

Date: August 17, 2023

THE SALT LAKE VALLEY LAW ENFORCEMENT SERVICE AREA BOARD OF TRUSTEES (“BOARD”) MET ON THURSDAY, AUGUST 17, 2023, AT 10:00 AM. THE PUBLIC WAS NOTIFIED THAT THEY MAY JOIN THE OPEN PORTIONS OF THE MEETING BY CALLING 1-720-707-2699 AND ENTERING MEETING ID 89624210951 AND PASSWORD 119591#. THE PUBLIC WAS ALLOWED TO LISTEN TO ALL OPEN PORTIONS OF THE MEETING. BOARD MEMBERS AND PERSONS PARTICIPATING BY PHONE OR ELECTRONICALLY WERE ABLE TO HEAR ALL DISCUSSIONS.

<u>Present:</u>	<u>Excused:</u>	<u>Attended Via Zoom:</u>
TRUSTEE JIM BRADLEY, SALT LAKE COUNTY		TRUSTEE CHRIS STAVROS, SALT LAKE COUNTY
TRUSTEE DAVID BREMS, EMIGRATION CANYON		TRUSTEE PHILLIP CARDENAZ, WHITE CITY
TRUSTEE ALAN PETERSON, KEARNS		
TRUSTEE CAROLYN KEIGLEY, BRIGHTON		
TRUSTEE DEA THEODORE, SALT LAKE COUNTY		
TRUSTEE STEVE PROKOPIS, MAGNA		
TRUSTEE DAVID OLSEN, COPPERTON		

ALSO ATTENDED:

SHERIFF ROSIE RIVERA, SLCO SHERIFF

CHIEF OF POLICE JASON MAZURAN, UPD CHIEF OF POLICE

RACHEL ANDERSON, SLVLESA LEGAL COUNSEL

RICHARD MOON, SLVLESA TREASURER (Via Zoom)

### **Item #1-Call to Order**

**Trustee Bradley called the meeting to order. A roll call vote for attendance was then conducted.**

### **Item #2-Public Comment**

**Action Requested:** None

**Discussion:** Trustee Bradley asked if there were any members of the public who wished to address the Board. There were none.

### **Item #3- Approve Minutes for the July 20, 2023 Board Meeting.**

**Action Requested:** Motion, Second, and Vote.

**Discussion:** Trustee Keigley motioned to approve the minutes.

Trustee Prokopis seconded the motion.

All voted in favor; none opposed.

The minutes were approved.

### **Item #4-Expenditures for the Month of July 2023, and Other Financial Information.**

**Action Requested:** Motion, Second, and Vote.

**Discussion:** Richard Moon talked about the check register and asked if there were any questions on that. There were none. Rachel Anderson said that there does need to be a vote and approval for the expenditures.

Trustee Olsen motioned to approve.

Trustee Keigley seconded the motion.

All voted in favor; none opposed.

The expenditures were approved.

### **Item #5-Discussion and Request for Direction on Whether to Pursue a Tax Increase**

**Action Requested:** Motion, Second, and Vote.

**Discussion:** Rachel Anderson said they talked about this last month, the idea of whether they want to pursue a tax increase this year and everyone seemed uncertain. She said the deadlines are pushing them to have to make a decision. She said she is going to let Rick Moon talk about the numbers and then they will discuss which direction they want to go in.

Rick Moon said right now their fund balance is at \$5.7 million, they will be using about \$1.3 million of that this year with their budget and that will put that around \$4.5 million fund balance. Their tax rate right now is .002149, if they wanted to increase it to the max it would be a 7% increase and it would yield another \$1.65 million. Some things they need to think about are they will have a bill from the Sheriff for UPD that will cover the canyons and unincorporated and then with UPD's reorganization they are looking at a 7% increase which will be close to \$2 million increase with UPD. So, just the UPD increase would with the \$1.3 million they're using this year, that would push it up to a \$3.3 million using next year, if they don't use any of the UPD fund balance.

Trustee Prokopolis asked Rick Moon when they did their analysis, they were solvent through 2025 but that was prior to the Sheriff's exit and taking with them whatever the Sheriff takes. Obviously, there are going to be new costs to whatever the new organization looks like and you're saying that is at about 7%.

Rick Moon said he doesn't know what the amount is of what the Sheriff's Office will take but the increase to UPD will be about 7% if all SLVLESA stayed.

