

# Meridian Rural Fire Protection District

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

## Meeting Minutes – October 9, 2023

### **Call to Order:**

The Meridian Rural Fire Protection District Annual Budget meeting for October 9, 2023, 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, Deputy Chief Justin Winkler, Deputy Chief Jordan Reese, MRFPD Legal Counsel John O. Fitzgerald.

### **Approval of Agenda:**

Motion was made and seconded to approve the meeting agenda. Agenda approved.

### **Approval of the Minutes:**

Motion was made and seconded to approve the minutes from the September 11, 2023 monthly meeting minutes. Motion approved.

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

- Approve and pay bills as follows:
  - Check #5493, Ada County Weed Pest Control, \$151.07 Weed Abatement Watertower lots, Invoice #501344
  - Check #5494, City of Meridian, \$133,809.01 August 2023 A,B,C Budgets, Invoice #3001
  - Check #5495, John O. Fitzgerald, \$1,403.09 Legal Services, Invoice #2023-10
  - Check #5496, Kathleen Roma & Associates, \$125.00 Accounting and Payroll Services, Invoice #72558

# Meridian Rural Fire Protection District

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

## Meeting Minutes – October 9, 2023

- Check #5497, State Insurance Fund, \$122.00 Workers Comp, Invoice Statement #27663395
  - Total of \$135,610.17 checks paid out this month
- Motion made by Commissioner Howell to accept and pay stated bills. Motion passed.
- LGIP \$5,650,465.14
- US Bank \$8,293.02
- Current net cash position is currently \$5,658,758.16
- US Bank Statement August, 2023 Received and Reconciled.
- LGIP Statement was not received by meeting date.
- Commissioner Howell received form from Ada County Auditor. Form titled, Bonded indebtedness form. MRFPD has no debt. Form completed and sent to Sarah at Ada County.
- Local Government Registry. Received letter of compliance for MRFPD.
- Clarified that Ada County Weed Abatement had sprayed Watertower lots twice. Question asked by Commissioner Ward. Answered by Commissioner Howell.

### **Old Business:**

- Chief Butterfield provided updates on Stations 7 and 8. Station 7 opened and operational September 21, 2023 with staff running calls. Still working through punch list items. Station 7 crew is very complimentary of the property as conveyed by Chief Butterfield. Station 8 is on track and expecting crew to be operational the first full week of November, tentatively set for November 9, 2023. Dedication

# Meridian Rural Fire Protection District

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

## Meeting Minutes – October 9, 2023

ceremony is slate for early December as no firm date yet set. Meridian Mayor Simison would like to conduct a join grand opening ceremony for both Meridian Fire and Meridian Police at the Station 8 facility.

- Chief Winkler presented information and need for current Meridian/MRFPD Brush Trucks to be replaced or refurbished. Chief Winkler stated current pricing for both purchase and or refurbishment continue to rise and would like to set forth on a plan to either replace, refurbish, do nothing, or somewhere in-between. MRFPD had budgeted in the new budget to potentially replace one Brush Truck and Refurbish one Brush Truck. Chief Winkler presented the option of refurbishing both Brush Trucks in order to save money. The oldest Brush Truck is 15 years old and whether it is worth it to refurbish a vehicle of that age. Previous estimate to refurbish one unit is approximately \$74,885. Chief Winkler requested new quotes from Hughes on refurbishment and Chief Winkler believes the cost would be closer to \$100,000 per unit. Grass fire season is closing so taking brush trucks out of service for refurbishment would be advisable to have units refurbished over the winter and ready for spring. Refurbishment would be done local. Commissioner Howell asked what the milage is on both units. One unit (2012) has 6,000 miles on it. One (15 years old) has 27,000 miles on it. \$10,000 spent on repairs last year to this unit. Chief Winkler recommends that the 6,000 mile unit be refurbished. Commissioner Shannon asked if there was a current call log on either vehicle. Chief Winkler did not have that information and deferred to Chief Butterfield and or Chief Reese to supply call logs and dispatch details. Chief Winkler has maintenance logs and is putting forth the cost to maintain versus the cost to refurbish. Current Chassis' were not designed for the type of service they are put through thus increasing the maintenance costs to repair. Commissioner Shannon asked if refurbishment would correct the chassis issues. Chief Winkler responded that it would. Chief Winkler provided hand out of what a

