

**Falcon Fire Protection District
Board of Directors Regular Board Meeting
November 15, 2023
Approved Minutes**

Call to Order

Board Vice President Kupferer called the regular meeting of the Board of Directors to order at 1505 hours on Wednesday, November 15, 2023.

ATTENDANCE

Dan Kupferer, Vice President
Ray Hawkins, Treasurer – via conference call
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 – via conference call
Curtis Kauffman Lt./Fire Inspector, 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
Mike Collins, District Chaplain

ABSENT

James Reid, President
David Smith, Battalion Chief, Falcon Fire Protection District
Jon Webb, EMS Division Chief, Falcon Fire Protection District – on a call
Joe Cosgrove, Battalion Chief, Falcon Fire Protection District – on a call
Corey Kirt, Battalion Chief, Falcon Fire Protection District

EXCUSE ABSENCE OF DIRECTOR REID

Director Kerby moved to excuse Director Reid from today's Board of Directors meeting. Director Podoll seconded the Motion. The Motion passed unanimously.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

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

PUBLIC COMMENT

Mike Collins wished to thank the Falcon Fire Protection District, Station 4 Staff and Battalion Chief Kirt for participating in Don Watts Memorial Service/Celebration of Life on November 12, 2023 at the DAV. Falcon Fire Protection District did the final call.

CORRESPONDENCE

None.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

Director Kupferer moved to approve the October 18, 2023 Regular Board Meeting Minutes as presented. Director Kerby seconded the Motion. The Motion passed unanimously.

Recess to Pension Board Meeting

Trustee Kupferer convened the Pension Board meeting at 1508 hours. The Regular Meeting proceeded concurrently. The Pension board Meeting adjourned at 1543 hours and the business of the District Board continued after the Pension Board meeting adjourned.

REPORTS

Treasurer's Report

Chief Harwig reviewed the October's Treasurer's Report with the Board. The Chief noted 83.3% of the 2023 fiscal year is complete in this Report.

Total General Fund Budget revenues received were at 100%. Specific Ownership Tax is at 80%. Total General Fund expenditures across all categories were at 75% of budget.

The Ambulance Fund Budget revenues received were at 120%. Total Ambulance Fund expenditures were incorrect. Chief Harwig assured the Board that we are under budget.

The Capital Improvement Fund revenues received were at 82%. Total Capital Improvement Fund expenditures were at 15% of budget.

The Rural Water Fund Revenues had no activity or expenditures for the month of October. Total Rural Water Fund expenditures were at 17% of budget.

Director Podoll moved to accept the October 2023 Treasurer's Report, Director Kerby seconded the Motion. The Motion passed unanimously.

Staff Report

Deputy Chief Petersma was absent, no report given. The Board will postpone reports until the December 13, 2023 Board Meeting.

Chief Harwig advised that there were 36.0 Reserve hours for the month of October.

EMS Division Chief Webb was on a call, no report was given. The Board will postpone reports until the December 13, 2023 Board Meeting.

Fire Prevention Lieutenant Kauffman reviewed a written Plan and Building Inspection Report with the Board.

Attorney's Report

Attorney Fritsche provided a written Attorney's Report which was sent separately to the Board.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Station 1 Parcel – proposed El Paso County Sheriff’s Office substation.

Director Kerby stated that the plans are being reviewed and there are a few missing items. Chief Harwig would like the fire hydrant moved from the back of the building to the front of the building. There is extensive work being done on the District’s portion of the property. The District has drafted a temporary construction easement following El Paso County’s format to allow construction access. A District signature block needs to be added to the development plan due to the work that will take place on District property. Attorney Fritsche stated she has been in touch with the Deputy County Attorney, who at this time has nothing new to report.

Maintenance Building

Director Kupferer stated that the District has the approved site plan and is ready to proceed. The District still needs the final water design which should be ready next week. A discussion was held regarding the creation of a water line easement to be granted to Woodmen Hills Metropolitan District. Director Kerby stated that he will work on the easement.

Chief Harwig summarized the two proposals submitted for the Maintenance Building design/build contract. The Review Committee recommends accepting the Hammer’s Construction, Inc. proposal in the amount of Two Million One Hundred Thousand Dollars. Chief Harwig also stated the profit percentage in this proposal is 12% and for prior Hammer’s contracts it was 10%. Chief Harwig stated he will request Hammer’s adjust that percentage to match prior District contracts. Hammers is proposing that the Maintenance Building will be completed by October 2024.

Director Podoll moved to accept the Hammer’s Construction, Inc. proposal, with the profit percentage change suggested by Chief Harwig, Director Kerby seconded the Motion. The Motion passed unanimously.

NEW BUSINESS

2024 Budget

Chief Harwig stated that because Proposition HH failed to pass in the November election, the District will continue to operate under Senate Bill 238. Governor Polis called a Special Session of the General Assembly, which will convene on November 17, 2023, tasking the legislators with passing legislation to reduce the property tax burden, preferably prior to Thanksgiving. The Colorado State Fire Chiefs as well as the El Paso County Fire Chiefs have been engaged in discussions and asked that Public Safety be included in any long-term fixes. A discussion was held regarding the SB 238 backfill provisions and Initiative 50 to be on next November’s ballot. The District has \$2.5 Million in the Capital Projects Fund for the construction of the Maintenance Building, which will be right at or possibly under budget from the proposals received. Chief Harwig stated that he will have more accurate numbers at the Budget Hearing he recommended be set for December 13, 2023.

Director Kerby moved to hold the Budget Hearing on December 13, 2023. Director Podoll seconded the Motion. The Motion passed unanimously.

Banning Lewis North Petition for Exclusion of Property

Attorney Fritsche provided the Board with an Overview of the Petition for Exclusion of Land and Resolution and Order for Exclusion of Real Property. Laura Heinrich, attorney for the petitioner was present via conference call. The Petition was found to be adequate and public notice was published in *The Gazette* on October 15, 2023. Chief Harwig went over a map of the Banning Lewis Subdivision. Chief Harwig stated that the District will run mutual aid/automatic aid with Colorado Springs Fire Department and at some point, the District will request Colorado Springs Fire Department to run mutual aid/automatic aid with the District as well. Chief Harwig and Director Kerby asked Ms. Heinrich when the developer anticipated construction to begin as well as when the City Fire Department plans to bring on a new fire station. Ms. Heinrich stated she will touch base with the developer and get back with the District. Attorney Fritsche reviewed the Exclusion Resolution and Order with the Board.

PUBLIC HEARING

Director Kupferer opened the Public public hearing on the Exclusion Petition at 16:15 hours, there were no comments from the public. The Public Hearing was closed at 16:15 hours.

Director Kerby moved to table the Resolution and Order of Exclusion to the December 13, 2023 Board of Directors Meeting, to allow the Petitioner time to provide the information about timing and phasing of development including the City Fire Department's plans for an additional fire station to service the exclusion area. Director Podoll seconded the Motion. The Motion passed unanimously.

PUBLIC COMMENT

None.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

None.

ADJOURNMENT

Director Kerby moved to adjourn the Board meeting. Director Podoll seconded the Motion. The Motion passed unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 1630 hours.

I hereby attest to the accuracy of the meeting Minutes:

Edward Podoll, Secretary