



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

215 Wings Way
Belgrade, MT 59714
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MEETING PLACE: Central Valley Fire District, Station 1
215 Wings Way, Belgrade, MT

DATE: May 16, 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: Deb Bloem	X	
City Representative: Jim Simon	X	

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

GUESTS/VISITORS: Kevin Smith

Meeting was called to order at 5:30 p.m.

Trustee Varley led the Pledge of Allegiance.

AGENDA: As presented.

OATH OF OFFICE: Office Manager Bloem administered the **Oath of Office to Trustee Murray**, elected by acclamation, May 2, 2023.

ELECTION OF OFFICERS: Trustee Murray moved to **nominate Trustee Ty Elliot as Chairman, Trustee Varley as Vice Chairman and Trustee MacLeod as Secretary/Treasurer**. Trustee MacLeod seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved.

MINUTES: Trustee MacLeod moved to approve the **April 11, 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: None.

PUBLIC COMMENT: None.

FIRE CHIEF REPORT: As submitted.
Fire Chief Tryon reported that a paramedic member has resigned and moved to Utah for cost of living and family reasons. The graduation of the current **Gallatin Valley Fire Academy** will be June 9th. Three CVFD members will be graduating. The Chief Tryon appreciates the **community relationships** that are being fostered by events at the fire station especially with the library. Reese Creek Community and the Volunteer Firefighter Association are each having **Pancake Breakfast** fundraisers in June.
The DNRC has returned the official paperwork for the lease for property for a future station at **Frank and Thorpe**, an area

expecting an additional 10,000 residences in the next few years. Work continues to explore options for a maintenance facility for the department.

A **new auditor**, Rudd and Company, has been engaged to perform the FY23 audit for the department. Another insurance broker has been working on some options for **medical insurance** to make sure that the department is making the best choice for its members.

The three chiefs met with the **Hyalite Fire Board of Trustees** and the trustees are supportive of working on a relationship with CVFD to explore areas of collaboration.

After years of preparation, public safety services which utilize 911 dispatch in the Gallatin Valley are moving towards the final steps to switch to a computerized, **800-megahertz (MHz) radio system**. The old system cannot support the growing needs of the area. At this point, the department is working to overcome issues involving returning equipment purchased for this transition that does not meet some additional state requirements and purchasing the correct equipment that has the ability to operate on two systems but is also intrinsically safe. It may be that impact fees from the City of Belgrade will be able to cover this expense.

OPERATIONS REPORT:

As submitted.

Deputy Chief Monroe reported that the **three new members** who are currently completing the career academy (GVFA) will be reporting for shifts in mid-June. DC Monroe reviewed the various department **trainings** covered in the past month, including nozzle and wildland training, a review of medical calls and a walk through at the airport.

The department has moved to a **new records management system, First Due** and he has been busy with that transition. This system will also be used for scheduling and payroll. DC Monroe also went over the current challenges with **apparatus replacement** and some options that are being utilized to make those purchases. The two new fire trucks are nearing completion and a new Battalion Chief vehicle and new Fire Chief vehicle are in process.

FIRE PREVENTION REPORT: As submitted.

Fire Marshal Zlomie reported that he met with the **local Red Cross** representative and they provided 50 smoke alarms to the department for the community and will continue to provide detectors for the crews to install to ensure that the District residents are protected. They have several programs that will be good resources for the department.

The Belgrade Library continues to be a great partnership with regular outreach events coordinated through them.

The Fire Investigation Class hosted by CVFD went very well, with a lot of good feedback and five of the department members attending.

LOCAL 4939 REPORT: None.

TRUSTEE REPORT: None.

CITY LIAISON REPORT: **Council Member Jim Simon** reported on the continuing growth. A City of Belgrade Parks District has now been formed as a result of the last election.

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

ORDER OF BUSINESS:

DISCUSSION ITEMS: **Future Mill Levy Needs**

Chief Tryon presented some options for a mill levy request. This included the estimated cost to a resident per \$100,000 of house value, whether the mill levy should sunset or be permanent and the cost of staffing a station. The money from this mill levy would be used for staffing.

Discussion followed regarding the different options, particularly the timing of this request and the advantages of requesting less mills and making it permanent or requesting more mills and sunsetting the mill levy.

Action on a mill levy election resolution may be necessary in the next few weeks, possibly before the next scheduled board meeting in order to meet the County Election deadlines. A tentative meeting time was discussed.

ACTION ITEMS:

Consideration and Approval of FY24 Preliminary Budget

Fire Chief Tryon reviewed his budget message, as well as a comparison of budget requests over the years. When CVFD is compared with other departments, it appears that a disproportionate amount of the budget goes towards items vs personnel but when looking solely at discretionary funds, not restricted to apparatus or facilities, 85% of discretionary funds go towards personnel. Each year, the District approves a preliminary budget request and then awaits the numbers from the County regarding the District's funding for the next fiscal year, passing a final budget towards the end of August. The County is expecting 20% growth, but the Fire Chief is lowering his expectations to 15%.

Trustee MacLeod moved to approve the **FY24 Preliminary Budget**. Trustee Murray seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved.

Consideration and Adoption of Resolution 222308 to Approve the Updated Fee Schedule

Fire Marshal Zlomie reviewed some of the changes to fees. Some reviews need to be expedited due to varying circumstances and some may apply. The substantial increases are to fire extinguishing systems while residential sprinkler systems are remaining the same.

Trustee MacLeod moved to adopt **resolution 222308, to approve the updated fee schedule**. Trustee Murray 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 **June 13, 2023**.

ADJOURNMENT:

The meeting was adjourned at 6:55 p.m.


Ty Elliot, Chairman


Mark MacLeod, Secretary/Treasurer

ATTEST: 
Debbie Bloem, Clerk