



## Rexburg-Madison County Emergency Services Meeting 1300 hrs \* November 19, 2024 \* Meeting Minutes

### **Board members in attendance:**

Brent Mendenhall, County Commissioner; Jerry Merrill, Mayor; Ken Anderson, District Fire Commissioner; Dr. Zollinger

### **Others in attendance were:**

Corey Child, Fire Chief; Troyce Miskin, Deputy Chief; Amber Steckley, Dale Pickering, Robert Kohler, Stan Crittenden, Terri Hill, Stephen Zollinger, Aaron Gardner, Matt Nielson, Troy Evans, Joseph Haeberle

### **Meeting Called to Order:** 1300

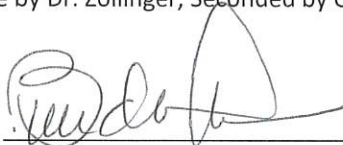
Items on the agenda include:


- 1. Welcome:** Commissioner Anderson – welcomed those in attendance and thanked them for being there.
- 2. Roll Call of Board Members:** All in attendance as noted above
- 3. Approval of Minutes from last meeting:** Commissioner Mendenhall motioned to dispense with the reading of the minutes, seconded by Mayor Merrill, all ayes.
- 4. Assistant Medical Director:** Dr. Aaron Gardner was introduced to the board and told a bit about himself. He will be the Assistant Medical Director to Dr. Zollinger. He will have specific responsibilities of medical direction over the Emergency Services National Academy and cover for Dr. Zollinger when needed.
- 5. Add to Certification Raises: Crew Boss, and Strike Team Leader/Task Force Leader:** Chief Miskin asked that Paid Call employees receive \$1.20 per hour raise for the certification of Crew Boss and another \$1.20 per hour raise for the certification of Strike Team Leader Engine/Task Force Leader. He also asked that full-time employees receive a 4% lump sum for the certification of Crew Boss and another 4% lump sum for the certification of Strike Team Leader Engine/Task Force Leader. Discussion on the topic included that of Mayor Merrill questioning the need for additional certification increases and asking if the number of certification increases could be paired down to reduce the workload on HR and payroll. Chief Miskin explained that the certifications met a national standard and had operational purpose to MFD's local response as well as out-of-area deployments. Mayor Merrill then motioned that Paid Call employees receive \$1.20 per hour raise for the certification of Crew Boss and another \$1.20 per hour raise for the certification of Strike Team Leader Engine/Task Force Leader, as well as full-time employees receiving a 4% lump sum for the certification of Crew Boss and another 4% lump sum for the certification of Strike Team Leader Engine/Task Force Leader. The motion was seconded by Dr. Zollinger, all aye.
- 6. Wildland Fire: Year-end summary:** Chief Child presented the year-end summary of the wildland fire season. Highlights included: 30 Resource Orders filled, 143 employee positions filled, gross billed was \$2,157,834.36, total profit was \$706,905.75, administrative reimbursement received \$93,211.87, employee wages received \$1,168,850.04. Total gross since the inception in 2010 is \$13,735,411.95, total profit is \$4,738,566.61, total administrative reimbursement received \$389,743.45, total wages received \$7,716,331.44. The Medical Trailer alone since inception has brought in \$1,200,258.49 – approximately a 450% return on investment. This program continues to be a great training ground for our frontline employees as well as leadership.
- 7. Emergency Services National Academy-Presentation/Tour:** Chief Miskin highlighted the success of ESNA. In total since its inception, we have had 64 paramedic students, 801 EMT students, 260 structure fire students, 144 hazmat students, and 189 wildland fire students. This year, the paramedic program will net \$39,932 and next year it is estimated to net \$135,000. The other programs, since their inception, have netted \$85,000. ESNA is touching students nationwide but primarily from Idaho and the surrounding states.


8. **Grant review:** Robert Kohler is actively managing the grants for MFD. Projects/equipment funded by grants included three new ambulances, ventilators, IV pumps, Narcan, Cress Creek Repeater site, two mass casualty trailers for our schools, power load cots, automatic defibrillators, mobile radios, hand-held radios, fuel reduction (Twin Bridges Park and Eagle Park). Grants have been a major source of funding for the programs of the department that directly serve our community.
9. **Staffing Update:** Chief Miskin reported that due to high call volumes at the same time, the station was left unstaffed or less-than-ideally staffed 91 times in the last 12 months. The availability and number of Paid Call staff is diminishing, leaving a greater burden on full-time staff. Keeping up on the ongoing minimum training requirements of Paid Call employees is a major effort in the department. The department will once again ask for three additional full-time employees in the 2026 budget.
10. **Urban Renewal presentation – second floor fire bays:** Chief Child again asked for the boards’ support in Chief Child asking Urban Renewal to support a second-floor addition over the fire bays at Station One. This space needs to be built out for classroom and office space and potentially a dispatch center. Chief Child will make the request for a letter of support from Urban Renewal in their next meeting.
11. **Joint Powers Agreement Amendment Considerations:** Chief Child presented the history of the Joint Powers Agreement and its purpose and, at the board’s request, presented potential options for amending or changing the current agreement (attached). The board again reiterated the need for the integrity of the original 1998 agreement to be maintained and defended at all levels. The intent of the board was to maintain all policies, procedures and Standard Operating Guidelines of the department. According to the board, the City of Rexburg was only to be named “the employer” to meet the minimum requirements of Social Security and IRS and for no other reason. The board has always maintained the right to approve and/or implement employee benefits, policies, procedures and Standard Operating Guidelines and will continue to do so now and in the future.
12. **Future Board Meetings:** The board would like to meet on the third Tuesday of each month at 1 pm. This will be posted on the department website. These meetings will be used as a time for the Chief to bring operational concerns forward to the board including policies, exceptions to policies, and further reestablishing lines of responsibilities moving forward.
13. **Executive Session:** Roll call vote for motion to move into Executive Session according to Idaho State Statute §74-206(b)(j): To consider the evaluation, dismissal or disciplining of, or to hear complaints or charges brought against, a public officer, employee, staff member or individual agent, or public school student; (j) To consider labor contract matters authorized under section 74-206A (1)(a) and (b), Idaho Code. Executive Session: The Chair called for a Roll Call Vote to enter Executive Session. Commissioner Mendenhall, Dr. Zollinger, Mayor Merrill and Commissioner Anderson all voted aye. The Executive Session was entered into at 1434. All voted aye to adjourn the Executive Session at 1518.
14. **Adjourn:** 1520. Motion to adjourn was made by Dr. Zollinger, Seconded by Commissioner Mendenhall, all aye.

Approval of Minutes:

  
 Kenneth Anderson – Fire Commissioner

  
 Brent Mendenhall – County Commissioner

  
 Jerry Merrill – Rexburg Mayor

  
 Dr. Jeffrey Zollinger – Medical Director  
 DR. AARON H. GARDNER