



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 | Kenneth Aldridge | Molly Swenson |
| AC Robinson | Kiley Day | Nile Easton |
| OC Russell | Kiyoshi Young | Rob Ayres |
| Amanda Lawrence | Kristie Overson, UFA Board | Sam Christensen |
| Bill Brass | Krystal Griffin | Scott McNeil |
| Courtney Samuel | Lana Burningham | Shelli Fowlks |
| Erica Langenfass | Marcus Arbuckle, Auditor | Tara Behunin |
| Erik VanDuren | Molly McClellan | |

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 UFSA 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