Trustee Keigley said she had a question for Trustee Stavros. She said that she has noticed that in the Town of Brighton, almost every resident's property evaluation went up 20 to 25 percent. She asked if that was county-wide.

Trustee Stavros said no, the canyons are a unique situation because they have a difficult time getting market data, the realtors aren't very cooperative with them. They used to get a lot of sales information from Cottonwood Realty and the canyon realtors, but the bottom line is the reason the canyons went up more than other places is after analysis and review, the market data supported those kinds of increases, and they must be at market value every year and they feel that they are at market value. The question taxpayers must ask themselves is not how much did it go up from last year to this year, but is the valuation correct as of January 1<sup>st</sup>, 2023. He said that those increases are not the case with the rest of the County. The prior year, in 2022, the County-wide increase in valuations was 29% but this last year in 2023, the County-wide residential rate was down 1.3% but it is difficult to get information for the canyons.

Rachel Anderson said if they don't pursue a tax increase this year, they need to do one next year. She said she knows that UFA is also doing a tax increase this year. They are on a different schedule than the city because they are on a calendar year. She said she doesn't think it is a question of if but when they need to do a tax increase. The other thing she would like to note is moving down the process of doing a tax increase doesn't mean they have to. They can start the process but ultimately pull the plug and not do it. If she can get the information about a potential tax increase to the County by September 8<sup>th</sup>, they can include SLVLESA's notices in their tax notices that are sent out in the fall, as opposed to having to print out their own postcards. When you do a tax increase, you must send a notice to every individual property owner. The actual deadline isn't until October, so they do technically have some time to decide.

Trustee Olsen said he apologizes to the Board because he was not able to make the SLVLESA meeting last month and he's trying to catch up. He assumed that they were talking about doing a tax increase in 2024 but they are talking about adding them to existing valuations they have already received.

Rachel Anderson said no, the way that the tax process works, it's called truth-in-taxation and you are required to go through this process the year before, so they would be doing this process now and then next June when they are approving their tax rate, and then that increase would go into effect on the taxes that are sent out in 2024.

She said that is why it is difficult to make these decisions sometimes because they do not have flexibility and they aren't able to make a quick change.

Trustee Olsen asked if they voted on truth-in-taxation last year.

Rachel Anderson said two years ago they went through the process but then approved the tax increase the next June.

Trustee Prokopolis asked if they go through truth-in-taxation now, when will they receive the additional revenue, next November?

Rachel Anderson said yes.

Trustee Prokopolis said if we do it now and get the money next November, that's seven months before the separation from the Sheriff, that gives them additional revenue, should there be new costs incurred the day the Sheriff leaves. If we wait a year and go through truth-in-taxation next year, now they are four months behind the Sheriff's exit.

Rachel Anderson said she thinks that is the strongest argument for pursuing it this year. She said it looks like they are going to be seeing some increase in costs regardless of how things shake out. She said he is happy to move forward with it if they want. The process would be to give notice to the residents, they are required to have a public tax increase meeting in December, a public hearing here after 6pm. She said there is also a reporting requirement that districts like SLVLESA have, where you must report back to your entities.

Trustee Peterson said it seems like in the past when there was a truth-in-taxation meeting, they would have to go back to their councils and vote to approve that.

Rachel Anderson said that is what she was led to believe they have done in the past, which surprised her because from what she knows they do not need an approval from their councils, it is just a reporting requirement. She said the deadline is on or before October 1<sup>st</sup>, so they would have to act on it in their September meeting.

Trustee Prokopolis said the legislature is entertaining a bill which next session, that they all perhaps become cities. He said he thinks it would be beneficial for SLVLESA to be up against their cap now and should that fail in February, the next session they're going to have to have a bill that raises the cap, right?

Rachel Anderson said she sees what he is saying and it's difficult to ask for an increase in the cap when you haven't already reached your cap. She said she is looking for direction from the Board. Nothing would be set in stone, but should they proceed with the process of truth-in-taxation, for a 7% increase?

Trustee Keigley said if the legislation approves townships to become cities, that wouldn't occur until 2025. If that happens, that doesn't mean SLVLESA goes away, does it?

Rachel Anderson said no, not at all.

Trustee Olsen said they have discussed that too, that even though they have the taxing authority, they don't have the staff to be able to implement that, they would contract with SLVLESA regardless.

Rachel Anderson said they do not contract with SLVLESA, they are members of SLVLESA, and it is an independent entity.

Trustee Keigley entertained a motion to begin the process of truth-in-taxation.