# Meridian Rural Fire Protection District

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

## Meeting Minutes – October 9, 2023

possible refurbishment would look like. Commission Ward asked what the price of a new unit would be. Chief Winkler responded that the new approximate would be \$325,000 but could see 15% cost increase and a 24-month build out timelines. To refurbish one and replace one would be approximate cost of \$450,000. Commissioner Ward asked about the amount of grass land the city covers. Chief Winkler replied that not much but there are places along railroad tracks and canals where traditional fire trucks cannot access. Most of the target area is in the rural. Discussion then suggested we may not need two brush trucks. Currently both trucks are located on each side of the MFD area. Chief Reese offered MFD is assessing the entire operation and what they need via analytics to paint an accurate picture of resources needed. Chief Reese advocates refurbishing one unit to now while they assess future needs. Chief Butterfield brought forth that the MFD is looking to bring on a predictive analytic tool called Darkhorse that has the ability to answer a lot of the outstanding questions regarding tools, resources, and staffing through historical call volume and anticipated volume. Price point is \$100,000 for analytic tool. Outputs risk and reward based on inputs. Will present full discussion next MRFPD Monthly Meeting in November. Water Tender Brush Trucks are used about 90% MRFPD Calls exclusively. Refurbishment timeline would take through next April 2024. Chief Winkler offered that if we refurbished the 2012 unit we could potentially have a 10-15 year additional use lifespan. New unit would have a 10-15 year use lifecycle as well depending on how the unit is used. Commissioner Howell presented that MFD budget has brush trucks in its CFP and how the MRFPD contributes to apparatus. Chief Winkler confirmed that the city does have brush trucks in the budget but that the city may not wish to fund them as the use within the city is negligible. MRFPD owns a percentage of the current brush trucks. Chief Butterfield offered there needs to be additional discussions with the city regarding

# Meridian Rural Fire Protection District

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

## Meeting Minutes – October 9, 2023

equipment needs and internal discussion about the the city's CFP. Chief Butterfield to bring historical data about brush truck usage for next meeting. It is estimated that brush trucks are deployed to 30-40 calls annually staffed by existing MFD staff. Legal Counsel John O. Fitzgerald offered a risk analysis that it would be prudent to proceed with a refurbishment of one unit and hold off on the purchase of a new brush truck apparatus since we ear marked funds in our FY2024 budget. Discussion moved to the November 13, 2023 MRFPD meeting.

- Chief Blume- MRFPD contribution to the station #7. City of Meridian is asking for remittance of payment. No formal confirmation of amount presented Commissioner Howell. Need to review minutes. City Finance will be in attendance next meeting. We all are understanding that the MRFPD would contribute approximately \$900,000.
- Commissioner Shannon offered question of Response time and number of calls for the MRFPD services by Meridian Fire Department. Chief Butterfield offered that he would gather the historical data for the next meeting.
- Chief Blume provided an update on the FEMA SAFER Grant. \$8.1M for 24 positions funded for three years. The City of Meridian questions how they can fund the positions for years 4, 5, and 6. 3-person staffing is not ideal especially serving the rural. Best practice is a 4-person engine company. Chief Blume is asking for a dialog with the MRFPD to help fund a set amount years 4-6 of the staffing. Chief Blume suggested \$700,000 contribution from the MRFPD for each of three years (approximately \$2.1M). The contribution amount would cover the cost of 10 firefighters over the three-year period. Mayor Simison requested 30-day extension from FEMA to make decision on accepting the grant. The City of Meridian has questions on funding in support of the grant if accepted. Chief Blume offered they may have

# Meridian Rural Fire Protection District

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

## Meeting Minutes – October 9, 2023

some options to amend the grant. The City of Meridian is looking to the MRFPD to help fund these positions in years 4-6. Commissioner Ward offered the future state of the MRFPD through annexation and the funds available for the rural as more and more acreage becomes city versus rural shrinking footprint. Commissioner Howell stated the MRFPD could not commit past the current budget year. The MRFPD cannot confirm future years. Legal Counsel John O. Fitzgerald offered that the current MOU and JPA the MRFPD would contribute specified amounts per the formula. As the district shrinks so the the percentage to contribute the MRFPD pays to the City of Meridian Budget.

Historically the MRFPD has paid over and above the formula amount. Chief Blume will offer to the mayor that the MRFPD would be open to discussion about potential funding by the MRFPD with no amount guaranteed or suggested. Commissioner Ward offered that the MRFPD is willing help (no amount agreed to or confirmed) for at least year one but cannot guarantee future funding. This discussion is being more to a later date after Chief Blume meets with the mayor to understand the direction he is willing to go moving forward with the FEMA SAFER Grant.

- No other old business discussed

### **New Business:**

- No New Business. All business discussed based on previously discussed topics.

Motion was made by Commissioner Ward and seconded (Commissioner Howell) to adjourn the October 9, 2023 meeting of the Meridian Rural Fire Protection District. Motion approved. The meeting was adjourned at 5:11 PM MT.