Call to Order:

The Meridian Rural Fire Protection District meeting for September 14, 2020, was called to order at 4:00 p.m. by Commissioner Ward. Roll call was taken.

Attendees: Commissioner Marvin Ward, Commissioner Derrick Shannon, Commissioner Randy Howell, John Fitzgerald, and Deputy Chief Charlie Butterfield. Chief Mark Niemeyer joined the meeting by telephone.

Approval of the Agenda:

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

Approval of the minutes:

Motion was made and seconded to approve the minutes from the August 10, 2020, MRFPD meeting. Motion approved.

Treasurer’s Report:

- Approve and pay bills as follows:
  - Check #5343, City of Meridian, $91,688.72 for July for 2020, Inv# 2727
  - Check #5344, ICRMP, $1,573.00 for Liability Insurance, Inv# 08146-2021-1
  - Check #5345, Idaho Press Tribune, $540.32, legal notices for budget publication, Inv# 0820356181
  - Check #5346, John O. Fitzgerald, $1,110.74, general legal services, Inv# 2020-09

A motion was made and seconded to approve and pay checks numbered 5343 through 5346 as presented. Motion approved.

- Current net cash position is currently $4,040,273.63.
- US Bank and LGIP statements were presented for review and approval.
- L2 Statement form was submitted to Ada County last Friday.
- QuickBooks files have been updated.
- Attorney Fitzgerald commented on the insurance premium paid to ICRMP for liability insurance. A letter received from ICRMP outlined changes to the policy such as the employment practices liability that now imposes a deductible of $5,000. This can be waived if the District would agree to consult with ICRMP before taking any type of adverse employment actions against any of their employees and to follow the advice of the ICRMP’s counsel for any employment actions. Because the District does not have any employees, agreeing to do so, would not pose a large risk, if any, to the District. Another changed listed in the letter from ICRMP is a $10,000 deductible being imposed on cyber insurance for risks relating to the District’s information technology infrastructure.
Old Business:

1. Update on St. 7 and 8, Chief Niemeyer. The budget for the design of fire stations 7 and 8 was approved during the City’s budget process and will be paid by impact fees. The initial design meeting opened up a discussion for a police sub-station or separate police building at both of the fire station locations. Meridian Police have impact fees collected as well that would cover the design and construction of their buildings. Each fire station site is large enough to accommodate two facilities. MPD’s priority is the NW area and our priority, as of today, is to the south. We support of the idea of a police and fire building in the same location and feel it would be a good shared space. We are looking at either separate buildings or one shared split building with a shared courtyard in the middle that both agencies could use. Police does have an FBI requirement that may prevent one shared building for security reasons. Deputy Chief Butterfield would like to move forward with signage posted at the Lake Hazel property that a fire station is coming for that location. The Commission approved for DC Butterfield to move forward in getting prices for the sign and also prices for a survey of the property. DC Butterfield will plan on presenting those quotes at the next Rural Fire District meeting. Chief Niemeyer reminded the District that they did put aside funds for these types of expenses in their fund balance.

2. Update on the de-annexation letter received and presented at last month’s meeting. Attorney Fitzgerald stated that the one missing piece of the de-annexation request received from Diane Lau and Richard Kryka, in Creighton Woods Subdivision, is the proof of acceptance into the Eagle Fire District. As part of their petition there should be a statement from Eagle Fire that this property will be accepted into the Eagle Fire District and, secondly, that Eagle Fire would provide sufficient fire service/protection. We need to ask the petitioners to obtain that from the Eagle Fire Department then the Commissioners would be in a position to evaluate the petition and possibly pass a resolution to grant de-annexation. Chief Niemeyer will contact Eagle Fire District to determine if this is an isolated piece of property in that area that needs de-annexation from the Meridian District or if there are more. If there are other properties that were missed in the original de-annexation, the District would like to do them all together. Attorney Fitzgerald suggested that, as far as the legal description is concerned, we can describe it as any part of the petitioner’s legal property that falls within the MRFPD instead of asking the property owners to obtain a formal survey of the property.

3. Covid-19 update, Chief Niemeyer. Meridian Fire crews are staying safe and healthy and continue to monitor cases within the county and our district.

New Business:

1. Chief Niemeyer mentioned to the Commission that it is fire season here in our area and as of right now, we do not have plans to send any of our fire crews to California to assist with their fires. With our fire season upon us and the uncertainties with Covid-19, we could quickly become short staffed. That may change if we get a formal request to deploy to California.

Motion was made and seconded to adjourn the September 14, 2020, meeting of the Meridian Rural Fire Protection District. Motion approved. The meeting was adjourned at 4:24 p.m.