



UNIFIED FIRE AUTHORITY BOARD MINUTES

December 10, 2024, 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.

2. Public Comment
None
Public comment was available live and with a posted email address

3. Approval of Minutes
Mayor Silvestrini moved to approve the minutes from the November 19, 2024, UFA Board Meeting as submitted
Council Member Fotheringham seconded the motion
All voted in favor, none opposed

4. Consent Agenda
 - Review of November Disbursements
 - No discussion

Council Member Fotheringham moved to approve the November disbursements as submitted
Mayor Silvestrini seconded the motion
All voted in favor, none opposed

5. Committee Updates
 - Benefits & Compensation Committee – Chair Silvestrini
 - Next meeting 1/23/25
 - Governance Committee – No current Chair
 - No meeting held
 - Finance Committee – Chair Henderson
 - Meeting held 12/3/24

6. Review/Approval Fiscal Year 23/24 Financial Report and Audit
 - CFO Hill provided an overview of the audit and findings
 - Marcus Arbuckle of Keddington & Christensen presented the audit at the Finance Committee meeting held 12/3/24
 - Overall, UFA was given a clean audit
 - The only finding was under the State Compliance portion, with one Board Member not having completed the Open & Public Meetings Training
 - Council Member Fotheringham stated after reviewing the audit, that rarely do you see an audit partner “gush” about the quality engagement of an audit

Mayor Silvestrini moved to approve the Fiscal Year 23/24 Financial Audit as submitted
 Mayor Overson seconded the motion
 All voted in favor, none opposed

7. Consider Resolution 12-2024A Approving Proposed Exhibit A to the UFA/UFSA Interlocal Agreement for Services for Calendar Year 2025

- The services provided to UFSA by UFA employees were reviewed
- The decrease in cost is due to the reduction of time spent on now completed station construction projects

Council Member Fotheringham moved to approve Resolution 12-2024A adopting the proposed Exhibit A to the UFA/UFSA Interlocal Agreement for Services for calendar year 2025 as presented

Mayor Silvestrini seconded the motion

Roll call vote taken

Bailey	Y	Hull	Y
Bourke	-	Kanter	Y
Buroker	Y	Knopp	Y
Butterfield	Y	Overson	Y
Fotheringham	Y	Silvestrini	Y
Glover	Y	Stewart	-
Harris	Y	Weichers	Y
Henderson	Y	Westmoreland	-
Huish	Y		

8. Administration & Planning Report

- Legislative Update
 - AC Pilgrim provided an update on interim legislation
- Administration Section Updates
 - Behavioral Health
 - The value that has been realized with the new Behavioral Health Coordinator was presented
 - Fire Prevention
 - AC Pilgrim provided an update on what services the Division provides
 - Business inspection, Community Risk Reduction, plans reviews for new construction, etc.
 - Special Enforcement
 - This Division is overseen by Division Chief Larsen
 - Their focus is on arson investigation, explosive device incidents, and background investigations for new employees
 - This year they conducted 185 background checks for both PT and FT new hires for UFA

9. Support Services Report

- AC Dern reported for AC Robinson
- UFA/BLM Wildland Fire Station
 - Work is moving forward with the joint Hot Shot Crew station project at the Fire Training grounds
 - There is a meeting this week to review the draft scope of work
 - The BLM has increased their budget from \$8M to \$12M for this project
 - The design phase is expected to begin February 2025 with completion approximately November

- Utah Communications Authority (UCA) P25 Radio System Transition
 - Thus far, other agency transitions have gone well, some challenges, but UCA continues to work through them
 - UFA begins the conversion January 5-12, 2025
 - UFA has about 200 mobile radios and the Communication Technicians have done a great job preparing for the upcoming transition
- CIS Controls Audit
 - An audit revealed the need to align portions of the security framework
 - Overall, feedback was good and an audit review is scheduled for this week
 - A final report will be brought before the Board at a future meeting

