



UNIFIED FIRE AUTHORITY BOARD MINUTES

April 18, 2023, 7:30 a.m.

Electronically Via ZOOM Webinar/UFA Headquarters – 3380 South 900 West SLC, UT 84119

1. Call to Order

Quorum present

Chair Weichers called the meeting to order at 7:30 a.m.

A moment of silence was held in honor of Captain Matt Hambleton

2. Public Comment

Public comment was available live and with a posted email address

Mayor Silvestrini expressed thanks to crews from Stations 101 and 106 for their compassionate and professional response throughout the winter to the temporary homeless shelter in Millcreek.

3. Approval of Minutes

Council Member Stewart moved to approve the minutes from the March 21, 2023, UFA Board Meeting as submitted

Council Member Hull seconded the motion

All voted in favor, none opposed

4. Consent Agenda

- Review of March Disbursements

- CFO Hill explained a few of the items on the report at the request of Council Member Buroker

Mayor Silvestrini moved to approve the March disbursements as submitted

Council Member Perry seconded the motion

All voted in favor, none opposed

5. Committee Updates

- Benefits & Compensation Committee – Chair Dahle

- Meeting held 3/30/23

- Mayor Dahle stated that budget recommendations were made to the Finance Committee

- Governance Committee – Chair Silvestrini

- No meeting held

- Finance Committee – Chair Henderson

- Meeting 4/10/23

- Chief Burchett provided a brief overview of the budget message that was presented to the Finance Committee

- At the 5/9/23 meeting, all Divisions will present their budgets in detail

- All members of the Board are welcome to attend

6. Quarterly Report

- CFO Hill reviewed the report for the third quarter
- Revenues
 - General Fund revenues are as expected
 - Ambulance Revenue and other miscellaneous revenues were reviewed
 - Interest income is over budget due to current rates
- Expenditures
 - OT is over budget, but balancing with vacancy savings
 - 69% of the budget is spent, but close monitoring continues
 - Interest income will help with the OT and Fuel line items as well
- WL and Emergency Management Funds
 - The WL Fund is in a good position for the beginning of the season
 - The EM Fund is tracking as expected
- Capital Funds
 - There are two outstanding leases
 - There is a lot of activity in this fund due to current purchases
- EOC Capital Replacement
 - All purchases through this fund are complete for the year
- Mayor Weichers was curious if the excessive snowpack would result in a less than stellar wildfire season
 - Division Chief Widdison explained that the dense areas may see a delay and less potential for fire, however, the excessive water encourages more grass crop which is more susceptible to ignition
 - The season may be delayed, but it will arrive eventually
 - Also worth noting is that other areas regionally have not seen the snow that we have received
- The deadline for municipalities to make changes to the Firework Restriction Map is 5/1/23

Mayor Silvestrini moved to approve the quarterly financial report including the list of expenditures for the last quarter as presented

Council Member Hull seconded the motion

All voted in favor, none opposed

BLM and Fire Training Land Deed/Lease

- CLO Roberts explained that consideration to transfer the deed/lease to UFA from UFSA is being revisited as there are new Board Members and the initial motivation to complete the transfer has changed
- In the past, a partial land swap with Ivory Homes was being considered and the need arose to change the deed from UFSA to UFA
- The land swap deal did not go through, and the deed remained with UFSA
- UFSA was given the land by SLCo with a reversionary clause if the property use was changed
- With the recent interest from the BLM to build a training facility on the grounds, the need to change the deed from UFSA to UFA has once again surfaced
- The reversionary clause will not be triggered as the use of the property remains the same
- CLO Roberts has brought this before the Board once again for approval before moving forward

