

Meridian Rural Fire Protection District

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

Meeting Minutes – March 10, 2025

Call to Order:

The Meridian Rural Fire Protection District monthly meeting for March 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, Deputy Chief Butterfield, MRFPD Legal Counsel John O. Fitzgerald

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

Motion was made by Commissioner Ward and seconded by Commissioner Shannon to approve the meeting agenda with added new item Plan Review Process. Agenda approved.

Approval of the Minutes for the February 10, 2025 MRFPD

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 #5560, City of Meridian, \$134,492.58 December 2024 A,B,C Budgets, Invoice #3116
 - Check #5561, City of Meridian, \$138,211.26 January 2025 A,B,C Budgets, Invoice #3121
 - Total of \$272,703.84 checks paid out this month

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- Motion made by Commissioner Howell to accept and pay stated bills. Commissioner Ward seconded. Motion passed.
- LGIP \$7,314,929.42 balance
- US Bank \$17,430.89 balance
- Current net cash position is currently \$7,332,360.31
- US Bank Statement- January 2025 statement received and reconciled.
- LGIP Statement- February 2025 statement received and reconciled.
- Commissioner Howell completed and submitted annual ICRIMP form along with W3.
- Commissioner Howell submitted annual labor statical survey.

Old Business:

- Continued discussion on City of Meridian financial request for staffing/training funds used for stations #7 and #8 opening.
- Commissioner Ward provided historical look back to 2020 regarding discussion about preliminary discussions about staffing costs. Commissioner Ward mentioned that the City of Meridian Fire Department Website MRFPD page does not have meeting minutes listed for 2021 and prior.
- Commissioner Ward tasked the commission to better own task lists by each stakeholder to clarify who is responsible for each activity and action.
- Mayor Simison attended MFRPD virtually March 2022 and discussed need for funding staffing needs for stations 7 and 8. Commissioner Ward highlighted that the MRFPD would participate in principle but no formal budget line item was approved at that time. Commissioner Ward discussed previous meeting minutes and outlined the discussions the MRFPD has had on the request from the

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City of Meridian for staffing/training funding. Commissioner Ward further presented the benefit to the rural for having stations #7 and #8 fully staffed to support the rural areas of the community and our constituents. Additionally, the City of Meridian Invoices that were sent to the MRFPD by City of Meridian Finance Todd Lavoy for the total amount of \$1.5M. Commissioner Ward also referenced that the MRFPD has added placeholder amounts in both our FY 2023 and FY2024 budgets. No formal motion or resolution has been made to date issuing the funds to the City of Meridian. Commissioner Ward advocates we make a motion to approve the amounts requested (\$1.5M)

- Commissioner Howell questions does the City of Meridian truly needs the funds as the MFPD has been advised there was not an immediate need. Commissioner Howell then offered that in December 2024 that the City of Meridian advised that they are in needs now. He stated that the City of Meridian has had a lack clarity on the financial need over time.
- Commissioner Ward read through March 2022 minutes detailing Mayor Simison discussion during the meeting where Commissioner Howell asked several questions about the need and how it would be used. The City of Meridian had not placed a formal request as of that date. Commissioner Ward believes the MRFPD had committed by virtue of the ongoing discussion and the placement of placeholder amounts in the FY 2023 and FY2024 budgets. Todd Lavoy previously submitted two invoices to the MRFPD in the amounts of \$900K and \$600K for a total of \$1.5M
- MRFPD Legal Counsel John O. Fitzgerald added that if a motion is made the previous years budget line item placeholders (FY2023 and FY2024) would be used and no budget amendment would be needed.
- Commissioner Ward made a motion to approve the staffing costs payment for station #7 labor in the amount of \$1.5M paid to the City

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of Meridian. Payment for invoice #3096, \$900K October 30, 2024 and invoice #3095, \$600K October 30, 2024. Roll Call Vote:

Commissioner Ward YES, Commissioner Shannon YES, Commissioner Howell NO. Motion passed.

