



**CENTRAL VALLEY FIRE DISTRICT
BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING**

215 Wings Way
Belgrade, MT 59714
406-388-4480
(Fax): 406-388-6270

MEETING PLACE: Central Valley Fire District, Station 1
215 Wings Way, Belgrade, MT

DATE: March 21, 2023

TIME: 5:30 p.m.

ATTENDANCE: (Present) (Absent)

Trustees:

Ty Elliot, Chair	X	
Tim Sheehy, Vice Chair		X
Mark MacLeod, Sec/Treas.	X	
Justin Varley	X	
Ron Murray	X	
Fire Chief: Greg Tryon	X	
Fire Marshal: Jake Zlomie	X	
Operations Chief: Justin Monroe		X
Acting Clerk: Debbie Bloem	X	
City Representative: Jim Simon	X	

NOTICE: ALL MEETINGS OF THE CENTRAL VALLEY FIRE DISTRICT BOARD
OF TRUSTEES ARE RECORDED

GUESTS/VISITORS: Rob Holt, Mo Holt, Neil Cardwell, Nathan Bilyeu, Tyler Samlowski, Jon Erickson, Miranda Roy, Sean Rodino II, Gabriel McManus, Collin Brozka, Dustin Pitman, Jeff Ball

The meeting was called to order at 5:30 p.m.

Chairman Elliot led the Pledge of Allegiance.

AGENDA: As presented.

MINUTES: Trustee Varley moved to approve the **February 14, 2023 minutes** as submitted. Trustee Murray seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved.

FINANCIAL REPORTS: Trustee MacLeod moved to approve **the financial reports**. Trustee Murray seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved.

COMMUNICATIONS: Central Valley Fire District received a **thank you note** from a resident who had a heart attack three years ago and provided an update and expressed heartfelt appreciation for the care that the responding crew provided. An article by NBC Montana was included, regarding the expansion of the **CVFD volunteer program**.

PUBLIC COMMENT: **Rob Holt** introduced himself and expressed the appreciation of the Reese Creek community for the CPR/AED class that was recently conducted by CVFD and attended by 20 residents. There is interest in another class in the future.

PRESENTATIONS: **The Belgrade City Manager, Neil Cardwell** introduced himself and expressed appreciation for the relationship between the City and CVFD. City Manager Cardwell went over his presentation to provide an overview of what is happening in the City of Belgrade particularly regarding **current growth** since its residents annexed into the Central Valley Fire District. 1300 acres has been annexed into the City in the past 18 months, doubling the footprint of Belgrade. He

continued to review the different developments which have been approved and are projected to add thousands, more than doubling the population of Belgrade in the next decade and necessitating **infrastructure** updates, including provisions for increased traffic. After recently completing the new waste-water system, it is necessary to begin building an additional system before more development can be approved. Additional office space is being built for the City of Belgrade with plans to build a new library on the old fire station site and a public works facility in a different location. Wells are being developed which will probably have underground storage. Funds have been set aside and work will begin this year on a master plan for Belgrade. The City is also investing in new financial software. City Manager Cardwell reviewed the different traffic projects that are upcoming. He looks forward to continuing to partner with the District.

Nathan Bilyeu, a public finance attorney with Jackson, Murdo & Grant will be working with the District on presenting a **Mill Levy** to provide additional funding for the District, projected to be placed on the ballot in the Fall. He provided an overview of the public funding issues that he has assisted with and went over the timing and public outreach necessary. Once the District has approved the Mill Levy request, they should allow 90 days to get this on the ballot.

FIRE CHIEF REPORT:

As submitted.

Chief Tryon pointed out the ramifications that the growth in the City and District has on the placement of fire stations. He then went on to report on the possibility of **combining resources** with other fire departments in the area and operating as one fire department in the future. The County will be wrapping up their EMS study in the next couple of months. In light of growth and the many strengths and demands in the valley, partnerships make sense from the Fire Chief's perspective.

Negotiations with the Union wrapped up yesterday.

Fire Chief Tryon expressed appreciation for the training that took place with the **Reese Creek community** and stated that the

department will next be looking at wildland training and continue to put together appropriate volunteer programs that work well for the entire District.

As the District looks at the **budget**, the need for future stations and their locations will be examined.

Trustees Sheehy and Murray have been **re-elected by acclamation** to their positions as trustees.

OPERATIONS REPORT:

As submitted. In DC Monroe's absence, Chief Tryon reported that three individuals have received and accepted conditional offers as career firefighters. They fill vacated positions and will begin the GVFA academy at the beginning of April.

FIRE PREVENTION REPORT: As submitted.

Fire Marshal Zlomie reviewed his report, going over the inspection of the new Fed Ex distribution facility for radio coverage, which went well.

The 2021 Fire Code has been adopted by the state of Montana and will be considered by CVFD at the next meeting, along with an update to the Fee schedule and resulting update to the CVFD Board of Appeals Rules.

FM Zlomie went over the trainings that he and FLSS Yung have attended as well as the construction breakdown from February.

LOCAL 4939 REPORT:

Union President Dustin Pitman reported that the crews continue to experience simultaneous calls, some of them being particularly serious and recognized the good work of the members. After negotiations, the updated CBA has been agreed on and will go before the Union in two days. He reminded the Board of Trustees of the merger language in the CBA and asked to be kept informed of any plans in that area. President Pitman also offered the help of the IAFF members to help spread the word regarding the future mill levy.

TRUSTEE REPORT:

Trustee Murray urged continued monitoring of the actions of this legislative session.

CITY LIAISON REPORT:

City Council Member Simon reported that it has been good to see firefighters using the old fire station for training as the City prepares to tear it down to make way for the new library building. He did confirm that the Belgrade Fire Department plaque was removed and will be placed in the new library building to commemorate the historical significance of the location.

Trustee Varley moved to accept **the reports** as submitted. Trustee Murray seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved.

ORDER OF BUSINESS:

ACTION ITEMS:

Trustee MacLeod moved to take the meeting into **executive session** for the discussion of the CBA. Trustee Varley seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved.

Trustee MacLeod moved to open meeting and **close executive session**. Trustee Murray seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved.

Trustee Varley moved to **approve the updated CBA**. Trustee MacLeod seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

The next regular meeting of the Central Valley Fire District Board of Trustees is scheduled for **April 11, 2023**, immediately following the quarterly meeting of the CVFD Board of Appeals.

ADJOURNMENT:

The meeting was adjourned at 7:29 p.m.


Ty Elliot, Chairman


Mark MacLeod, Secretary/Treasurer

ATTEST: 
Debbie Bloem, Clerk