Council Member Stewart moved to approve the property acquisition as discussed

Mayor Dahle seconded the motion

All voted in favor, none opposed

7. Fire Chief Report

- Lobbyist Contract Renewal
 - Chief Burchett referenced a memo included in the packet outlining his intent to waive the solicitation requirements for Capstone Strategies to continue as Lobbyists for UFA
 - The current contract began in 2018 and expires on June 30, 2023
 - Chief Burchett feels that discontinuing the five-year relationship would not be advantageous to UFA
 - There are ongoing legislative efforts and the understanding that Capstone Strategies has of the fire service is important
 - Mayor Silvestrini pointed out that Millcreek has hired Capstone Strategies and that the previous lobbyists for UFA were not effective in advancing any issues for the fire service or personnel
 - Capstone Strategies is effective and understands issues facing UFA
 - Mayor Silvestrini supports the decision to renew the contract for the coming 5-years
 - Council Member Stewart was curious if the contract rate would increase
 - Chief Burchett stated that the increase would be \$4,000
 - Council Member Stewart feels that if there is a price increase, it would be prudent to go to RFP
 - Council Member Stewart does not agree with the justification used here
 - There are plenty of individuals who can do the job and stressed conducting an RFP
 - Chief Burchett feels that the cost of \$4,000 isn't enough for the work it takes for an RFP
 - Council Member Stewart beckoned back to the days when one of the old administration audit items was the old procurement policy
 - His concern is that he doesn't want anyone to question policies again and cautiously advises that if any increase is necessary, that UFA go out to RFP
 - Chief Burchett respects that if this is the direction the Board wishes to take, staff will do so
 - Capstone Strategies works with law enforcement, Millcreek, Holladay and other fire related agencies
 - Mayor Silvestrini agrees with Chief Burchett that with this personal services contract he wants lobbyists with experience and for \$4,000 will stay with Capstone Strategies
 - Council Member Buroker inquired as to whether or not the work on current issues for the upcoming session would cease while the RFP is pending
 - Chief Burchett clarified that they very well could
 - Mayor Weichers would like to err on the side of caution and sides with Council Member Stewart for an RFP
 - Mayor Dahle agrees with Mayor Silvestrini as he feels it's a lot of work for a small amount of increase, and UFA would most likely end up with Capstone Strategies in the end
 - Council Member Hull agrees that Chief Burchett is following policy and that there are many other issues that UFA and the Board are dealing with
 - Council Member Stewart clarified that the Board has oversight now with the procurement policy, but with the increase in costs feels that the right thing should be done for the right reasons
 - There is still a lot of pain he feels from the last audit
 - Discussion was had debating possibly compromising with Capstone Strategies and extending the contract 1-year
 - Chief Burchett will talk with Capstone Strategies regarding the cost and bring this back to the Board

- Grant Awards
 - NPSG Grant
 - UTTF1 received a grant for \$150,000 for security improvements at the UFA Logistics building
 - The grant will cover automatic gates, infrastructure security, and an enhanced camera system
 - Both UFA and FEMA equipment is housed at this location
 - State Flood Mitigation Funding
 - This is state allocated funding for flooding
 - A brief overview of who has received funding thus far was given by Division Chief Mecham
 - \$5M was available, SLCo submitted requests on behalf of municipalities and received just under \$2M
 - Many of the municipality requests were not covered by the grant parameters and were therefore not eligible
- UFA Portion of State Flood Mitigation Funding
 - UFA received \$24,000
 - The grant monies were used to purchase Mustang Packs which are personal flotation devices for crews to wear when working near waterways
- A budget amendment is pending for all of the above grant monies

- Promotions
 - Chief Burchett highlighted recent chief officer promotions
 - Most of these promotions are a result of retirements

- Canyon Response
 - With the ongoing discussion regarding the recreation fees, Chief Burchett shared recent impacts to the service model based on canyon incidents
 - Response in the recreation areas impacts the overall model
 - Current weather, increased traffic and avalanches in the canyons amplifies the necessity of service in the canyons
 - The recreation areas also utilize many of the specialty programs UFA provides; swift water rescue, heavy rescue, search & rescue assist, vehicle extrication, and wildland mitigation and response
 - Mayor Silvestrini stressed that use of the canyons on both the east and west side of the valley will only increase, and use is by those both residing within the valley and visitors alike
 - For SLCo to not recognize these facts is short sided and it is not appropriate to shift the burden from the countywide system
 - The Mayor hopes the SLCo Council sees the big picture and the importance of providing this service as use increases in the canyons
 - Deputy Mayor Kanter responded that SLCo is not interested in seeing a decrease in service, but who should pay for this service is the issue deliberated at the SLCo Council Meeting today
 - A resolution is pending with regard to this topic
 - Upon joining the UFSA, Mayor Knopp understood that the costs were spread amongst the service area
 - 98% of the calls are not residents of Brighton and wants service rather than punishment to all users of the service