Rachel Anderson asked if that was for the 7.02% to take them to the cap.

They said yes, 7.02%.

Trustee Peterson asked Rick Moon what that amounts to in dollars.

Rick Moon said it was about \$1.65 million.

Trustee Olsen seconded the motion.

Trustee Peterson asked Trustee Bradley that it seemed to him that two years ago they didn't pursue an increase because Kennecott was considering going with someone else, do you know their feelings now?

Trustee Bradley said he hasn't heard anything from them in that regard, but he doesn't think a vote today should be based upon anticipated problems with Kennecott or any other entity. They are up against the wall, and they need the opportunity if they need it and if they do need it and they don't have it available because they haven't gone through the process, it is a cut in services.

All voted in favor, none opposed.

The motion passed.

Trustee Bradley said it was his impression as well that they needed to have a certain percentage of councils or townships' approval to put into action, for a tax increase.

Paul Ashton said he believes that is true because it is a special bill because SLVLESA came into existence without a vote from the public, so as a failsafe you must have a majority of metro townships.

Rachel Anderson said they would discuss it because she is still not certain that is the case, because they haven't done that with UFA.

#### **Item #6- Discussion of SLVLESA Budgetary Matters and Future Planning.**

**Action Requested:** None

**Discussion:** Rachel Anderson said she doesn't believe they have anything for this, it was just a placeholder item for them to continue discussing ongoing transition issues. Her only update is that she doesn't have one because they are still waiting on the numbers.

#### **Item #7- Approval of Contracts for Treasurer (Rick Moon) and Clerk (Marcie Kay)**

**Action Requested:** Motion, Second, Vote.

**Discussion:** Rachel Anderson said the last major item for approval is the approval of contracts for SLVLESA's treasurer and clerk. She said this is a process that began before she started but it is her understanding that previously they have been paying UPD a set amount to pay for them to provide treasurer and clerk services but with the transition, the desire was to separate those and to have independent contract arrangements with those

individuals. They have negotiated a contract with Rick and Marcie for a treasurer and clerk. She said she will note that the treasurer agreement was printed out for them today, but they accidentally did not get Marcie's agreement printed out, but it was sent to the Board in the board packet email. Her agreement is vastly similar other than the duties. The pay on Marcie's contract needs to be updated based on discussions between her and us and Jim Bradley. Her monthly amount will be \$1600. Rick's agreement is \$2600.

A motion to approve the contracts was entertained.

Trustee Olsen motioned to approve.

Trustee Theodore seconded the motion.

All voted in favor; none opposed.

The contracts were approved.

Trustee Bradley said he was delighted that both Marcie and Rick agreed to a contract, and it would be a setback to lose either one of them.

#### **Item #8- Update on the Unified Police Department.**

**Action Requested:** None.

**Discussion:** Sheriff Rivera asked the Board if it would be helpful for them to know how many people have resigned, how many people are leaving the organization, how much hiring they are doing, etc. because they can bring that information each month.

Trustee Prokopolis said that would be great.

Sheriff Rivera said they are currently still hiring. Law enforcement across the board is not getting the applicants that they used to, so it is fewer. Just this week alone, they have lost four people. They knew it was going to happen and they would continue to communicate. This process is taking a while, especially the unknowns and there are officers who are going to pick another department because they want stability. They will continue to communicate the best they can, and it was expected. She said Chief Mazuran has been meeting with members of SLVLESA to go over the UPD 2.0. Undersheriff Petersen and herself have also started meeting with members of SLVLESA. They have been asked to take a look at the contract model for SLVLESA as a whole, so in order to do that they have to meet with each one of SLVLESA's trustees to figure out what they envision as their needs and then they will come back and provide them more information but this will be their opportunity, if there is something current that they don't like, maybe they can bring that forward and they can have a discussion of how things can change.

Trustee Keigley said when Sheriff Rivera said the applicants were low, that started in 2020.

Sheriff Rivera said yes, law enforcement across the county, state and country, people are not picking this profession.

Trustee Prokopolis said SLVLESA moving forward, do they all have to get services from the same entity or can they individually pick and choose.

Rachel Anderson said SLVLESA can enter contracts with multiple entities but how SLVLESA chooses to spend its money is a board decision.

Trustee Bradley said it isn't as simple as that because the shared service component could be a little dicey but that can be discussed later.

**Item #9-Adjourn**

Trustee Bradley adjourned the meeting.