



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

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

DATE: September 12, 2023

TIME: 5:30 p.m.

ATTENDANCE: (Present) (Absent)

Trustees:

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Ty Elliot, Chair | X | |
| Vacant | | X |
| Mark MacLeod, Sec/Treas. | X | |
| Justin Varley | X | |
| Ron Murray | X | |
| <i>Fire Chief:</i> Greg Tryon | X | |
| <i>Fire Marshal:</i> Jake Zlomie | X | |
| <i>Operations Chief:</i> Justin Monroe | X | |
| <i>Acting Clerk:</i> Deb Bloem | X | |
| <i>City Representative:</i> Jim Simon | X | |

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

GUESTS/VISITORS: Glenn Bradbury, Dominic Oakes, Jeff Ball, Justin Monroe, Miranda Roy, Collin Brozka, Gabe McManus. Reese Creek residents: Tom Griffin, Bruce Miller, Don Bitz, Darren Wilkins, Rob & Mo Holt.

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

Chairman Elliot led the Pledge of Allegiance.

AGENDA: As presented.

OATH OF OFFICE: Chairman Elliot administered the **Oath of Office for Deputy Chief to Lonnie Rash.**

MINUTES: Trustee MacLeod moved to approve the **August 8th and August 22nd 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: **A resident** sent a thank you to the Station 3 crew, for taking the time to interact with his son. The Board of Trustees also appreciates the way that the crews take time to make positive contact with members of the community. **EMS volunteer Kathleen Godfrey**, who also works with the library, passed along a thank you and words of appreciation from the Gilhousen Family Foundation for the partnership between CVFD and the library.

PUBLIC COMMENT: **Tom Griffin of Reese Creek**, stated that he meets regularly with a group of residents that are interested in bolstering the firefighting capability out of the Reese Creek (Station 4) firehouse. There is a lot of energy amongst the 20 folks who have been engaged in fundraising and trainings offered by CVFD. They realize that they need to partner with CVFD and would like to develop a group of volunteers that would be trained by the District. Mr. Griffin requested that a Brush Truck, Engine and Tender be dedicated to

the Reese Creek Station and the Reese Creek Community hopes to provide the volunteers to support the Station.

Fire Chief Tryon responded that, along with the initial EMS trainings that have been hosted for Reese Creek, Best Practice Medicine is being engaged to provide a **first responders' class** for the Reese Creek volunteers. A **defensive firefighter academy** for exterior fire suppression will also be offered. Chairman Elliot asked that a **point of contact** be designated for the Reese Creek Community. A request was made by a resident that **internet** be made available at Station 4 to help make training more accessible.

FIRE CHIEF REPORT:

As submitted.

Chief Tryon began by expressing appreciation for his time with the department and his excitement for this next chapter for both himself and the District. He recommended Lonnie Rash for the position of **Acting Fire Chief**, citing his experience in leading, managing, and developing infrastructure for larger fire departments. DC Rash is returning to the area and has many ties from previous years of living here in the Valley with his family.

As the District grows in population, calls for service are increasing all over the Valley. Deputy Chief Rash has experience with working to pass Mill Levies and will work on getting information to the board and firefighters to pass on to the community.

The District has hired a **new auditor**, Rudd and Company for the FY23 audit, which will begin soon.

The **EMS study** is ongoing and will enable the County to put together a plan for EMS delivery and funding for the area.

Meanwhile, the Battalion Chiefs have been working hard to send appropriate resources to each call.

Several members have been on leave and **light duty** due to injuries and are beginning to return to full duty as they heal.

The **Volunteer FF1 Academy** just wrapped up and the **Gallatin Valley Fire Academy** (career) is in their third week. These academies are vital and require a lot of resources and attention from the Training Officer, as well as the crews as they assist with classes and help new members begin covering shifts.

DC Rash and FC Tryon met with the US Forest Service to consider allowing their Smoke Jumpers to use **Dry Creek, Station 7** to work

on sewing and repairing parachutes over the winter to prepare for the upcoming season.

OPERATIONS REPORT:

DC Lonnie Rash thanked Chief Tryon and Chief Monroe for their work on the hand off over the past week. Chief Rash's focus is sustainability right now, especially as it pertains to recruitment and retention, and funding sources into the future. He will be working on providing a clear understanding of development as the department grows and matures. Chief Rash will work with staff on the marketing plan and timeline for communicating information to the community regarding this Mill Levy Election. Since leaving the area several years ago, Chief Rash has consistently received confirmation of this organization's reputation for unwavering, excellent service through all of its challenges, thanks to its dedicated members.

FIRE PREVENTION REPORT: As submitted.

Fire Marshal Zlomie reported that about 700 fire hats were handed out at **Digger Days**. This is a great event in support of Eagle Mount. Library Fire **Station Tours** are booked into November. Fire Prevention week will include additional tours. Firefighters on light duty have helped complete a significant percentage of **pre-plans** for the District.

Fire permit numbers have been on the rise and the crews continue to perform walk throughs to familiarize themselves with new or modified structures.

Internet fiber is fully functioning for Station 1 and an agreement for sharing IT services with the City of Belgrade is being worked on.

LOCAL 4939 REPORT:

None.

TRUSTEE REPORT:

None.

CITY LIAISON REPORT:

Council Member Jim Simon reported that the City Budget was approved at the last Council Meeting and the Department of Parks and Recreation has been created.

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

ORDER OF BUSINESS:

DISCUSSION ITEMS:

Fire Chief Tryon asked that Lonnie Rash be placed into the position of **Interim Fire Chief** until the hiring process is complete. With the need for a Deputy Chief, Chief Tryon recommended the services of GMP, with Greg Prothman, who has been engaged by the District in the past. GMP has submitted a proposal for a nationwide search for \$18,500. Trustee Murray suggested that Chief Rash be consulted for input. Chief Rash would like to meet with CVFD members to discuss what qualities the department should be looking for the position of Deputy Chief. There was a board consensus that Lonnie Rash would be the Interim Fire Chief until a Fire Chief is hired.

ACTION ITEMS:


None.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:


The next regular meeting of the Central Valley Fire District Board of Trustees is scheduled for **October 10th, 2023**, immediately following the Quarterly meeting of the IFC Board of Appeals.

ADJOURNMENT:

The meeting was adjourned at 6:27 p.m.



Ty Elliot, Chairman



Mark MacLeod, Secretary/Treasurer

ATTEST: 

Debbie Bloem, Clerk