

Meridian Rural Fire Protection District

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

Meeting Minutes – February 12, 2024

Call to Order:

The Meridian Rural Fire Protection District Annual Budget meeting for February 12, 2024, was called to order at 4:00 p.m. by Commissioner Ward. Roll call was taken.

Roll Call:

Attendees: Commissioner Marv Ward, Commissioner Randy Howell, Commissioner Derrick Shannon, MFD Chief Kris Blume, MFD Deputy Chief Charlie Butterfield, , MRFPD Legal Counsel John O. Fitzgerald, Meridian City Counsel Representative Anne Little-Roberts.

Approval of Agenda:

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

Approval of the Minutes from the January 8, 2024 MRFPD Monthly Meeting: Motion was made and seconded to approve the meeting agenda. Agenda approved. Commissioner Howell made motion and Commissioner Shannon seconded.

Treasurer's Report- Provided by Commissioner Howell:

- Approve and pay bills as follows:
 - Check #5510, City of Meridian, \$105,490.64 December A,B,C Budgets, Invoice #3021
 - Check #5511, Fire Code Consultants NW, \$240.90 Fire Plan Fee's, Invoice #MRFP_JAN_2024
 - Check #5512, John O. Fitzgerald, \$1,039.76 General MRFPD Legal Services, Invoice #2024-02

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- Check #5513, Kathleen Roma & Associates, MRFPD Accounting and Payroll Services, Invoice #73605
- Commissioner Howell mentioned on the City of Meridian check, the amount was originally \$120,000, but the MRFPD received some credits. Beginning in October 2023 of our new budget year, MRFPD went from 8% to 7% contribution rate and so for a couple of months, MRFPD were charged 8%, and then the city made an adjustment on the check invoice this month. This is the reason \$82,000 was the invoice amount as it would normally be a little higher than that.
 - Total of \$83,790.86 checks paid out this month
- Motion made by Commissioner Howell to accept and pay stated bills. Commissioner Ward seconded. Motion passed.
- LGIP \$5,270,431.26 balance
- US Bank \$71,123.20 balance
- Current net cash position is currently \$5,341,554.46
- US Bank Statement- December 2023 Received and Reconciled.
- LGIP Statement January 2024 Received and Reconciled.
- Commissioner Howell worked on completing some annual forms for ICRMP insurance carried by MRFPD.
- Kathleen Roma was sent a copy of the forms. Commissioner Howell working on scheduling our annual audit. Sent out an email to Zwygart John and Associates asking dates to get that performed.
- Commissioner Shannon asked if updated MRFPD laptop has been received. Commissioner Howell and Chief Blume both confirmed that the last top is indeed on order even though the City's Finance and IT departments were not originally in sync.

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Old Business:

- Deputy Chief Butterfield provided update on Brush truck Refurbishment by Hughes Fire. Huge fire required updated contact and billing information for the MRFPD. Deputy Chief Butterfield confirmed that Hughes now has what they need for invoicing purposes. Rick with Hughes continues to provide updated pictures of the work and the current completion timeline. Next round of parts are due to arrive late February/first of March. Deputy Chief Butterfield to provide update at the next MRFPD meeting in March.
- Meeting with the MRFPD and the Meridian City Attorney and Finance Department is moved to the March 11, 2024 monthly meeting per MRFPD Legal Counsel John O. Fitzgerald.
- New MRFPD Water Tender Apparatus Update provided Deputy Chief Butterfield. The Water Tender is currently still being worked on in Florida. The date gets moved out waiting for parts. Current new completion date is scheduled mid-March. Deputy Chief Butter Field and Chief Blume were attempting to combine the trip for final approval and accreditation meeting in Late February. The combine trip is not going to work as the Water Tender will not be completed due to current supply chain issues.
- No other old business discussed

New Business:

- Chief Blume provided that the MFD monthly operational update.
- Three staff retired from MFD public education or community risk reduction division. some of the programs were stopped. The Two big ones were the car seat installation and smoke alarm program. On February 18th, the retooled program went live with using community development personnel that have extra time in their day to help with that volume of smoke alarm, smoke detector, whether it's maintenance or installation. The fire department has equipped them

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with ladders, smoke alarms, all the stuff that we would have used to do it. So instead of one person that was doing all of them. Now, there's six staff.

