



**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: August 8, 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: Darren Wilkins, Rob and Mo Holt, Don Bitz

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 **July 11, 2023 minutes** as submitted. Trustee Murray seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved.

FINANCIAL REPORTS: The Financial Reports will be available for the Special Budget Meeting later this month.

COMMUNICATIONS: The District received a notice of annexation of the "Baxter 80" into the City of Bozeman.

PUBLIC COMMENT: **Rob Holt**, Gee Norman Road, a resident from the Reese Creek Community, recognized volunteer firefighter Kenzie Henning for her work to secure a \$7,000 grant. He would like to request that this, along with other monies raised from the pancake breakfast, be used to purchase some equipment for wildland firefighting for the Reese Creek Station 4.
Don Bitz, also from the Reese Creek Community would like to discuss the needs of the Reese Creek area with the District Chiefs. He is concerned about the upcoming fire season.

INTRODUCTION: **Darren Wilkins** was introduced as a possible replacement for Trustee Tim Sheehy upon his upcoming resignation. Mr. Wilkins served in the US Navy for 20 years and after moving to the Gallatin Valley, was hired five years ago with Bridger Aerospace. He is their president of operations. Chief Tryon added that Mr. Wilkins has experience in logistics management and upscaling organizations to meet the evolving needs of their customers.

VOLUNTEER ASSOCIATION: **Volunteer Defensive Firefighter Makenzie Henning** was introduced and reported that the **pancake breakfast and fundraiser** went very well, raising \$11,000. The Volunteer

Firefighter Association has also received **Town Pump Grants** totaling \$14,000 to use for public AED's. FF Henning thanked Rob and Mo for their help with the application process for those grants. Maureen Holt added that an additional \$2,000 will be available from the Reese Creek Community fundraiser as well.

FIRE CHIEF REPORT:

As submitted.

Chief Greg Tryon mentioned that the Guns and Hoses Softball game will be Friday. The Reese Creek Community will have a Country Dance Fundraiser on September 9th.

The department is welcoming **two new firefighter hires**. One is hired as a Firefighter/paramedic and the other Firefighter/EMT has been a volunteer member for the past year and will be entering the paramedic program.

The Gallatin Valley Firefighter Academy (GVFA) will begin its Fall, 2023 session on August 28 with eight new hires from Bozeman Fire Department and the two new hires from CVFD.

Lonnie Rash will be arriving as the Deputy Fire Chief on September 5th. Further information will be available in the next few weeks regarding the upcoming transition.

Defensive Firefighter **Volunteers** will receive additional training to fight interior fires as well as training for their red card wildland certification.

Chief Tryon went over some information from the State of Montana to help with understanding the **revenue** available to the District and some of the limitations on that.

The decision was made to not change the **health insurance** for career members at this time and to form a committee in January to take another look at health insurance options.

There is a **shortage of paramedics** in the department. This reflects a nationwide problem. Three members at CVFD will be entering the ALS (Advanced Life Support) program and should be available in the next 18 months to serve as paramedics. New hires will be required to enter training to become paramedics. Flathead Community College is working with the District and other departments to provide a local course for the Valley. Clinicals will need to be provided at hospitals in larger cities at one or two

weeks at a time but the local certification will help facilitate this program.

Chief Tryon shared the circumstances of **two critical incidents** and his appreciation for the compassion, composure and skills of the responding crews.

Firefighter/EMT Fiorentino had her first experience delivering a baby.

OPERATIONS REPORT: None.

FIRE PREVENTION REPORT: As submitted.

Fire Marshal Zlomie congratulated Fire Life Safety Specialist Brandon Yung upon the completion of his first-year probation. Quite a bit of pre-incident planning was completed in preparation for the ISO evaluation. The results from ISO should be available in about six months. In working on pre-plans some issues have been identified with satellite imagery not catching up with the rapid new construction taking place. On the IT front, Stations 2 and 3 now have updated firewalls and Station 1 is now using fiber optics for internet. Fire Prevention week is coming in October.

LOCAL 4939 REPORT: None.

TRUSTEE REPORT:

Trustee Murray proposed that the department look into creating a new position of Driver Operator which would be an hourly, paid position to provide a driver for the ambulance. Discussion followed regarding following up on this possibility and some of the challenges with meeting the EMS needs in the area.

CITY LIAISON REPORT:

Belgrade City Council Member Simon spoke about work to tie in the new water systems in Belgrade. The commercial building seems to be growing significantly in the City. The Parks and Recreation Board has been created and will begin working on projects. The new library is scheduled to open in the fall of 2024.

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

ORDER OF BUSINESS:

DISCUSSION ITEMS:

Discussion of the State of Montana Valuation of the Central Valley Fire District

Chief Tryon reported that the mill levy submission had to be redone to reflect the cost to the taxpayer for mills based on an assessed home value of \$100,000, \$300,000 and \$600,000.

Whatever the assessed value of a property, the District's revenue is only allowed to grow 2.45% each year. He continued to review the possible revenue scenarios and mill request to raise the District out of the deficit. Resident Rob Holt expressed concern about the increase in assessed property values coinciding with a mill levy increase request. Considering the growth in the area, necessitating additional hires and new facilities as well as the current need for competitive wages, the trustees agreed that the District should request **30 mills**.

In response to Maureen Holt's concerns that other revenue sources be explored, Chief Tryon explained the **GEMT (Ground Emergency Medical Transportation) Federal funding** that could be available if the State of Montana would agree to it could be used to greatly alleviate funding needs.

ACTION ITEMS:

Consideration and Adoption of Resolution 232401 to Rescind the September 12th Mill Levy Election.

Trustee Varley moved to **Adopt Resolution 232401 to Rescind the September 12th Mill Levy Election**. Trustee Murray seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved.

Consideration and Adoption of Resolution 232402 Calling for an Election in November to Authorize a Mill Levy.

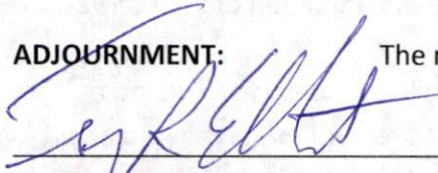
Trustee Murray moved to **Adopt Resolution 232402 Calling for an Election in November to Authorize a Levy of 30 Mills**. Trustee MacLeod seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

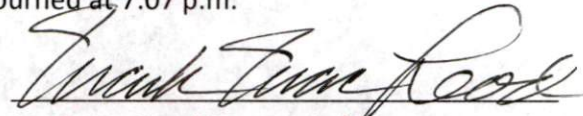
The next regular meeting of the Central Valley Fire District Board of Trustees is scheduled for **September 12, 2023**.

ADJOURNMENT:

The meeting was adjourned at 7:07 p.m.



Ty Elliot, Chairman



Mark MacLeod, Secretary/Treasurer

ATTEST: 

Debbie Bloem, Clerk