REPORTS

Treasurer's Report

Chief Harwig reviewed the written May Treasurer's Report with the Board. The Chief noted 41.7% of the 2021 fiscal year is complete in this report.

Total General Fund Budget revenues received were at 57%. Specific Ownership taxes were at 42%. Total General Fund expenditures across all categories were at 30%.

The Ambulance Fund Budget revenues received were at 34%. Transport fees were at 59%. Total Ambulance Fund expenditures were at 32%.

The Capital Improvement Fund revenues received were at 12%. Total expenditures were at 14%.

The Rural Water Fund had no expenditures for the month of May.

Director Collins moved to accept the May, 2021 Treasurer's Report as presented. Director Kupferer seconded the Motion. The Motion passed unanimously.

Staff Report

Chief Harwig advised that he would like to hire three new fulltime positions, due to employee time off, Workers' Comp, etc. The Budget allocation for salaries is low right now and there is money in the budget to allow the District to hire additional staff.

Chief Harwig also advised that there is a new mutual aid agreement with AMR for ambulance transport services that was just signed to help AMR cover some of the East side of Colorado Springs, Peyton and Calhan.

Chief Harwig also advised that SB21-293 passed through the state legislature regarding assessed valuation ratios after the voter approved termination of assessed valuation ratios under Gallagher. SB21-293 was passed in large part to undercut Initiative 27, which passed Title Setting and is out for signatures and will most likely be on the November ballot which reduces the property tax assessment rates by 9% across the board. SB21-293 will decrease local government revenue by approximately 1.3 Billion Dollars, which will decrease revenues to special districts, including school districts, fire districts, police, hospitals, transportation, education and libraries. SB21-293 was introduced on June 2nd and was approved on June 8th, and would undermine Initiative 27 for two years, and would be for the 2022 & 2023 tax years.

Deputy Chief Petersma advised there were 24 Reserve standby hours for the month of May. The new recruits are about one month out from completion of the academy. They will then be tested which will take approximately two months for them to be released as reservists.

Deputy Chief Petersma reviewed the incidents and response times for May with the Board. The total calls for May were at 255 and 1394 year to date. The District received 14 mutual or auto aid responses from neighboring districts in May and provided 30 automatic or mutual aid responses to our neighboring districts.

EMS Division Chief Webb reviewed a written Transport Report with the Board and advised the crews transported 101 patients in the month of May, and have transported 528 patients, year to date. He advised that AMR lost 30 employees recently and AMR reached out to the District for help running some of their ambulance transport calls, due to their loss of employees.

Deputy Chief Petersma advised that the crews are still practicing safety protocol related to COVID.

Attorney's Report

Attorney Fritsche provided a written Attorney's Report to the Board and advised that she's been working with Adam Thesing with YOW Architects regarding the Admin Building contract and bidding forms and bidding procedure and has been following up with H&K Law regarding the engagement letter and their updating the Employee Handbook. A draft of the handbook should be ready to review at next month's Board meeting.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Construction Update

Chief Harwig updated the Board regarding the Station 3 construction, which is very active and Hammers Construction meets with him and DC Petersma weekly.

Ratification of Hammers Construction Draw No. 1198-13

Chief Harwig reviewed the paid Construction Draw to Hammers Construction with the Board.

Director Collins moved to ratify the Hammers Construction Draw No. 1198-13. Director Hawkins seconded the Motion. The Motion passed unanimously.

Approval of Change Orders/Work Orders

None.

Administration Building

Chief Harwig advised that Farmers State Bank has approved a new Lease Purchase or to add to the existing Lease Purchase for up to \$2,100,000 for the Administration Building remodel. The new lease would still be at 3% interest or the combined lease would be at 3% as well. Farmers State Bank will run an Amortization Schedule for each lease scenario. A new appraisal would need to be done on the property to finalize the lease purchase.

Director Kerby advised Chief Harwig to check to see if the interest rate could go any lower for the new lease purchase.

Chief Harwig advised that the pre-bid meeting was held last week and there were six contractors represented at the meeting.

Chief Harwig advised that the bids are due by July 16th. The administration building review committee will need to meet prior to the Board meeting on July 21st to review the bids and make a recommendation to the Board to consider awarding the contract, if possible.

Director Hawkins moved to appoint the administration building committee consisting of Adam Thesing from YOW Architects, Chief Harwig, President Kerby and Director Galicia, if available. Director Kupferer seconded the Motion. The Motion passed unanimously.

Woodmen Hills Station 1

President Kerby advised that he would draft up easement language for Woodmen Hills Metropolitan District to sign, stating that they are responsible for utilities that run underneath a portion of the Station 1 vacant land and within the easement to be granted by Falcon. Woodmen Hills has agreed they own the utilities.

Chief Harwig advised that the plat calls for the land to be used as a recreational center, park, fire or sheriff's station. He has also reached out to the Sheriff's office to see if they had any plans to use the vacant portion of the Station 1 property for a substation, but has not heard back from anyone.

H&K Law Engagement Agreement

Attorney Fritsche advised that H&K Law stated that their time is charged at 6-minute increments, and did revise their engagement letter to net 60 days before due, which were questions both raised at the May Board meeting. The new agreement was revised and signed.

Fidelity Towers Station 2 Lease

Chief Harwig provided an updated Land Lease Agreement from Fidelity Towers to the Board.

The Board asked to discuss the Fidelity Towers Station 2 Lease in Executive Session for direction from legal counsel. No action would be taken in Executive Session.

NEW BUSINESS

None.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Director Hawkins made a Motion to go into Executive Session, for the purpose of receiving advice from legal counsel to determine the District's position on matters that may be subject to negotiations; developing strategy for negotiations; and instructing negotiators to C.R.S. § 24-6-402(4)(b) and (e). Director Collins seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously. Attorney Fritsche certified that the only matters 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 17:35 hours.

Director Collins moved to come out of Executive Session at 18:11 hours. Director Hawkins seconded the Motion. The Motion passed unanimously.

The Board resumed the Regular Board meeting at 18:11 hours.

PUBLIC COMMENT

None.

ADJOURNMENT

Director Hawkins moved to adjourn the Board meeting. Director Kupferer seconded the Motion. The Motion passed unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 18:12 hours on June 16, 2021.

I hereby attest to the accuracy of the meeting Minutes:

Michael Collins, Secretary

I attest that the Executive Session, which were not recorded, were confined to the topics authorized for discussion in Executive Session pursuant to C.R.S. § 24-6-402(4)(b) and (e) and constituted attorney-client communications.

Joan M. Fritsche, Esq.

I hereby attest that the Executive Session, which was not recorded, was confined to the topics authorized for discussion in Executive Session pursuant to C.R.S. § 24-6-402(4)(b) and (e).

Thomas Kerby, President