



**Rexburg-Madison County Emergency Services Meeting
1330 hrs * February 18, 2025 * Meeting Minutes**

Board members in attendance:

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

Others in attendance were:

Corey Child, Fire Chief; Troyce Miskin, Deputy Chief; Amber Steckley, David Ivey, Ricky Zaleski, Orin Packard, Matt Nielson, Terri Hill, Spencer Rammel, Bryn Schmidt


Meeting Called to Order: 1330

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 Dr. Gardner, all ayes.
- 4. Board Elections:** Commissioner Mendenhall motioned to retain Ken Anderson as Chair, Jerry Merrill seconded the motion, all aye
- 5. Introduction of employees:** Ricky Zaleski and Bryn Schmidt were introduced to the board so the board could get to know some of our employees. Ricky is a Firefighter/Paramedic and a member of the SWAT Team and is working on B-Shift. Bryn is a Firefighter/EMT and will soon be finished with her Paramedic and she is working on B-Shift.
- 6. Addendum to Joint Powers Agreement:** At the Boards request, Chief Child went over the history of the 1998 Joint Powers Agreement compared to where we are today. He also presented a draft copy of the proposed "Addendum # 1" comprising the agreements history and the long-standing authority of the board to govern all the affairs of the department. Chief Child and Miskin will meet with each board member individually to discuss the addendum and incorporate appropriate edits. This will also be on the next agenda for discussion.
- 7. Paid Call Pay Considerations:** Chief Miskin presented the current pay structure for Paid Call employees noting the wages were much too low. He stated that a wage inquiry was made by our department to all surrounding departments who have Paid Call Employees, the findings showed MFD was the lowest paying department in most categories. Chief Miskin proposed new rates and after the board reviewed those rates, they suggested increasing them by ten percent. The hourly rates are as follows: New Hire: old rate \$8.25 to new rate of \$14.30; Credentialed as an EMT: old rate \$10.70 to new rate of \$17.60; Credentialed in Fire: old rate \$10.70 to a new rate of \$16.50; Dual Credentialed as EMT/Firefighter: old rate \$13.10 to new rate of \$19.80; New Hire Seasonal Firefighter: old rate \$9.00 to new rate of \$15.40. Certification increases per hour are as follows: EMT with Modules: old rate \$0.30 to new rate of \$0.50; Credentialed as a Paramedic: old rate \$1.20 to new rate of \$2.00; Credentialed as a Critical Care Paramedic: old rate \$1.80 to new rate of \$3.00; Full-time Shift Coverage: old rate \$.35 to new rate of \$1.00; Driver/Operator: old rate \$1.20 to new rate of \$1.00; Wildland Engine Boss: old rate \$1.20 to new rate of \$2.00. Jerry Merrill motioned to approve the hourly rate and certification increases as noted, motion was seconded by Commissioner Mendenhall, all ayes.
- 8. Mandatory Safety Training:** After Chief Miskin reviewed with the board the leadership training MFD does each year and after evaluating the cost of sending MFD full-time employees to the training (cost is estimated to be \$42,000 or \$37,000 if admin employees are taken out of the equation) the board asked Chief Child and Chief Miskin to attend as they were able. Commissioner Anderson also noted that the Fire Commissioners discussed this training and voted to not support the associated costs.

- 9. Consolidation of Pay Codes:** Matt Nielson presented the follow-up findings of Chief Child's recommendation to consolidate the number of pay codes available to employees. Matt's findings showed that 96.1 percent of all time was coded to the 48/52 split leaving only 3.90% to be divided up between multiple pay codes. Matt suggested that the amount of time and effort to divide up 3.90% exceeded the benefit of doing so. He recommended that all pay codes be consolidated in one. The other codes will still exist but will be used at the discretion of admin for special or specific projects as needed. The consolidation of pay codes is estimated to reduce the Ambulance expenditure per year \$3,785; the city is estimated to increase their expenditure per year \$3,672; and the Fire District is estimated to increase their expenditure per year \$113. Jerry Merrill motioned to accept the proposal to consolidate pay codes, the motion was seconded by Dr. Gardner, all ayes.
- 10. Payroll Considerations:** The city is recommending a bi-weekly payroll vs. the 24-day payroll we are currently doing. More work needs to be done on this recommendation to determine if there are additional costs associated with the change. Commissioner Mendenhall motioned to table this discussion until more information was discovered, seconded by Mayor Merrill, all aye.
- 11. PERSI Exemption:** The fire department has been using the PERSI RS 130 exemption for part-time employees since 2015 per the PERSI Director. There have been no complaints from PERSI on how this has been handled and there have been no inquiries from employees regarding the exemption. The city feels the fire department does not meet the requirements of the exemption and wants the department to stop using it. Mayor Merrill motioned to table this discussion until our next meeting, seconded by Commissioner Mendenhall, all aye. Spencer Rammel was asked by the board to please work with the fire department for further discovery.
- 12. Adjourn:** 1520. Motion to adjourn was made by Dr. Gardner, Seconded by Mayor Merrill, all aye.


Approval of Minutes:



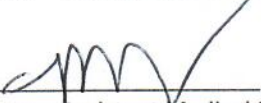
Kenneth Anderson – Fire Commissioner



Brent Mendenhall – County Commissioner



Jerry Merrill – Rexburg Mayor



Dr. Aaron Gardner – Assistant Medical Director