



UNIFIED FIRE AUTHORITY BOARD MINUTES

March 23, 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 7:31 a.m.
2. Public Comment
None
Public comment was available live and with a posted email address
3. Annual Board Member Requirements
 - CLO Roberts reminded Board Members to review the Code of Ethics and sign the acknowledgment
4. Approval of Minutes
Council Member Hull moved to approve the minutes from the February 21, 2023, UFA Board Meeting as submitted
Council Member Stewart seconded the motion
All voted in favor, none opposed
5. Consent Agenda
 - Review of February Disbursements
 - No discussion

Council Member Stewart moved to approve the February disbursements as submitted
Mayor Stevenson seconded the motion
All voted in favor, none opposed
6. Committee Updates
 - Benefits & Compensation Committee – Chair Dahle
 - Next meeting 3/30/23
 - Chief Burchett stated that Mayor Dahle asked that Board Members communicate any discussion or decision by their councils regarding the member fee increase, cap, and provide guidance as to what they feel they can absorb
 - Mayor Dahle mentioned that with the big increase given to public safety last year and most councils needing tax increases, there may be a challenge for this year
 - The Benefits & Compensation Committee wants to provide a realistic recommendation to the Finance Committee, so any guidance they can get would be appreciated
 - Governance Committee – Chair Silvestrini
 - No meeting held
 - Finance Committee – Chair Henderson
 - Next meeting 4/10/23

7. Standards of Cover (SOC)

- Access Standards of Cover: <https://unifiedfire.org/soc/>
- The SOC has been posted for the public
- This is the first iteration of the document which presents hazards for the valley and individual municipalities
- The document establishes benchmarks and standards for UFA to work towards
- The plan moving forward is to revisit this document every 3-years
- Thanks to BC Fossum for the work these past 5-years to create this document

Council Member Hull moved to approve the 2023-2025 Standards of Cover as presented
 Mayor Overson seconded the motion
 All voted in favor, none opposed

8. Fire Chief Report

- Legislative Close-Out
 - AC Pilgrim provided an update of the legislative session
 - 930 bills were proposed, this was one of the busiest sessions in history
 - UFA and UFSA wish to thank Lobbyists Dave Spatafore and Ashley Mirabelli for their work again this year
 - AC Pilgrim reviewed the highlights of the session and the 28 bills that were prioritized and monitored
 - During the interim, bills regarding behavioral health, wildland issues, fireworks, retirement, occupational injuries, building codes and ordinances, and anything affecting UFA or UFSA will be monitored
 - The expectation is that this interim will be busier than in the past
 - Mayor Stevenson asked if UFA is watching HB374, as the relationship with SLCo Councils role is similar
 - It definitely peaks our interest, stated AC Pilgrim, and as a large organization, we will always be open to questions regarding function, financing, oversight by the Board, and generally the way we are structured
 - But we will maintain our openness and transparency so when these questions arise, we can alleviate or address them
 - The work the Board has done in the past few years will keep us in a favorable light, but the intent is to be prepared for tough questions
 - Council Member Stewart clarified that the bills biggest issue was related to the sheriff's involvement as the direct head and the funding coming from SLCo to sheriff
 - This issue does not exist with UFA, Chief Burchett is appointed by the Board of Directors and does not control the funds that move from SLCo
 - Chief Burchett clarified that UFA often gets associated with UPD
 - UFA is a different organization with a similar name, there is no conflict of interest and there is no double taxation issue
 - UFA will continue to work openly and transparently
 - Mayor Stevenson has had other conversations with other communities and the concern is the role SLCo has in offsetting costs in an organization is similar with UPD and UFA
 - The issue will exist if the SLCo portion is a problem and asks that UFA continue to be aware
- Banquet/Fire School 101
 - Save the date for April 28, 2023 for the Annual Banquet at Little America Hotel
 - More information will be sent as the date draws near
 - Fire School 101 will take place April 14, 2023 at the Fire Training Facility in Magna
 - If interested in taking part, please reach out to Clerk Young

- This is a great experience and opportunity to see what FF's do and provides an overview of the services UFA provides
- Leadership Training
 - Currently taking place is the Captain Leadership Training and the Battalion Chief Bootcamp
 - Both are designed to provide the tools needed and help them better understand the expectations and demands before they are promoted to the positions
- Seasonal Flood Awareness
 - UFA IO will be working with UPD and other agencies on a media campaign with the direction to stay away from the water
 - Emergency Management and SLCo are also working to help prepare municipalities for flooding, identifying potential hazards and creating a Hazard Assessment Team
 - UFA Swift Water refresher training takes place the first week of April
 - Council Member Stewart asked if UFA could assess the fire scar in Riverton
 - Chief Burchett stated that the scar has 10-11 years of growth and mitigation work was done following the fire
 - Deputy Mayor Kanter stated that SLCo is not responsible to make sure there is no flooding and municipalities are responsible for engaging in preparedness for themselves
 - Council Member Hull asked that whatever flood campaigns are done, please distribute to the municipalities so they can educate their citizens and post the information on their websites
 - Deputy Mayor Kanter stated that SLCo and EM are connected with PIO's for that purpose and will ensure everyone is in the loop
 - The goal is to make citizens aware of the risk, but quell panic, we are not there yet, but SLCo is leaning forward
 - The State of Utah appropriated \$5M for enhancement measures for municipalities to apply for through SLCo, the due date for that funding is tomorrow, 3/22
- Bluffdale Station 91 Update
 - Chief Burchett reported that UFA has provided aid on 32 calls and received aid for 25
 - Thus far it has not been a huge impact
- Canyon Contribution
 - Meetings have been taking place with Brighton, DA Anderson, Mayors Dahle, Weichers, Silvestrini, and representatives from SLCo with the intention to determine if there is a separate funding source to offset the shortfall
 - Chief Burchett clarified that his role is to advocate for UFA services and provide data to help the conversation move forward
 - Chief Burchett provided a brief history of the funding which began in 2008
 - Funding increased in 2013 to \$3.175M and has remained the same to date
 - In 2017 the FTE Model was used, this was the funding divided by FTE's to calculate costs for members
 - 2018 the funding was changed to the current Member Fee Model
 - The canyon contribution discussion began when Brighton began entertaining the idea to incorporate
 - The funding has benefitted all members since it is a draw on the entire system
 - The call volume in the canyons warrant the stations, but the revenue does not match the cost and UFA and SLCo have helped support the difference

