

Meridian Rural Fire Protection District

33 E. Broadway, Suite 210 - Meridian, Idaho 83642

Meeting Minutes – February 10, 2025

Call to Order:

The Meridian Rural Fire Protection District monthly meeting for February 10, 2025 was called to order at 4:00 p.m. by Commissioner Ward. Roll call was taken.

Roll Call:

Attendees: Commissioner Marv Ward, Commissioner Derrick Shannon, Commissioner Randy Howell, MFD Chief Kris Blume,

Approval of Agenda for the February 10, 2025 MRFPD Monthly Meeting:

Motion was made by Commissioner Ward and seconded by Commissioner Shannon to approve the meeting agenda. Agenda approved.

Approval of the Minutes for the January 13, 2025 MRFPD Annual Budget/Monthly Meeting: Motion made by Commissioner Ward to approve meeting minutes, Commissioner Shannon seconded. Meeting minutes approved.

Treasurer's Report- Provided by Commissioner Howell:

- Approve and pay bills as follows:
 - ~~Check #5557, Hahn Certified Public Accountants, \$46.67 Accounting and Payroll Services, Invoice #18152. VOIDED~~
 - Check #5558, John O. Fitzgerald, \$1,117.10 General Legal Services, Invoice #2025-02
 - Check #5556, Hahn Certified Public Accountants, \$373.15, Accounting and Payroll Services, Invoice #18152
 - Total of \$1,409.25 checks paid out this month

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- Motion made by Commissioner Howell to accept and pay stated bills. Commissioner Shannon seconded. Motion passed.
- LGIP \$7,057,826.94 balance
- US Bank \$25,084.57 balance
- Current net cash position is currently \$7,082,911.51
- US Bank Statement- No statement(s) received to reconcile by meeting date
- LGIP Statement- No statement(s) received to reconcile by meeting date
- Kathleen Roma and Associates have merged with Hahn Certified Public Accounts to support MRFPD account. Kathleen Roma will continue support MRFPD while with Hahn.
- Ada County Fees overpayment to Meridian Rural Fire Protection District in 2023 of \$648,240.93. MRFPD Certified Accountant will make the line item adjustment in 2025 to reflect. Received formal letter of overpayment.
- Hartwell Insurance is the new MRFPD insurance agency for ICRIMP. Commissioner Howell met with them and discussed ICRIMP insurance options and process.

Old Business:

- Meridian Fire budget shortfalls for staffing continued discussion. City of Meridian looking for any assistance in support of staffing funds for station 7 and station 8 and long-term the 4-person model post SAFER Grant funds. Commissioner Ward outlined where were to date on the discussion. Commissioner Howell asked about the potential Levy for MFD funding. Chief Blume stated that the Levy would not be presented for the May timeframe and suggest it may be a discussion

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point for the November timeframe. This Levy discussion is not a topic on the current city council agenda. There is a reluctance about having a Levy. Chief Blume brought up the talking point of what level of service is desired and there are costs associated with staffing.

Commissioner Shannon brought up the staffing budget shortfall now for station 7&8 plus the 4-person staffing model post SAFER Grant.

Chief Blume explained that there is a \$3.5 million shortfall post SAFER Grant. Currently there is funding in place for (5) five positions. The discussion is ongoing of how the city of Meridian is going to fund the MFD. There is no decided plan in place at present.

Commissioner Ward discussed historical preliminary discussion about offering financial assistance. Chief Blume offered that the station 7&8 were brought on five years early and a supplement from the MRFPD would enable the early opening of station 7. Commissioner Howell recapped that the MRFPD had open discussion about contributing to the city for the financial need. Initially during the discussion the city was not in immediate need but now the need is critical today.

Commissioner Shannon asked if city finance could provide a breakdown of where the money will go and how they will be used.

The group discussed those line item amounts of \$900K and \$600K though no formal decision was made. Chief Blume will ask those questions of city finance and respond during the next meeting.

Commissioner Ward outlined the previous discussion about why the funds will be used and the funding would support staffing/labor costs to bridge the 4-person staffing model funded by the SAFER grant.

Chief Blume indicated that the SAFER made the staffing models required more challenging for the city today and post SAFER Grant. The funds were/are needed to fund the staffing needs up front to open station 7 early in order to meet demand. Occupying station 7 early needed the MRFPD to make happen. In the end the discussion centers on providing improved response times and service levels.

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Commissioner Ward moved the agenda item to the March meeting for final discussion. Commissioner Ward will also research all previous meeting notes for discussion on this topic. Commissioner Howell reiterate the discussion on the levy and how that may impact this funding discussion.

- Additional clarification on MRFPD response time by Meridian Fire. Commissioner Shannon sent the MFD additional questions after the response time statistics were provided in January 2025. Chief Blume discussed the response time via ERF. More detailed statistics provided by MFD. 11minutes average response time. Chief Blume indicated that MFD is still understaffed to serve the community. The 4-person staffing model is optimal to meet fire demands. The statistics show that most of the call outs for the MFPD are EMS medical calls (77%). Chief Blume indicated that the MFD and the city has not adequately educated the community on service levels and the importance of investment. Ada County Paramedics are under-resourced as well. Chief Blume indicated the stated goal is based on the 1710 standards which is currently unattainable under the current configuration leveraging technology. Improvement in the statistics is a staffing and human resource challenge for the city. The Opitcom enhancements have yet to show improvement with the rate of growth and the increase of traffic and number of homes under construction. The group discussed all the statistics presented. Chief Blume gave insights to the discussion.
- Old MFPD Water Tender still in sales process with City of Boise. Still awaiting final document approval, sign off, and payment transfer. Commissioner Howell will update committee during the March meeting as to current status. Waiting for MFPD to be authorized UEI #.
- No old business

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New Business:

- MFD Department Updates from MFD Chief Blume:
 - Meridian Fire Department annual Awards Banquet February 27, 2025 6pm.
 - New Fire Training Academy to start February 24, 2025 with ten (10) candidates. 100% SAFER Grand funded.
 - MFD has instated a new Staff Duty Officer (SDO) position that is filled by current staff rotation in the position to streamline operations, support, and contact. Rotation is on-call each week.
- No New Business.

Motion was made by Commissioner Ward and seconded by Commissioner Shannon to adjourn the February 10, 2025 meeting of the Meridian Rural Fire Protection District. Motion approved. The meeting was adjourned at 4:49PM MT.