

SUNRIVER SERVICE DISTRICT

SSD Joint Meeting with Deschutes County – Meeting Minutes Thursday December 16, 2021 8:00 a.m. Hearth Room Sunriver Main Lodge

- Call to Order:** Chair Hepburn convened the joint meeting of the SSD Managing Board and Deschutes County Commissioners meeting at 8:10 a.m.
- Roll Call/SSD:** Chair Hepburn, Vice Chair Ralston, Director Dishaw, Director Foster and Director De Alicante present.
- Roll Call/County:** Deschutes County Commissioners Patti Adair and Phil Chang. Chair Tony DeBone.
- SSD Staff:** Fire Chief Tim Moor, Police Chief Cory Darling, Lieutenant Womer, Office Assistant Mindy Holliday. Labor Attorney Bruce Bischoff, Task Force Member Ron Schmid.
- SROA Staff:** James Lewis, General Manager
- County Staff:** County Administrator Nick Lelack, Legal Counsel David Doyle, Deputy Deschutes County Administrator Whitney Hale, Deputy Deschutes County Administrator Erik Kropp, Greg Munn County Treasurer
- Public Input:** None

1. Welcome & Introductions

Chair Hepburn welcomed and thanked everyone for attending.

2. Management Agreement

The Management Agreement between the District, County and SRAO was updated as part of the scheduled review. Both the Sunriver Service District Board and SROA approved the changes at their November respective meetings.

Commissioner Adair moved to approve signatures to the restated Management Agreement between Deschutes County Governing Board, The Sunriver Service District and the Sunriver Owners Association, No. 2021-975; Commissioner Chang seconded. Motion passed unanimously by the commissioners.

3. Fire Department Update

Chief Moor gave an update on the Fire Department. He praised the partnership between the department and Deschutes County 911, and their assistance in south county to switch to new radio systems. Chief Moor is appreciative and praiseful of the

collaboration and relationships with Deschutes County Sheriff's Office for emergency preparedness and Deschutes County Attorney David Doyle for legal services. Sunriver Fire Department also partnered with various entities on the four conflagration fires outside of Sunriver. Deputy Chief Bjorvik participated in six fires across Oregon last summer. Chief Moor said 80% of calls are ambulance, and the seasonal paramedic program has been very successful. Lastly, he said Covid-19 has been difficult and he thanked the county officials and health department for their assistance.

4. Police Department Update

Chief Darling gave an update on the Police Department. He echoed what Chief Moor said about the various collaborations and partnerships. Hiring for qualified police and bike patrol officers has been a primary concern due to various factors and challenges. Chief Darling added the footprint of Sunriver has changed, and many people in the outskirt community are utilizing the resources and facilities in Sunriver. A Rental Registry Task Force was created, and Chief thanks SROA GM James Lewis for his assistance. The primary goal is to increase communication to property managers and owners, as well as create rules for nuisance and disturbance issues at rental homes. This program has reduced calls for service. Sunriver Police Department is up for reaccreditation this year and it is going well. Sergeant Lopez is graduating from the FBI National Academy in Virginia, Lt. Womer is the Vice President of the Oregon chapter of the FBI National Academy Associates, Chief Darling is on the Board for the Oregon Association of Chiefs of Police., and Tiffany Thompson has been assigned to Deschutes County District Attorney's office as a Domestic Violence investigator.

5. Public Safety Building

Director Ralston gave an updated on the District's progress for a combined public safety building, which included forming a Task Force of Sunriver stakeholders. He reviewed the plans, location determination, and the reasons behind remodeling the current Fire station to house both departments. The new building would feature a Community Room open to the public and can serve as a south county EOC.

Chief Darling described essential building requirements and said neither the Sunriver Police Department nor the Fire Department meet these requirements.

Chief Moor explained some of the significant concerns for the current Fire Station to include structural deficiencies, HVAC in the apparatus bays for vehicle exhaust, turnout gear storage and no decontamination area for staff exposed to hazardous materials and carcinogens. He added 66% of firefighter line of duty deaths are caused by cancers, so having a decontamination area is critical. Lastly, the department does not have unisex facilities, which makes it difficult to accommodate and recruit female firefighters.

Chief Darling described safety and security concerns for the Police Department. Anyone walking into the front door could have immediate access to the entire department, they have no interview rooms, no decontamination area, no ability to secure suspects,

inadequate evidence storage, no auxiliary back-up power, and other issues. Furthermore, it was built to be an office space, not a police department.

There was discussion about the increasing number of people moving back to Sunriver to live due to the ability to work and go to school remotely. In addition, the tourist population has increased and the community can swell by the tens of thousands during peak times. Sunriver Police and Fire also has mutual aid agreements to assist throughout Deschutes County.

SROA owns the Fire Department building, and the District pays a monthly lease. SROA has agreed to sell the building to the District for a nominal fee. SROA has also spent \$30 million over the years to improve facilities in Sunriver to attract tourism to the area.

Sunriver is 99% built out, therefore the tax revenue will not go up more than 3% per year to fund the District.

There was discussion about the large amount Sunriver has contributed to Transient Room Tax (TRT) fund, and the very small portion that has been reinvested back into the community.

Chair Hepburn said the goal is to have a 10-year Capital Improvement Levy on the May ballot, which would go to voters registered in Sunriver. The District will make a proposal to Deschutes County next month to request \$10 million unallocated TRT dollars.

Treasurer Munn answered questions regarding to the ability to provide this amount in different amounts over a certain number of years. It was confirmed the unallocated TRT fund is not regulated, and the current County Commissioners can vote on how leverage these funds in the future.

The District would like to move forward as fast as possible, in order to get a decision and be able to lock in an interest rate for the 10-year Capitol Levy while they are low.

Chair Hepburn adjourned the meeting at 9:27am

SSD Board Chair, Bill Hepburn
Office Assistant, Mindy Holliday