



Rexburg-Madison County Emergency Services Meeting
0900 hrs * June 12, 24
Station One

Minutes

Board members in attendance:

Brent Mendenhall, County Commissioner; Mikel Walker (for Jerry Merrill), City Council; Ken Anderson, District Fire Commissioner; Dr. Zollinger

Others in attendance were:

Corey Child, Fire Chief; Troyce Miskin, Deputy Chief;

Meeting Called to Order: 0900


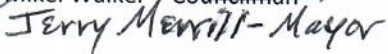
Items on the agenda include:


1. **Welcome:** Commissioner Anderson – welcomed those in attendance and thanked them for being there.
2. **Approval of Minutes from last meeting:** Dr. Zollinger motioned to dispense with the reading of the minutes, seconded by Commissioner Mendenhall, all ayes. Dr. Zollinger motioned to approve the minutes, seconded by Commissioner Mendenhall, all ayes.
3. **Professional Services Contract, R1 Replacement Grant, ECIPDA (Altura):** Dr. Zollinger motioned to have Chief Child sign whatever documents were necessary to move forward with the administration of the grant to replace R1, seconded by Mendenhall, all aye.
4. **2025 Budget Discussion:** The City of Rexburg stated they were not able to fulfill the budget as requested for 2025 and stated they would not be able to support three new shift employees for 2026. Discussion ensued by the board that for the safety of the firefighters, there was not to be a reduction in the needed amount for turnouts. Furthermore, the wildland fire money was not be used to balance the budget, it is held to build the wildland program and to be used for capital expenses as agreed upon by the board. Commissioner Mendenhall motioned to keep the turnout budget at the minimum amount necessary for the safety of the firefighters and to send a clear message that three additional employees in 2026 were needed, motion was seconded by Dr. Zollinger, all ayes.
5. **Emergency Services National Academy, 30 Hour Employee:** Chief Miskin noted the need to move the current 20 hour employee to 30 hours a week and hire a new 20 hour employee to keep up with the clerical and administrative needs of the ESNA program. This was expected as the ESNA program grew. Mikel Walker motioned to approve a 30 hour a week employee and to maintain the 20 hour a week position as well, motion was seconded by Dr. Zollinger, all aye.
6. **Add Task Force Leader/Crew Boss/Strike Team Leader to Certification Raises:** Chief Miskin and Child will update the Certification Raise Chart and present the recommended changes in an upcoming meeting.
7. **Joint Powers Agreement Amendment Consideration:** This topic is very important to the board and will be discussed in future meetings.
8. **Executive Session:** None needed or called for.
9. **Adjourn:** 1026. Motion to adjourn was made by Commissioner Mendenhall, Seconded by Dr. Zollinger, all aye.

Approval of Minutes:


Kenneth Anderson – Fire Commissioner


Brent Mendenhall – County Commissioner


Mikel Walker – Councilman

Jerry Merrill – Mayor


Dr. Jeffrey Zollinger – Medical Director

Rexburg-Madison County Emergency Services

26 North Center Street * Rexburg, Idaho 83440 * 208-359-3010

12 June 2024

2015 Joint Venture Agreement Review

1. FRF History: Firefighter Retirement System (FRF)- came under scrutiny in ~2011. Those who were paying into it wanted a voice as to how the money was invested for their retirement (Social Security vs. private investment managed funds). We did not have any retired employees left in the plan, however, we still needed to pay into the plan. As state Social Security looked into our Joint Powers Agreement, they conversed with the IRS. The two entities determined one of our three entities needed to be listed as the employer responsible for the financial transactions associated with retirement in any form. We were forced to pick one of the three entities and due to the City of Rexburg taking care of payroll etc. as part of the existing agreement, the Emergency Services Board voted to make the City of Rexburg the employer to fulfill the purposes of the IRS and Social Security. The Fire Commissioners, County Commissioners and City Council all voted in favor in their respective meetings. Never was it the intention of the Emergency Services Board to turn over any authority to the city for the management of the fire department.
2. 2024 Options
 - a. Keep the agreement as is and continue paying the City of Rexburg for the services they render. Perhaps issue a memorandum of understanding that states the authority of the Emergency Services Board and identifies what authority the city does not have.
 - b. Stop paying the city and hire our own administrative staff.
 - c. Appoint the Fire District as the employer. The Emergency Services Board can then determine what responsibilities the city will fulfill for the board. This allows city and county employees to work in one another's departments without incurring the overtime issues. It also allows the Fire Department to pursue its own health insurance and separate from the city. The department currently has no say in these benefits.
 - d. Have City Council vote all city residents into the Fire District. Adjust the levy rate (permanent override vote). The city would be out of the fire business and is free to reduce taxes to their residents or maintain the taxes and use them for their needs. The County Commissioners contract with the Fire District to provide all EMS functions. All assets of the three entities transfer over to the fire district. The Emergency Services Board could stay and serve as an advisory board to the Fire District.