- Mayor Dahle agrees with Mayor Silvestrini that no one wants to see a decrease in canyon service, just clarification on who pays for it
 - It comes down to fairness, the right thing to do, the vast majority of calls are outside the UFSA tax base
 - It's a fairness issue of who should bear the cost and it shouldn't be on Brighton
 - Council Member Stewart agrees and is concerned that other agencies who provide aid in the canyons are seeing reimbursement
 - Further concern is with the draw down system, all these things should be accounted for and equitable across the network
 - Deputy Mayor Kanter clarified that the resolution contemplates succession of funding, this conversation now lies in the SLCo Councils hands
 - Chief Burchett's intent was to show what it takes to provide service in the canyons and what has been taking place as of late
 - This resolution should provide more time and Chief appreciates the funding and working with SLCo on this matter
- Chief Burchett reminded the Board that the UFA Banquet will take place 4/28 at 6:00 p.m.
 - Registration closes 4/20, please RSVP if planning to attend
 - Fire School has been moved to 5/19, more information will be shared through the Liaisons

8. Closed Session

Mayor Silvestrini moved to temporarily recess the meeting to convene in a closed session to discuss matters as provided by Utah Code Annotated §52-4-205 or 78B-1-137 and, at the conclusion of the closed session, to adjourn this meeting

Council Member Stewart seconded the motion

Roll call vote taken

| | | | |
|-------------|---|--------------|---|
| Bailey | - | Knopp | Y |
| Bourke | - | Overson | Y |
| Buroker | Y | Perry | Y |
| Butterfield | Y | Silvestrini | Y |
| Dahle | Y | Stevenson | Y |
| Harris | Y | Stewart | Y |
| Henderson | - | Weichers | Y |
| Hull | Y | Westmoreland | - |
| Kanter | Y | | |
| Hartman | Y | | |

Mayor Silvestrini moved to conclude the closed meeting and adjourn the April 18, 2023

UFA Board Meeting

Council Member Stewart seconded the motion

Roll call vote taken

| | | | |
|-------------|---|-------------|---|
| Bailey | - | Knopp | Y |
| Bourke | - | Overson | Y |
| Buroker | Y | Perry | Y |
| Butterfield | Y | Silvestrini | Y |
| Dahle | Y | Stevenson | Y |

| | | | |
|-----------|---|--------------|---|
| Harris | Y | Stewart | Y |
| Henderson | - | Weichers | Y |
| Hull | Y | Westmoreland | - |
| Kanter | Y | | |
| Hartman | Y | | |

BOARD MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE:

Council Member Chrystal Butterfield
Council Member Catherine Harris
Mayor Robert Dahle
Council Member Trish Hull
Mayor Marcus Stevenson
Mayor Dan Knopp
Council Member Jared Henderson

Mayor Kristie Overson
Mayor Mike Weichers
Council Member Allan Perry
Deputy Mayor Catherine Kanter
Council Member Tish Buroker
Mayor Jeff Silvestrini
Council Member Sheldon Stewart

BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT:

Mayor Roger Bourke
Mayor Tom Westmoreland
Council Member Kathleen Bailey

STAFF IN ATTENDANCE:

Chief Dominic Burchett
CFO Tony Hill

CLO Brian Roberts
Cynthia Young, Clerk

OTHER ATTENDEES:

AC Dern
AC Pilgrim
AC Robinson
Amanda Lawrence
Anthony Widdison
Bill Brass
Brad Larson
Brandon Dodge
Brian Case
Chad Simons
Clint Mecham
Courtney Samuel
Danny Egbert
David Chipman, public
Debbie Cigarroa
Erica Langenfass
Jay Torgersen
Jill Tho
Kate Turnbaugh
Keith Zuspan, Brighton
Kelly Bird
Kiley Day

Kimberly Ruesch
Kiyoshi Young
Krystal Griffin
Kyle Maurer, Herriman City
Lana Burningham
Local 1696
Nile Easton
Rob Ayres
Ryan Love
Scott McNeil
Shelli Fowlks
Station 118
Steve Quinn
Tara Behunin
Tua Tho
Val Greensides

