

MESA COUNTY FIRE AUTHORITY BOARD MEETING MINUTES

March 25, 2025

At 7:08 PM Wayne DeGesualdo called the meeting to order. Murray Thiessen, Chuck Nelson, Wayne DeGesualdo, Eric Talley along with Eric Brown (by phone) was present for the board. Also in attendance: Members: R. Redd, V. Cary, C. Rodriquez, L. Raum, and Lt. Griffith; Public R. Phillips, Chief Balke, D. Hancock and Board Assistant Stacy Cox.

All in attendance recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

Wayne DeGesualdo said an opening prayer.

Approval of Minutes

Wayne DeGesualdo asked if everyone had a chance to read the minutes from the February's Board Meeting. Murray Thiessen made a motion to accept the minutes as presented. Eric Brown seconded the motion at the same time. All were in favor, no opposed. Motion carried.

Wayne DeGesualdo asked if everyone had a chance to read the minutes from the March's Special Board Meeting. Eric Talley made a motion to accept the minutes as presented. Murray Thiessen seconded the motion at the same time. All were in favor, no opposed. Motion carried.

OLD BUSINESS

MOU with Palisade-

Wayne DeGesualdo asked Chief Balke how the town of Palisade feels about the new MOU that was looked over by MCFA attorney with the grammatical corrections. Chief Balke said he did not see the new version. Stacy printed the new version. Chief Balke reviewed it and said he saw no reason why they would not approve it.

Chuck Nelson made a motion to accept the MOU with the town of Palisade as presented and rewritten by MCFA attorney. Eric Talley seconded the motion at the same time. All were in favor, no opposed. Motion carried.

EMTS Funding Program FY 2023 – Stacy Cox advised that the second request she sent in August never got worked. Forwarded the requests again and should have a check by the end of March according to Andre.

EMTS Funding Program FY 2024 – Stacy Cox advised that the second request she sent in August never got worked. Forwarded the requests again and should have a check by the end of March according to Andre.

NEW BUSINESS

Application for Exemption from Audit

Application for exemption from audit was prepared by independent CPA, Brian Blair, of Blair and Associates, PC. After reviewing it, Eric Brown made a motion to accept and submit the exemption of audit. Eric Talley seconded the motion at the same time. All were in favor, no opposed. Motion carried. Application and resolution was signed.

Treasurers Report

Murray Thiessen presented the 2025 year-to-date treasurer's report, advised still little to report as we are at 30.55% income for the year and at 10.13% year-to-date expenses. Stacy said she is not sure if the income is correct and a deposit might have been entered twice. 107 is a refund from workers comp insurance. Stacy advised the office expense is already so high due to website annual cost and asked if we could create category 314 on the budget for the website expense so we make sure to take it into consideration on each budget. Chuck Nelson made a motion to approve the 2025 year-to-date treasurer's reports with correction on income, Eric Talley seconded the motion. All in favor, no opposed, motion carried. (After review the income is correct. There was a deposit after the 1st of year from the vehicle savings account from Lands End Fire.

May's Meeting

Stacy Cox advised she would be out of town on May 27th and it is the day after Memorial Day; asked if May's meeting could be moved to May 20th. Eric Brown made a motion to accept the change of date. Murray Thiessen seconded the motion at the same time. All were in favor, no opposed. Motion carried.

Chiefs Report

Personnel:

- We currently have 20 members up from 19 in February with 4 pending applications. Our max capacity for members due to insurance is 24.

2 new personnel joined the department:

- Robert R. lives in Whitewater and has been working on getting his driving training done.
- Kiera is our new Community Outreach/Event Coordinator but would like to become a full member and EMT sometime next year.

- 1 Member resigned due to moving to Nevada to pursue a new opportunity
- 1 Member is on a LOA due to a non-department medical issue/injury and hopes to return in March after being cleared for duty by a doctor.
- 1 Member is not responding to communication attempts and without improvement will be let go soon to make room for new applicants.

Members have been getting their quarterly reviews done. We are setting goals and identifying obstacles that might prevent them from completing those goals. This will help a lot with moving members through certifications and helping them maintain their status with the department. It will also help provide insight into the challenges that affect our members the most and make it easier to come up with department-wide solutions.