- Mayor Dahle inquired as to how much Brighton was paying in 2017 and 2018
 - Since they are a member of UFSA, they have paid the same tax rate as all members
- Chief Burchett is asking the Board for approval to find a better way to apply the funding in the future so that the funds go directly to support the canyon calls
 - If approved, Chief will work through the Finance Committee on what this will look like with a target to complete this in time for this year's budget
- The UFA budget is almost finalized and a 5-5.5% Member Fee is what is being entertained
 - Adding \$1.2M will impact the discussion, but Chief Burchett needs to continue moving forward
- Council Member Stewart asked that both Butterfield and Yellow Fork canyons be evaluated for inclusion for funding
 - Chief Burchett clarified that he is only able to consider the three canyons identified as recreation areas by SLCo which are Millcreek, BCC, and LCC
 - However, he believes that the mechanism exists to fund those and other canyons with the state statute
 - Deputy Mayor Kanter stated that this has been discussed, and the council has identified which canyons are recreational areas
 - Improvements have been done in other canyons, but the question is if the areas have been deemed as recreational
 - Tracking of calls in the canyons mentioned above has resulted in 17 calls per year, UFA is not seeing the same response numbers as BCC/LCC as of yet
 - Chief Burchett is working to identify a solution that will fix these problems in the future
 - Mayor Dahle feels the issue for the smaller canyons is long-term, but LCC/BCC are unique
 - It is not fair that UFA cover the shortfall
 - The subsidy is the fair way
- In response to clarify options for funding shortfall and continued support, Chief Burchett is asking for direction to look at the application of the funds differently
 - A potential option is to look at applying the funding to those members who are first due responding
- Mayor Silvestrini mentioned Parleys and Millcreek Canyon response and stated that the support needs to be broadened
- Council Member Stewart added that freeway accidents are impacting the residents of those cities the freeways traverse
- Chief Burchett stated that the pros and cons of leaving the funding as is benefits everyone
- Deputy Mayor Kanter agrees that this can't be looked at as just a Brighton issue and recommended Chief Burchett return with various options and calculations
 - The potential Member Fees increase
 - Address this challenge holistically
 - A solution is needed at the legislative level to define the recreation areas and tap additional revenue sources
 - What is the responsibility of the municipality and what should the SLCo General Fund Cover
- Mayor Dahle agreed that the problem is more complicated
 - The probability of Brighton having the ability to cover the gap is minimal
 - Asking UFSA members to cover the cost is not doable
 - This needs to be figured out before this budget season and if it can't be done; UFA will need to decide if they can operate the station at all

- The hope is that the SLCo Council will weigh the issue and prevail with a level head
- There was no objection to Chief Burchett pursuing other options for funding
- Mayor Knopp noted that when Brighton joined UFSA and SLVSA they were led to believe everyone was treated the same and shared the costs
 - With UPD going away, there is a need to retain revenue for coverage
 - 98% of ambulance transports are attributed to non-Brighton residents, this is not punishing residents, but the visitors
 - Brighton wants to mind their business and handle their own area, and they prefer to stay with UFA

9. Closed Session and Adjournment

Mayor Dahle 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 Hull seconded the motion

Roll call vote taken

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

Council Member Stewart moved to conclude the closed meeting and adjourn the March 21, 2023

UFA Board Meeting

Council Member Perry seconded the motion

Roll call vote taken

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

BOARD MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE:

Council Member Kathleen Bailey

Council Member Chrystal Butterfield

Council Member Catherine Harris
Mayor Robert Dahle
Council Member Trish Hull
Mayor Marcus Stevenson
Mayor Dan Knopp
Mayor Kristie Overson
Mayor Mike Weichers
Mayor Tom Westmoreland

Council Member Allan Perry
Deputy Mayor Catherine Kanter
Council Member Tish Buroker
Mayor Jeff Silvestrini
Council Member Sheldon Stewart

BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT:

Council Member Jared Henderson
Mayor Roger Bourke

STAFF IN ATTENDANCE:

Chief Dominic Burchett
CFO Tony Hill

CLO Brian Roberts
Cynthia Young, Clerk

OTHER ATTENDEES:

Aaron Whitehead
AC Dern
AC Pilgrim
AC Robinson
Amanda Lawrence
Anthony Widdison
Bill Brass
Calle Ellingson
Calogero Ricotta
Courtney Samuel
David Chipman, public
Debbie Cigarroa
Embret Fossum
Erica Langenfass
Jay Torgersen
Jen Bevan
Kate Turnbaugh
Keith Zuspan, Brighton
Kelly Bird
Kiley Day
Kristen Trivison, public
Krystal Griffin
Kyle Maurer, Herriman City
Local 1696
Matt Everett
Mike Greensides
Nate Rockwood, Midvale
Nile Easton
Nyla Benedict
Patrick Costin
Ryan Love

Shelli Fowlks
Special Operations
Steve Prokopis
Tim Tingey, CWH