

RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS

West Metro Fire Protection District
Board of Directors Meeting
March 21, 2023

I. CALL TO ORDER

The regular meeting of the West Metro Fire Protection District board of directors was called to order by Vice President Marta Murray at 6:31 p.m. This meeting was held in accordance with the applicable statutes of the state of Colorado, at West Metro Fire Protection District's headquarters, 433 S. Allison Parkway, Lakewood, Colorado and made available remotely via Teams.

II. ROLL CALL

President Jerry Cassel	Absent
Vice President Marta Murray	Present
Secretary Don Sherman	Present
Treasurer Carolyn Wolfrum	Present
Director Bill Clayton	Present
Director Mike Feeley	Present
Director Mike Williams	Present

Also present were Fire Chief Don Lombardi; Deputy Chief Dan Pfannenstiel; Ms. Adele Reester, Esq.; Lieutenant Mike Mulcahy representing IAFF Local #1309; Mr. Bruk Mulaw; and, Ms. Jennifer Wheaton as recording secretary.

III. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE & MOMENT OF SILENCE

Vice President Murray led the Pledge of Allegiance and requested a moment of silence to honor all fallen firefighters.

IV. REVIEW OF MINUTES

MOTION: It was moved by Bill Clayton and seconded by Mike Williams to approve the minutes of the regular meeting of the board of directors dated February 21, 2023, as presented. The motion was voted upon and carried.

V. PROMOTIONS

A. Promote Aaron Giesick to the Rank of Captain, Effective March 16, 2023, to Promote Steve Modugno to the Rank of Lieutenant, Effective March 16, 2023, Promote Rhett Blackmer to the Rank of Lieutenant, Effective March 16, 2023

MOTION: It was moved by Don Sherman and seconded by Carolyn Wolfrum to promote Aaron Giesick to the rank of captain, to promote Steve Modugno to the rank of lieutenant, and to promote Rhett Blackmer to the rank of lieutenant, effective March 16, 2023. The motion was voted upon and carried.

VI. OATH OF OFFICE FOR LIEUTENANT STEVE MODUGNO, LIEUTENANT RHETT BLACKMER

Oath of office for Captain Aaron Giesick will occur at the April 18, 2023 board Meeting

VII. CITIZEN AWARDS

- A. Presentation of Citizen Award to the Lakewood Radio Bureau (Jeremy Broin, Richard Rudy, Zeeshan Salmani) – Fire Chief Don Lombardi

RECESS

At approximately 6:50 p.m., Vice President Murray announced the board would take a 15-minute recess to congratulate the newly promoted officers and citizens, and would reconvene the regular meeting of the West Metro Fire Protection board of directors at 7:05 p.m.

VIII. PUBLIC COMMENT

None.

IX. REPORTS

- A. Report of the Fire Chief – Fire Chief Don Lombardi

- 1. US&R Update

Chief Lombardi attended the strategic group meetings in Washington D.C. last week. During the budget meetings, there was discussion about allocating increased funding for the task force teams. The \$72,000 claim due to the vehicle crash during the 2021 CO-TF1 deployment was discussed, with indications that the Federal Government will consider using current year funds to reimburse CO-TF1 to this expense. Chiefs Olme and Lombardi will be preparing a statement to identify the specific financial impacts to CO-TF1 as a result of covering this expense.

The Strategic Group, along with representatives of the International Association of Fire Chiefs, and the International Association of Fire Fighters, met with staff members of legislators on key committees, as well as house and senate appropriations staff. The discussions surrounded the funding for the task force teams and the soft costs sponsoring agencies such as West Metro contribute to support the task force system. Chief Olme estimates that approximately \$1.5 million of District funds goes into the system annually, where the total annual budget from the Federal Government is \$1.2 million to fund the CO-TF1. Chief Lombardi explained that the original plan for this partnership did not involve such cost-sharing expenses to the sponsoring agencies. As a result of these conversations, six task force teams will be presenting soft costs reports to show the Federal Government the true costs that West Metro and other sponsoring agencies contribute to the task force system.

2. 2023 Board Member Election

The 2023 Board Member Election has been canceled. Because there were not more than three candidates for the three positions up for this election, the election can be canceled and the candidates are considered elected by acclimation. The oaths of office for the elected board members will occur at the May 16, 2023 board meeting.