10. Operations Report

- AC Dern presented the data on incidents for last month
- Resource Highlight – Air & Light/Rehab Unit
 - This apparatus assists on longer incidents
 - There are only three in the valley, ours, West Jordan FD, and SLC FD
 - This is considered a “jump rig” as the crew jumps on this apparatus rather than their normal apparatus for longer incidents when needed
 - This apparatus provides shelter, hydration, food, a warm/cool place to rehab, etc.
 - As part of the Capital Plan, a new apparatus is on order and should be delivered about February 2025
 - This new rehab unit will be larger with the ability to house turnouts for the Clean for Dirty Turnout Exchange Program
 - This resource is highly beneficial to the health and wellbeing of our Firefighters when working on longer than normal incidents

11. Fire Chief Report

- January 2025 Board Chair & Vice Chair Elections
 - In January, a new Chair and Vice Chair would be elected per normal practice
 - With the resignation of Mayor Stevenson, the Vice Chair position is open
 - Mayor Wiechers has agreed to remain as the Board Chair though the budget process in June
 - Once the budget process has completed, elections for the Chair and Vice Chair will take place for the remainder of 2025 and 2026
 - Anyone interested in the Vice Chair position or for a better understanding of the time commitment, please reach out to Chief Burchett or Chair Weichers
- Organizational Chart Changes
 - Chief Burchett outlined the change of Special Enforcement reporting to Fire Prevention
 - The internal job announcement for the Fire Marshal position is pending
 - There will be an emphasis on Community Risk Reduction for this position and they will also oversee Special Enforcement
 - In answer to Council Member Buroker’s question on budgetary impact, Chief Burchett explained that there is no financial impact as the Divisions were already set up for this and this is just a change in the oversight of Special Enforcement
- FY23/24 SelectHealth Contingent Funding
 - The final report from SelectHealth has been received on the insurance funding model
 - The shortage amount for the year is just over \$27,000 that UFA owes SelectHealth
 - Compared to last year, at \$21,000
 - On the January 25, 2025 pay period, approximately \$11.00 per employee will be withheld to cover the 20% employee cost, with UFA covering 80%

- Canyon Contribution
 - Chief Burchett provided an overview of the SLCo Mayor's proposal for a 20% canyon contribution cut
 - The UFA Finance Committee gave direction to staff to prepare a letter to the SLCo Council with more data to help clear up the SLCo Councils confusion and misunderstanding
 - Mayor Silvestrini shared data that was presented to the Wasatch Commission on visitor use which showed that visitors were coming to recreate in BCC and LCC
 - There is no surprise that 80-90% of that visitation is non-residents, visitors are utilizing emergency services and are not the ones paying for those services
 - Deputy Mayor Kanter explained that the SLCo Council wishes to hire a facilitator to help with this issue
 - And to clarify, Deputy Mayor Kanter stated that there is no question and no one suggested otherwise that the visitor traffic is causing a dominant number of calls but the issue is the responsibility of individual cities vs the general fund and the gap in the recreation area revenue and expenses, and should unincorporated revenue be tapped before the general fund
 - Council Member Fotheringham asked if the bottom line is this resulting in a 20% haircut for UFA, Deputy Mayor Kanter replied that this is true
 - Council Member Henderson is disappointed in how the Mayors office has gone about this, the arbitrary number chosen to begin the conversation is an aggressive stance
 - Council Member Henderson explained that it is easy to demonstrate the UFA service issue which is being confused with more complicated things in other areas
 - Explanation continued on the difference between the UFSA taxing district and UFA as the service provider
 - There is a clear misunderstanding in the roles of UFA and UFSA by the SLCo Council
 - Council Member Bailey asked where the SLCo Council thinks this money will come from if they discontinue their portion
 - Deputy Mayor Kanter explained that there are various options; UFSA members increase their rate, non UFSA members increase the contract portion they contribute, services are reduced, alternative funding sources are identified
 - To this, Council Member Bailey responded that when DM Kanter states that services could be reduced, she asked how that is going to work, does SLCo Council think that UFA is just not going to respond to emergencies in the canyons
 - DM Kanter stated that it was added to the list as that is what she has been told by Chief Burchett, that this would be an option for this Board to decide
 - DM Kanter stated that she and the Mayor would not be in favor of this, nor any Council Member, they are not talking about reducing services
 - Council Member Bailey replied that the Mayor and Council are talking about reducing services if they are talking about not paying for them
 - If you are not paying for something, you don't get it, per Council Member Bailey
 - More conversation was had regarding the arbitrary 20% cut that the Mayor is pursuing
 - Council Member Henderson explained that there is a chain reaction in providing service within the valley
 - If there is not enough money to pay for service, the service model will need to be reviewed and drawn back
 - If it is a matter of SLCo not having enough control over the tax money, this is simply the catalyst that SLCo should withdraw from the taxing district and become a direct member
 - Deputy Mayor Kanter replied that circumstances have changed and there is pressure on the general fund and these questions need to be asked