- Commissioner Howell will issue checks for payment.
- Old MFPD Water Tender still in sales process with City of Boise. Water Tender sent to Hughes for retrofit of apparatus. Invoice approved by City of Boise and approved by office of Emergency Management. Grant used to pay MRFPD for sale of Water Tender Apparatus and the MRFPD is awaiting payment. Commissioner Howell will have update for April meeting.
- Deputy Chief Butterfield added that the grant the City of Boise used is paying for apparatus modification upgrades.
- MRFPD Legal Counsel John O. Fitzgerald met with the City of Meridian to further understand and outline the relationship with the MRFPD and the City of Meridian via the Joint Powers Agreement. Outlined the partnership between the two entities and the importance for both parties to get together in person. City Attorney would meet with Mayor Simison and a designate from the MRFPD Commission should also meet with the Mayor.
- The JPA language moving recognizing that the Fire Department is both the City of Meridian's and the Meridian Rural Fire Protection District's fire department as outlined in the previous JPA drafted in 1998. More definition and structure must be provided to the JPA as time has changed as the city and the department has change. Greater definition is required moving. For example, the Meridian Fire Chief is listed as the administrator of the JPA. Is this a functional assignment with the needs today.
- Commissioner Shannon asked if there is a historical perspective prior to 1998. MRFPD Legal Counsel provided a historical recollection look back. Fitzgerald offered the MRFPD discuss the collection of

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fees, roles, and expectations of each entity. Commissioner Howell volunteered to take on the liaison role.

- Commissioner Ward made a motion to appoint Commissioner Howell as the liaison with the city to advocate on behalf of the MRFPD pertaining to updating the language, definition, and responsibilities of the JPA moving forward reporting back to the MRFPD and legal counsel. Commissioner Shannon seconded. Motion passed.
- No old business

New Business:

- MFD Department Updates from MFD Chief Blume:
 - Chief Blume thanked the MRFPD for approving the funds approved.
 - Chief Blume offered that the city is making budgets cuts, not to staffing, but to all other line items.
 - Annual Awards ceremony well attended the previous week. Ceremony highlights can be watched via YouTube.
 - New Fire Training Academy to started February 24, 2025 with ten (10) candidates. Still all ten candidates are on pace to graduates.
 - Chief Blume presented a CFP to Meridian City Council for the next 5-10 years. Remodel plan of five stations over the next five years. Plans on the table to build station #9 in the next ten years. Projected but not finalized or approved. Projected to be placed over in the Eagle Road and Ustick Road area.
 - Within the next ten year window is the acquisition of two Ladder Service apparatus which will improve the departments SRB.
 - Staffing- Projecting adding an additional Battalion Chief, Captain of Inspection and Training Captain as it pertains to the future opening of station #9.

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- Commissioner Howell asked if a Levy is still on the table. Chief Blume answered that there are discussions on the table but no decision has been made.
- Commissioner Shannon asked if there was a mechanism that changed the budget from surplus to deficit. Chief Blume explained that legislative changes took \$1.8M from the budget. Also the increase in health insurance premiums for city employees of an additional \$600K and third, increase of pension contributions \$880K changes made by the state. The city is growing but a declining rate has changed the fee income.
- Meridian Fire has continued to cut non-essential services and programs to reduce the budget currently by \$500K.
- Plan Review Process- Commissioner Howell moved to future meeting. There is frustration in the plan approval process. Current request go to the Meridian Fire email account. Commissioner talked with Deputy Chief Steven Talby about his roll in the process. Talby will need to weigh in on process.
- Commissioner Shannon read the section of the concurrent JPA where the Meridian Fire Department Administration depart would process these requests. Legal Counsel Fitzgerald reaffirmed that the JPA outlines the process. This item to be reviewed and adjusted as necessary to meet current needs and processes last revised in 2022. Meridian Fire open to review process and make adjustments. Assign Legacy Fuels project to Steven Talby to follow up and confirm it has been dealt with.
- No New Business.

Motion was made by Commissioner Ward and seconded by Commissioner Shannon to adjourn the March 10, 2025 meeting of the Meridian Rural Fire Protection District. Motion approved. The meeting was adjourned at 4:55PM MT.

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