

MESA COUNTY FIRE AUTHORITY BOARD MEETING MINUTES

February 25, 2025

At 7:01 PM Wayne DeGesualdo called the meeting to order. Murray Thiessen, Chuck Nelson, Wayne DeGesualdo along with Eric Brown (by phone) was present for the board. Eric Talley had an excused absence.

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 January 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.

OLD BUSINESS

MOU with Palisade-

Wayne DeGesualdo explained that Chuck Nelson and he met with town of Palisade Admin/manager, Member of the Fire Board and Chief Balke. They reviewed and made some changes the MOU. Wayne said that neither Andy nor Chris is in favor of Palisade running calls from inside MCFA's area which was not and is not part of the plan. Chuck advised he is okay with the over sight of administrative issues, equipment, personal oversight, but allow Courtney to continue to run EMS issues and compensate her for her efforts. Today, Wayne received a copy of the new MOU. After looking over the MOU, Chuck Nelson made a motion to send the MOU to the attorney and if he approves it, to accept the new MOU. Eric Brown seconded the motion at the same time. All were in favor, no opposed. Motion carried.

Gateway Funding Source- Stacy provided a copy of Gateways budget so the public could see how that district is paying for full time staff. A private donation and the resort paying them makes up the short fall from the tax revenue they are receiving which allows Gateway to pay for full time staff.

EMTS Funding Program FY 2023 – Stacy Cox advised that the second requests 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 requests she sent in August never got worked. Forwarded the requests again and should have a check by the end of March according to Andre along as he gets picture of safety features that were mentioned in the grant even though they are not paying for those features.

NEW BUSINESS

Disclosure of Conflicts of Interest on the Board

Stacy Cox advised the board that Gateway would like a meeting with MCFA's board to follow up on something the county commissioners said about joining forces. The board agreed that they could meet with them either at our next regular scheduled meeting of March 25, 2025 at 7:15 or on March 19th at 7pm. Stacy will follow up with the board of Gateway and let MCFA board know the outcome.

Treasurers Report

Murray Thiessen presented the 2025 year-to-date treasurer's report, advised still little to report as we are at .26% income for the year and at 5.02% year-to-date expenses. A large chunk of that is in 408 which was towing to Transwest and the repair they completed. It was noted that the money moved from LEFPD to Alpine is not noted on this report so Alpine should have \$60k plus in the account. Stacy advised it does, she just forgot to update the number on the treasurer's report. ANB Bank CD is to renew on 03/14 and Vectra Bank is to renew on 5/19. Alpine is a passbook/money market. Chuck Nelson made a motion to approve the 2025 year-to-date treasurer's reports as presented, Eric Brown seconded the motion. All in favor, no opposed, motion carried.

Chiefs Report

Personnel:

- We currently have 19 members up from 16 (17 corrected) in January 2024

2 new personnel joined the department:

- Michael has already been making calls and is learning quickly and eagerly
- Connor has wildland experience and is going to help organize the wildland fire side of the department. He is also looking to take an accelerated EMT course in AZ to get his expired EMT certification back
- Frank was not on the earlier roster as he is primarily doing standbys and assisting with other department tasks. I have added him to the current roster
- 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.
- We have had interest from several other people wanting to join, including a couple of EMTs but they haven't returned their application packets yet. 1 other EMT applicant has passed the initial background check but won't be ready to move forward with the interview and hiring process until a little closer to summer.
- I passed my National EMS Instructor 1 certification class and should be receiving my official certificate this week.

EMS Update

We currently have 1 protocolled EMT and 5 probationary EMTs. 2 providers have finished their preliminary calls and are working through their meetings and added on requirements.

- Paulina had her second meeting in January and was told her documentation was almost perfect but that it was too similar to the Paramedics she was riding with, so she was extended another month and had to do a shift with Dr. Powers as well which went well. She is doing more ride shifts with GJFD to get more reports to turn in. Her next meeting should be in March.
- 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.
- Calista is going through EMT school and is scheduled to be done in mid-May.

Training:

- For Feb we had
 - 1 EMS Training covering EMS scene management, incident command, trauma triage, and management of an MCI incident.
 - 1 Business meeting
 - 1 Fire training during which members practiced timed drills going from call notification to responding, arriving on scene, securing a water supply, and deploying lines. All participating members performed 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 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 waiting to hear back from him to see when he can get back out to complete the repairs. The Engine is currently in service for calls
- Eng 52 was taken to TransWest and they completed the repairs per the quote that was reviewed last meeting. The Engine is now back at the station and is operating well. Apparently, the issues were being caused by a fuel issue that was leading to lack of power to the engine and interfering with multiple systems. The Engine did receive some freeze damage to the water lines due to being left outside at the mechanic shop when it wasn't completely winterized. The leak seems to be coming from a rubber drain line. I'm working on getting the leak fixed so the Engine can go back into service.

- I'm working on getting all apparatus scheduled for DOT inspections. Dodd Diesel did them for us in the past but they are no longer doing them due to lack of manpower. TransWest can do them for \$165 per vehicle plus they would be able to correct any issues that come up if we want them to.
- I would like to get dash cams installed on 2 of our primary response apparatus (Eng 51 & Squad 51). 2 of our ambulances already have them. I think it would be good for both accountability and help to protect us in case of incidents while responding to calls. We would probably be looking at around \$200/per vehicle to purchase them.

Several of our members did some major cleaning and organizing at Station 51 and are now working on other projects to get the other stations and apparatus in tip-top shape.

Members have started the planning for a July fundraiser. We just need to set a date that doesn't overlap with other ongoing department standbys/events. Looking at doing a safety fair as a theme for the fund raising BBQ. Chuck Nelson advised to check with Brian Clark for Sidewalk CPR.

Chuck Nelson also asked if Courtney was looking at trying to get back on protocol with Dr. Powers seeing EMTs. Courtney said she has been working on things and has thought about it and she is sitting through trainings with Chris Rowland when he comes to the station.

Image Trend Call Reports

Stacy Cox went over the 4 normal Image Trend reports which included Mutual Aid (given and received), Time of Arrival, Area of Call and Category of call. 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.

Community Meetings/Events:

Stacy Cox advised that Elk Run HOA will hold a meeting here on 03/10 at 6pm. Juniata Ditch Company will hold a meeting here on 03/18 at 6pm. CMU bike race will take place on March 30th in Lands Ends Fire Protection District.

Other Matters before the Board:

Courtney asked about releasing the lease at Station 52. After discussion on where things will be stored and what that would look like. It was agreed to save money and resources the lease would be released on 06-30-2025. Stacy Cox will follow up with the county to see what we need to do to release the lease.

Stacy Cox asked how much compensation they would like to give to Courtney Griffith for stepping in as acting chief. After some discussion Chuck Nelson made a motion to moved 808 Chief Health Insurance to 810 Training Lt. pay thus providing Courtney with an additional \$500 a month for taking on additional responsibilities. Eric Brown seconded the motion. All in favor, no opposed, motion carried.

Public Comment:

Rich Phillips asked that the Whitewater Cemetery Board be able to hold a meeting here on April 4th at noon. Stacy Cox checked the schedule and advised that would work.

Adjournment of meeting

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

Next Board Meeting is March 25, 2025 following LEFPD Meeting.

Respectfully Submitted,

Stacy Cox
Administrative Assistant
Mesa County Fire Authority



ATTEST



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