- SLCo is not proposing a reduction in services but what fund should be paying for the costs
- Council Member Henderson provided a recap
 - Chief Burchett and staff will prepare information to support the costs
 - Council Member Henderson stated that the amount of canyon contribution has not changed for years, due to both UFA and SLCo assuming the same money will continue
 - But, in reference to this, Council Member Henderson stated that it can be assumed that the cost to provide service has greatly increased and UFA should be reviewing these costs each year for actual cost
 - Also noted, the funding needed will increase and UFA will most likely find that our members are supplementing the canyon costs
- Fire Marshal Larson
 - Fire Marshal Larson will be retiring at the end of the year
 - Thank you to Fire Marshal Brad Larson for his dedication, work, and friendship

12. 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 and, at the conclusion of the closed session, to adjourn this meeting

Council Member Fotheringham seconded the motion

Roll call vote taken

Bailey	Y	Hull	Y
Bourke	-	Kanter	Y
Buroker	Y	Knopp	Y
Butterfield	Y	Overson	Y
Fotheringham	Y	Silvestrini	Y
Glover	Y	Stewart	-
Harris	Y	Weichers	Y
Henderson	Y	Westmoreland	-
Huish	Y		

Mayor Silvestrini moved to conclude the closed meeting and adjourn the December 10, 2024 UFA Board Meeting

Council Member Fotheringham seconded the motion

Roll call vote taken

Bailey	Y	Hull	Y
Bourke	-	Kanter	Y
Buroker	Y	Knopp	Y
Butterfield	Y	Overson	Y
Fotheringham	Y	Silvestrini	Y
Glover	Y	Stewart	-
Harris	Y	Weichers	Y
Henderson	Y	Westmoreland	-
Huish	Y		

BOARD MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE:

Council Member Kathleen Bailey

Council Member Chrystal Butterfield

Council Member Catherine Harris
Council Member Paul Fotheringham
Council Member Trish Hull
Council Member Glover, Midvale
Mayor Dan Knopp
Mayor Kristie Overson
Council Member Jared Henderson

Mayor Mike Weichers
Council Member Tyler Huish
Deputy Mayor Catherine Kanter
Council Member Tish Buroker
Mayor Jeff Silvestrini

BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT:

Mayor Roger Bourke
Council Member Sheldon Stewart
Mayor Tom Westmoreland

STAFF IN ATTENDANCE:

Chief Dominic Burchett
CFO Tony Hill

CLO Brian Roberts
Cynthia Young, Clerk

OTHER ATTENDEES:

AC Dern
AC Pilgrim
Aaron Whitehead
Adam Park
Amanda Lawrence
Bill Brass
Brad Larson
Brian Anderton
Courtney Samuel
Dan DeVoogd
Debbie Cigarroa

Eric VanDuren
Jared Gerber
Jay Torgersen
Jon Wilde
Kate Turnbaugh
Kiley Day
Kiyoshi Young
Krystal Griffin
Mike Greensides
Molly McClellan
Nathan Kay

Nile Easton
OC Russell
Rob Ayres
Sam Christensen
Shelli Fowlks
Station 252
Steve Quinn
Tara Behunin
Tua Tho
Val Greensides
Wade Watkins