

# Meridian Rural Fire Protection District

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

## Meeting Minutes – April 14, 2025

### **Call to Order:**

The Meridian Rural Fire Protection District monthly meeting for April 14, 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, Deputy Chief Steven Talby, Tyler Roundtree, MRFPD Legal Counsel John O. Fitzgerald.

### **Approval of Agenda for the April 14, 2025 MRFPD Monthly Meeting:**

Motion was made by Commissioner Ward and seconded by Commissioner Shannon to approve the meeting agenda with the addition of processing fees for MRFPD constituents under old business. Agenda approved.

**Approval of the Minutes for the March 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 #5562, City of Meridian, \$140,131.72 February 2024 A,B,C Budgets, Invoice #3124
  - Check #5563, City of Meridian, \$1,500,000.00 Funding Station 7 Personnel, Invoice #3095 and 3096
  - Check #5564, John O Fitzgerald, \$1,189.10, General Legal Services, Invoice #2024-04

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- Total of \$1,641,320.82 checks paid out this month
- Motion made by Commissioner Howell to accept and pay stated bills. Commissioner Ward seconded. Motion passed.
- LGIP \$5,689,384.29 balance
- US Bank \$46,270.70 balance
- Current net cash position is currently \$5,735,654.99
- US Bank Statement- February and March 2025 statement received and reconciled.
- LGIP Statement- March 2025 statement received and reconciled.
- Commissioner Howell Referenced email from Derek Nelson dated 4/4/25 452pm. Discussion moved to new business.

### **Old Business:**

- Sale of MRFPD Water Tender to the City of Boise is on hold due to Federal grant freeze. Status of sale is pending. Unit is at Hughes Fire for upgrades. Chief Butterfield will follow-up. No new update from Commissioner Howell.
- MRFPD Fee Process- Deputy Chief Steven Talby presented. Stated that MFD acts as a liaison with constituents, Fire Code Consultants Northwest, and MRFPD. He further indicated that Fire Code Consultants Northwest should own this function. Commissioner Howell rebutted that this process should sit solely with Fire Code Consultants Northwest. MRFPD Legal Counsel spelled out that MRFPD does have a contract with Fire Code Consultants Northwest and further explained the Joint Powers Agreement that the MFD will intake all inquiries and forwards to Fire Code Consultants Northwest. This is part of the JPA and Legal Counsel Fitzgerald and Commissioner Howell will be meeting with Meridian Mayor, City

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Legal Counsel, and MFD Chief Blume to fully review the current process through the JPA. Meeting date is TBD and MRFPD Legal Counsel Fitzgerald will follow up.

- No old business

### **New Business:**

- House Bill #4040. Is a none issue and will not need to be discussed.
- Meridian Fire Department update from Chief Kris Blume:
  - Topic of potential City of Meridian Levy. Nothing official has been decided or discussed publicly with Meridian City Council pertaining to MFD service levels and a decision likely being made within the next month. This topic is based on City of Meridian constituents and not the MRFPD.
  - Chief Blume updated capital facilities plan discussion for station remodels, potential additional fire station, and footprint within the community center at Settlers Park annex for community risk reduction.
  - MFD aging apparatus specifically truck ladder truck #36. In for repairs and the estimate is \$40,000. Truck has exceeded service life. Plus, down time for repairs negatively impact service levels. Apparatus is 17 years old and is currently in reserve status.
  - Fire Academy is still in progress with ten candidates with now staffing loss.
  - MFD is focused on a slim budget looking for ancillary cuts or reductions with now planned operational cuts. ICRIMP rates doubled, PERSI contribution costs doubled, and health insurance rates rose over 18%. Commissioner Howell reference city-wide email that raised some confusion over rates increasing versus rates going down. Tyler Roundtree offered research on the topic that returning employees to new a PERSI employer did not meet forecast so adjustments made to contribution rate.

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- Tyler Roundtree brought up the Levy discussion and whether or not the MRFPD is involved. MRFPD Legal Counsel John Fitzgerald explained this discussion pertains to the City of Meridian only and not the MRFPD. Advised the MRFPD Commissioners not take a position presently as a commission. Commissioner Howell further offered that this potential Levy would be on the city ballot and not the MRFPD. Ultimately the MRFPD could hypothetically see an increase or decrease in service levels. That result could then involve the MRFPD. MFD Chief Blume stated that in the absence of additional funding, there will be a reduction in service level for the city and the rural based on current growth and need. The discussion of the potential \$5M Levy would be directed for public safety to maintain current level of service to meet the demands of the growing population. The discussion about the proposed Levy would equate to \$20 per \$100,000 of property value annually per resident in the city or Meridian. A preliminary survey has been sent. Most responses tilted positively received.
- No New Business.

Motion was made by Commissioner Ward and seconded by Commissioner Shannon to adjourn the April 14, 2025 meeting of the Meridian Rural Fire Protection District. Motion approved. The meeting was adjourned at 4:35PM MT.