3. Accreditation Update

The 2023 Excellence Conference was attended by seven West Metro employees. Division Chiefs Aseltine and Fey presented at the conference on how the District has been successful in engaging the community after the Marshall Fire. The presentation was well received by all who attended. At the conference, there was discussion on developing two new consortiums that are of interest to the District. One for metro-sized agencies and the other for special districts, with the idea that similar agencies may have organizational, structural, and funding commonalities that would be beneficial when learning from each other in the consortium setting. Chief Lombardi updated the board members on the request from the Center for Public Safety Excellence for the District to participate in a best practices publication on the District's labor-management practices and successes.

B. Finance Division – Finance Director Bruk Mulaw

a. January 2023 Financial Statements

Mr. Mulaw reviewed the January 2023 financial statements which will be brought to the board for approval at the April 18, 2023 meeting.

C. Administration – Deputy Chief Jeremy Metz

1. Administration Update

Chief Lombardi provided the administration update on Chief Metz's behalf. Fire Engine costs are increasing considerably due to some requirements on engines imposed by the EPA. The cost increases translate to approximately \$100,000 per fire engine. Two employees just graduated from the DU Public Safety Leadership Course. This course, along with the Kerry Plemmons leadership training provide for great consistency in the leadership training at West Metro. The third option period renewal for the Denver Federal Center was executed, beginning March 1, 2023-February 27, 2024. The development of the property next to NREL for the NexCore Group is in progress. West Metro is currently providing emergency services during the construction period, with a plan to provide permanent coverage to this area once the construction project is complete. Chief Lombardi also provided updates on the West Metro construction projects underway at Station 16, Station 17, and at the administration building.

D. Operations – Deputy Chief Dan Pfannenstiel

1. Operations Update

The Fire Academy is now at 24 recruits, having lost 5 recruits for personal reasons. The Training Division is currently offering wildland refresher training and the 11-Day technical rescue class. Chief Pfannenstiel discussed the data surrounding encampment fires within the District in the last 14 months. West Metro was called to approximately 256 fires with the highest concentration in Lakewood along the Colfax corridor. Notable calls included a technical rescue and vehicle extrication mutual aid response, and the other involved two dogs that fell through the ice near Station 14.

E. Life Safety – Deputy Chief Mike Kirkpatrick

1. Comprehensive Project Report – Electronic Report

F. Other Matters

None.

G. Report of Legal Counsel – Adele Reester, Esq.

Ms. Reester provided an update on the Axtell matter. The judge in the case ruled to dismiss all charges against the District and named employees. There is a 30-day deadline to appeal.

H. Report of the President – Vice President Marta Murray

Ms. Murray thanked the board members who were up for election in 2023 for their continued commitment to West Metro.

I. Treasurer’s Report – Treasurer Carolyn Wolfrum

MOTION: It was moved by Carolyn Wolfrum and seconded by Mike Feeley to approve the December 2022 financial statements as presented. The financials are subject to adjustments during the audit. The motion was voted upon and carried.

J. Report of the Union – Lieutenant Mike Mulcahy

None.

K. Report of Civil Service Committee – Secretary Don Sherman

Mr. Sherman reported on the March 14, 2023 Civil Service Committee meeting. The next meeting of the CSC is scheduled for April 11, 2023.

X. OLD BUSINESS

A. 2023 Fees Schedule – Fire Chief Don Lombardi

Chief Lombardi recommended to keep the current fees schedule for now. A closer look at the fees schedule will occur in 2024.

B. EMS Billing Request for Proposal – Division Chief Todd Heinl

As good stewards of community funds, the District conducted a comparative analysis of competitive EMS billing proposals. Five vendors were selected to deliver presentations in February 2023. As a result of the process, the recommendation is to continue using the EMS billing services with the District's current vendor, AMB.

MOTION: It was moved by Don Sherman and seconded by Mike Williams to approve the continuation of ambulance billing services with AMB, and authorize renewal of the contract for a term of one year with an automatic annual renewal, effective April 1, 2023, and authorize Chief Lombardi or his designee to complete all documents necessary to execute this contract. The motion was voted upon and carried.

XI. NEW BUSINESS

None.

XII. BOARD BRIEFS

A. Lakewood Communications IGA – Fire Chief Don Lombardi

XIII. OTHER MATTERS

None.

XIV. EXECUTIVE SESSION

None.

XV. ADJOURNMENT

MOTION: There being no further business to be presented it was moved Mike Feeley and seconded by Mike Williams to adjourn the regular meeting of the West Metro Fire Protection District board of directors. The motion was voted upon and carried.

The meeting adjourned at 7:55 p.m.

Recording Secretary: /s/s/ Jennifer Wheaton
/s/ Don Sherman