



UNIFIED FIRE AUTHORITY BOARD FINANCE COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

December 3, 2024

Meeting held both electronically via Zoom Webinar/UFA Headquarters

Committee Members Present:

Council Member Hull
Council Member Fotheringham
Mayor Silvestrini
Mayor Weichers

Council Member Harris
Council Member Henderson
Council Member Bailey

Committee Members Absent:

Council Member Buroker

Staff Present:

Chief Burchett
CFO Hill
AC Pilgrim

CLO Roberts
Kate Turnbaugh
Cyndee Young

Guests:

AC Dern
AC Robinson
OC Russell
Amanda Lawrence
Bill Brass
Courtney Samuel
Erica Langenfass
Erik VanDuren
Kenneth Aldridge
Kiley Day
Kiyoshi Young
Kristie Overson, UFA Board
Krystal Griffin
Lana Burningham
Marcus Arbuckle, Auditor
Molly McClellan

Molly Swenson
Nile Easton
Rob Ayres
Sam Christensen
Scott McNeil
Shelli Fowlks
Tara Behunin

Call to Order

Meeting called to order by Chair Henderson at 9:02 a.m.

Public Comments

None

Public comment was made available live and with a posted email address

Minutes Approval

Minutes were approved at the August 20, 2024, UFA Board Meeting as there was no future UFA Finance Committee Meeting scheduled at the time

Review/Approve of Fiscal Year 23/24 Financial Audit – CFO Hill

- ◆ CFO Hill provided an overview of the financials
 - ◆ Council Member Fotheringham asked for a refresher of what constitutes business type activities
 - CFO Hill explained that Emergency Management and Capital Replacement Funds are governmental activities whereas the Wildland Fund is treated as a proprietary fund and falls under business

- ◆ Auditor Marcus Arbuckle from Keddington & Christensen reviewed his responsibility and purpose
 - ◆ The only finding was with State Compliance wherein one UFA Board Member did not complete the Open & Public Meetings Training
 - This was the same finding as last year

Council Member Fotheringham moved to approve the FY23/24 Financial Audit

Mayor Weichers seconded the motion

All voted in favor, none opposed

Review proposed Exhibit A to the UFA/UFSA Interlocal Agreement for Services for Calendar Year 2025

– CFO Hill

- ◆ This ILA is for services UFA employees provide for UFSA
- ◆ This is a \$403,000 revenue source for UFA
- ◆ The agreement is the same as last year, no changes other than those resulting from wages and benefits

Mayor Weichers moved to approve Exhibit A to the SLCo/SLCo Interlocal Agreement for Services for Calendar Year 2025

SLCo Fotheringham seconded the motion

Roll call vote taken

Recreation Area Funding Direction – Chief Burchett

- ◆ Chief Burchett provided an overview of the SLCo Mayor's proposal to cut 20% of the recreation area funding
- ◆ The Mayors Offices will fund SLCo through July 2025 and has proposed a cut of \$600-650,000
- ◆ When Chief Burchett and SLCo Hill presented to the SLCo Council on 11/19, there was much confusion with SLCo's presentation of the numbers versus those we were given by the SLCo Assessor's Office
- ◆ It was proposed by the council to hire a facilitator to help guide the discussion
- ◆ Last year, the Mayors Office was focused on treating Brighton and Alta the same
 - ◆ The solution was to redefine the recreation areas, much work went into remapping and creating a policy
- ◆ SLCo now believes there is ample money in centrally assessed to cover the recreation area funding
- ◆ The funding amount has remained the same since 2011, \$3.175M, while costs to provide service have increased and become the burden of UFA and UFSA members
- ◆ Chief Burchett explained that at the SLCo Council Meeting it was presented that tourism revenue is projected to reach \$6B
 - ◆ Chief also explained that work done last year proves that 98% of the calls in the recreation areas are generated by non-residents
- ◆ Council Member Henderson wants this discussion done with the full Board
 - ◆ The Mayor's position is frustrating and concerning
 - ◆ There is a complete misunderstanding of how the funding works and the difference between UFSAs as a taxing district and UFA as the service provider
- ◆ The Finance Committee feels that public safety and the UFA service to the canyons is being held hostage/compromised to sell some other political argument with centrally assessed monies
 - ◆ Their misunderstanding makes no sense and is a false premise for the entire argument
 - ◆ This all has nothing to do with UFA
- ◆ Council Member Henderson suggests that following this conversation with the Board, a letter be drafted for the SLCo Council, outlining the points discussed above clearly
 - ◆ If SLCo wants to push ahead with an arbitrary 20%, this will force the Board to decide if they want to provide service or if SLCo should look for a different service provider

- ◆ Discussion was had regarding the annexations of unincorporated islands and the impact to UFSA in the future
- ◆ Also discussed was the impact/preparedness of UFA if services are reduced, what would the funding impact look like
- ◆ Council Member Fotheringham would like to know what leverage we have and what the negotiations would look like
- ◆ Council Member Henderson stated that time would be needed to pull back from providing service, and redesign the service model for those areas, etc.
- ◆ CFO Hill explained that it is difficult for a fire service to do that
 - ◆ There are not a lot of options other than close a station or reduce staffing, SLCo would need to decide if they want to do this or not
- ◆ Council Member Henderson is maddened that with all the work that was done last year, the Mayors Office wants to look at it a different way, this does not make sense
- ◆ Also discussed was the transient taxes and revenue that should also be available for providing emergency services
- ◆ The decision is to prepare an official letter detailing the main issues discussed today, funding sources, and expenses
 - ◆ The goal is to help the SLCo Council understand
- ◆ Chief Burchett will provide a brief update on this issue at the next Board Meeting, 12/10/24

Closed Session

- ◆ None

Mayor Weichers moved to adjourn the December 3, 2024, UFA Finance Committee Meeting

Council Member Fotheringham seconded the motion

All voted in favor, none opposed