EMS Update:

We currently have 2 protocolled EMTs and 4 probationary EMTs. 1 provider has finished their preliminary calls and are working through their meetings and added on requirements. 1 provider is starting his rides

- Paulina had her third meeting in March and was cleared to run calls independently
- Hugo had his preliminary meeting with Chris Rowland but was extended to give him more time to become more familiar with equipment and correct a couple things. He is now working on extra training and doing more rides.
- Matt is starting his rides with GJFD and we came up with a plan for him to be completed and hopefully on protocol in June.
- We are still required to be on auto-aid for EMS calls until Paulina gets a few calls in and we can present a schedule that shows coverage most of the time. Val & Paulina are working on coordinating schedules to provide as much coverage as possible.
- We have several members and some new applicants that are finishing up EMT school and will be ready to start getting on protocol within the next few months

Training:

- For March we had
 - 1 EMS Training covering burns in pediatric and adult patients and carbon monoxide poisoning. Members did scenarios as part of their training to work on teamwork, communication, and practice handling burn and monoxide patients.
 - 1 Business meeting
 - 1 Fire training during which members in teams of two practiced entering a confined smoke fill space to locate and rescue a patient simulating locating a patient in a structure fire. They all did very well.
- Members have also been doing individual training with me to get signed off on operating apparatus and pump ops.
- Chris Rowland comes out to the station on Mondays or Tuesday and is doing extra EMS training with any of our EMTs that want to attend and working with the probationary EMTs

Apparatus/Equipment:

- Eng 51 – Mechanic ordered parts to fix the manual cab tilt and to replace the leaking pump seals. I'm currently working on a schedule with the mechanic for him to come finish repairs
- Eng 52 has a water leak that we are working on fixing
- B-53 sprung a leak on a T-fitting on the pump, so I picked up the part and Val & Calista helped me repair it. That part is working great but there are some other parts on a different part of the truck that will need to be replaced this year. We are working on it as we have time
- I'm working on getting all apparatus in for DOT inspections. We have some of them completed and are rotating them as fast as TransWest is getting them done.

We are doing a fundraiser on Sunday July 27th at Station 53. Theme is going to be a safety fair with stations for CPR, First Aid, Fire prevention, and Safety. We will also be doing a silent auction, bake sale, and Free community BBQ

We are working on decluttering, cleaning and organizing the stations as we have time as well as working on Station 52 to get it cleared out by June.

Murray Theissen said that while burning his pasture two pastures over they were also doing a control burn but it got out of control and MCFA did a great job and had a good response.

Image Trend Call Reports

Stacy Cox went over the 3 of 4 normal Image Trend reports which included Mutual Aid (given and received), Area of Call and Category of call. Time of Arrival did not get into the packet Stacy also presented the two, two-week reports, since the last board meeting, of who worked shifts, how many calls received and who responded to those calls, advised these two periods did not have a single call that we did not respond to.

Community Meetings/Events:

Stacy Cox advised of the Upcoming Community Meetings/Events

March 29th at 5pm Julie/ Ditch meeting (wants in the building at 4)

March 30th CMU Race in LEFPD

April 5th Whitewater Cemetery meeting at Noon

April 26th Test and Tune at Drag Way first event of season (if signed contract is returned)

Other Matters before the Board:

Chuck Nelson advised that he ran into former member Jordan and she is doing good, back on track and working on her getting her sticks for her EMT. Chuck also advised that this board is losing Eric Brown and Chuck Nelson from Lands Ends Fire Protection Board in May.

Eric Brown thanked Courtney and team for doing what they are doing for the authority and the community. Wayne DeGesualdo agreed.

Courtney advised that she did call on the DOLA grant and left a message as there are lots of grants. Chief Balke said she might be looking for the Lot Grant.

Public Comment:

Rich Phillips thinks we should not be limited to 24 members due to worker's comp insurance., should raise it to 30. Stacy Cox advised not just workers comp but also gear for members.

Rich Phillips also said that Grand Junction has one hell of a training center up by the drag way and wants to know what we need to do to use it. Chief Balke explained the CMU owns the land, DCFP owns the tower and Grand Junction owns the infrastructure. Courtney advised that cost is one reason. Chief Balke advised that will change with him on board, as already has 6 dates on the calendar and we can join those dates. Chief Balke said that with more agencies joining then the cost can be split between all agencies making it more affordable.

Rich Phillips confirmed that they are able to use the station for the cemetery meeting on Saturday April 5th.

Adjournment of meeting

Murray Theissen made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Eric Talley seconded the motion. All in favor, no opposed, motion carried. Meeting adjourned.

Next Board Meeting is April 22, 2025 at 7PM.

Respectfully Submitted,

Stacy Cox
Administrative Assistant
Mesa County Fire Authority



ATTEST



ATTEST

ATTEST