

# Meridian Rural Fire Protection District

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

## Meeting Minutes – March 11, 2024

### **Call to Order:**

The Meridian Rural Fire Protection District Annual Budget meeting for March 11, 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, MRFPD Legal Counsel John O. Fitzgerald, Meridian City Council 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 March 11, 2024 MRFPD Monthly Meeting:** Motion was made and seconded to approve the meeting agenda. Agenda approved. Commissioner Ward made motion and Commissioner Shannon seconded.

### **Treasurer's Report- Provided by Commissioner Howell:**

- Approve and pay bills as follows:
  - Check #5514, City of Meridian, \$120,866.76 January 2024 A,B,C Budgets, Invoice #3029
  - Check #5515, Fire Code Consultants NW, \$201.48 Fire Plan Fee's, Invoice #MRFP\_JAN\_2024
  - Check #5516, John O. Fitzgerald, \$1,531.76 General MRFPD Legal Services, Invoice #2024-03

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- 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 \$5,295,380.93 balance
- US Bank \$1,415,192.51 balance
- Current net cash position is currently \$6,710,573.44
- US Bank Statement- January & February Received and Reconciled.
- LGIP Statement February 2024 Received and Reconciled.
- Commissioner Howell informed commission of the MRFPD annual audit scheduled for late March with Zwygart John and Associates. Results likely presented at the May 2024 monthly meeting.

### **Old Business:**

- Meeting with the MRFPD and the Meridian City Attorney and Finance Department is moved to the May 2024 monthly meeting per MRFPD Legal Counsel John O. Fitzgerald.
- Chief Blume provided update on Brush truck Refurbishment by Hughes Fire. Huge fire required updated contact and billing information for the MRFPD. Rick with Hughes continues to provide updated pictures of the work and the current completion timeline. No new update. Apparatus will be on-time and ready for the 2024 fire season no later than June. MRFPD Legal Counsel John O. Fitzgerald cleared emails that circulated from Hughes and MFD regarding replacement parts for winch and bumper costs are to be offset from the sale of the old parts on the unit. No financial impact to the original bid that was approved by MRFPD. Commissioner Ward made motion to use sold parts funds to cover the cost of the new winch and bumper

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required on the Brush Truck refurbishment. Commissioner Shannon seconded. Motion Passed.

- New MRFPD Water Tender Apparatus Update provided Chief Blume. Apparatus is complete and ready for final inspection. MFD Chief Blume and Deputy Chief Butterfield are set to travel to Sarasota, Florida to complete the inspect Mid-March. The new unit will be a state-of-the art apparatus that will serve the community for the next 10-15 years per Chief Blume. Due to be on site and in service in April/May.
- Deannexation of 1920 Oakhampton address from MRFPD to Eagle Fire Protection District. MRFPD Legal Counsel John O. Fitzgerald spoke with Sanel Tucakovic real estate agent for property. Letter Received from EFPD Chief approving annexation of property. MFD approved deannexation via formal letter. Counsel Fitzgerald drafted resolution 24-001 approving the deannexation of 1920 Oakhampton from MRFPD to EFPD citing mutual aid agreement for best service coverage. Commissioner Ward made motion to approve Resolution 24-001. Roll call vote on resolution. Commissioner Ward-Yes, Commissioner Shannon-Yes, Commissioner Howell-Yes. Motion Passed.
- No other old business discussed

### **New Business:**

- Griffin Lawsuit vs. City of Meridian and various defendants including the Meridian Rural Fire Protection District. MRFPD Legal Counsel provided update that plaintiffs attorney filed voluntary dismissal of lawsuit against MRFPD since MRFPD is not has never been an employer of the plaintiff. Counsel cited Joint Powers agreement that clearly outlines the duties of the MRFPD and City of Meridian.
- Chief Blume provided that the MFD monthly operational update.

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- Accreditation Report complete of the Meridian Fire Department. Only department in the state of Idaho that is accredited. Significant recognition and important for the community.
- ISRB Rating coming this summer of the Meridian Fire Department. Has significant insurance implications if rated highly. Indications are that Meridian Fire Department is expecting a rating of 1.
- Five (5) older Meridian Fire Stations are in need of remodel to bring stations up to current standard. Plans are being developed to remodel each station over the next ten years.
- New division chief of logistics Josh Janson is onboard April 1 from Cal-Fire. Carly Sheers is the new community risk reduction manager.
- Two (2) positions open for risk reduction specialists.
- One (1) administrative admin position is also open. Kerry Hibbert is moving on to North Idaho.
- Safer Grant update. Out of 700 applicants for open fire fighter positions, the list was evaluated down to 70 applicants who will interview. Of the those 70, 20 applicants will be offered conditional fire fighter opportunities. All interviews will be conducted by Chief Blume and Human Resources. New Academy will start in April.
- Effective Response Force term will be in use for Meridian Fire. Four-person staffing is one way to be effective. Meridian Fire Department is moving to a 4-person staffing model while working towards an Effective Response Force that makes the most sense in real-time.
- Opticom Upgrade will be live within the next month after approval and collaboration with ACHD. All apparatus in Meridian are now outfitted with requisite equipment. New system uses predictive analytics will allow faster response times better managing traffic flow.
- Station pre-alerting. New contractor is Brix funded through Ada County Dispatch. Program will streamline the dispatch of a unit cutting response time dramatically.

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- Firefighter Air Coalition was a success attended by 60 fire departments from nine different states.
- No New Business.

Motion was made by Commissioner Ward and seconded by Commissioner Howell to adjourn the March 11, 2024 meeting of the Meridian Rural Fire Protection District. Motion approved. The meeting was adjourned at 4:34 PM MT.