- The Opticom that I that has been discussed in the past. This has been in probate with ACHD. It's gone back and forth with legal departments about access to a private network and what's it going to do, how is it going to adversely impact law enforcement. I think we're there. It's actually going to go before the commissioners of ACHD on February 14th. And it's on the consent agenda for the city council to approve it next Tuesday. So, if everything goes smooth, we should be cleared for having this Opticom upgraded service. And again, the intent of that is to reduce the travel times that are really significant in the community.
- The recruitments for the fire department had almost 700 people apply. As was discussed last month, after 10 days, the job listing had to be closed. From the 700 applicants the department and HR interviewed 440 of them. Meridian Fire Department is moving 95 of those people on to a physical assessment center. iFrom there it will go to a chief's interview, job offers. The next academy is starting by the end of April. So, we're on time and on schedule. These positions are funded by the SAFER Grant.
- Meridian and the MFD were selected over Denver and Salt Lake City to host a national training put on by the Firefighter Air Coalition here in Meridian. Close to 300 people showing up at the Marriott over there on Eagle and Overland. The event is fully catered, breakfast, lunch, and dinner, two days of full training. firefighters from nine states attending. This is a significant event. MRFPD Commissioners are welcome to show up, enjoy whatever portion of it you like or not. Topics cover everything from firefighter, fire ground, survival, air management, high-rise, big box building, tactics and strategies,

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resilience, cancer prevention, mitigation at the Meridian Marriott
February 18-20, 2024.

- Conditional offer of employment for logistics chief position made to Josh Hanson who accepted the position. 30-year career with CAL FIRE. Currently works, actually, in Sacramento as a staff chief, answering to the governor. Storied history in the fire service. Currently lives in Eagle. We hit a home run. He's just an extremely humble, hardworking, brilliant individual. Start date with MFD is April 4, 2024.
- Extended an offer to the captain of logistics. That position was vacant as well. went through interviews for that, and it worked out very well that it was an internal individual. Brad DeCastro, who is, interestingly enough, currently a probationary firefighter with a 20-plus year history in the fire service out of Tucson.
- Hired Carly Shears as Community Risk Reduction Division manager out of Albany Oregon. Starting March 1, 2024 with MFD.
- MFD Awards ceremony schedule for 6pm 2/21/24. Combining the two previous awards ceremonies in to one annually.
- MRFPD contribution percentage paid to City of Meridian for FY20-25 is 7% confirmed via email from Jenny fields.
- Request for a de-annexation from the Meridian Rural Fire Protection District at 1920 Oakhampton in Eagle. Reference mail from February 6th from Joe Bongiorno, forwarded to him from the Eagle City Fire Chief, Chief Buck. MRFPD Legal Counsel John Fitzgerald directed to coordinate with Eagle Rural Fire Protection District and the Real Estate agent representing the property.
- Deputy Chief Butterfield Brough up the need for space for logistics equipment across the entirety of the Meridian Fire Department with more than 124 firefighters and a Risk Reduction facility to be housed at one location. Asked if the MRFPD would entertain the possibility of assisting the MFD. MFD may be interested selling one or two of

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the WaterTower property lots MRFPD owns. Commissioner Ward suggested we would entertain the idea for future discussion. Chief Blume indicated the Mayor and city Council see the need and knows something needs to be done. There are no current plans to increase space at the current MFD offices at City Hall. The MFD is in the initial planning stages for budget inclusion in the city's annual budget and the CFP.

- No New Business.

Motion was made by Commissioner Ward and seconded by Commissioner Howell to adjourn the January 8, 2024 meeting of the Meridian Rural Fire Protection District. Motion approved. The meeting was adjourned at 4:41 PM MT.