



**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:** October 10, 2023

**TIME:** Immediately following the quarterly meeting of the IFC Board of Appeals

<b>ATTENDANCE:</b>		<b><u>(Present)</u></b>	<b><u>(Absent)</u></b>
<b>Trustees:</b>	Ty Elliot, Chair	X	
	Mark MacLeod, Sec/Treas.	X	
	Justin Varley		X
	Ron Murray	X	
	Darren Wilkins	X	
<b>Fire Chief:</b>	Lonnie Rash	X	
<b>Fire Marshal:</b>	Jake Zlomie	X	
<b>Operations Chief:</b>	Vacant	X	
<b>Acting Clerk:</b>	Debbie Bloem	X	
<b>City Representative:</b>	Jim Simon	X	

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

**GUESTS/VISITORS:** Billy, Lacey, Colt and Will Kutylko, Susan Bebich, Kalyn Yung, Tiffany Yung, Terri Wolfgram, Peter Wolfgram, Trudy Kutylko, Bob Cole, Melinda Cole, Keri Roberts, John Roberts, Bruce Miller, John Bebich, Preston Mork, Rob & Mo Holt, Greg Tryon

Meeting was called to order at 5:33 p.m.

**AGENDA:** As presented.

**OATH OF OFFICE:** Office Manager Bloem administered the Oath of Office to newly appointed **Trustee Darren Wilkins**.

**OATHS OF OFFICE:** Training Officer Sorlie explained some of the background for the interior qualified volunteer firefighter graduating class, thanked many members of the department who helped with the academy, then introduced the members individually for their pinning. Interim Chief Lonnie Rash administered the Oath of Office to the five members:

**Makenzie Henning**

**Preston Mork**

**William Kutylko**

**William Roberts**

**Deanna Yung**

**MINUTES:** Trustee MacLeod moved to approve the **September 12, 2023 minutes** as submitted. Trustee Wilkins seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved.

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

**COMMUNICATIONS:** Central Valley Fire District received a thank you note for their mutual aid response to a fire at **Gallatin Madison Ranch** on August 18, 2023 along with a generous donation that was passed along to the CVFD Volunteer Association.

**PUBLIC COMMENT:**

**Rob Holtz** of Reese Creek introduced himself and expressed his concern about the marketing efforts regarding the necessity for the **mill levy**. He requested that the reason for the dire need for more funding be further highlighted, that there be updated figures and a better understanding of the services that the money is needed for.

**FIRE CHIEF REPORT:**

As submitted.

**Chief Lonnie Rash** reported that **two recruits** are participating in the Gallatin Valley Fire Academy and will graduate on November 3<sup>rd</sup> and be ready to be assigned to a crew. A **previous member** is going through the process to return to the department as well. The process for hiring a Deputy Chief will begin soon. Chief Rash attended the **CVFD Volunteer Association** meeting where Samantha Wheeler, previous member, Jason Wheeler's daughter, received a scholarship from the Association. **Battalion Chief Stratman and Training Officer Sorlie** will be recognized at the Montana Fire Service Convention for their work in developing and implementing the Gallatin Valley Fire Academy.

**OPERATIONS REPORT:**

Chief Rash reported on the **EMS delivery study** and its progress as they have engaged Fitch and Associates to complete the study. The **new engines** have arrived and after some minor damage to one in the delivery process, the Fleet Manager and crew are working to get those into service.

**FIRE PREVENTION REPORT:** As submitted.

**Fire Marshal Zlomie** reported that this week is Fire Prevention Week, so the department is even busier than usual with station tours and events. Fire Prevention is also busier than usual with permit processing. Safebuilt has been engaged to help with reviews. They are doing well, but they do take a majority of the permit fees. The District is still working towards an interlocal agreement with the City of Belgrade for IT services.

**LOCAL 4939 REPORT:**

None.

**TRUSTEE REPORT:**

None.

**CITY LIAISON REPORT:** Council Member Jim Simon reported that Bolinger is temporarily closed to through traffic.

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

**ORDER OF BUSINESS:**

**DISCUSSION ITEMS: Mill Levy Election Presentation**

Chief Rash addressed some of the concerns regarding the Mill Levy message. The ballot language by law must use the FY23 assessments. Chief Rash attempted to adjust the figures to reflect the actual funds needed with the reassessed values and will re-evaluate the way that message should be conveyed. Two trustees plan to be at each meeting or public event planned for the Mill Levy message. Informational flyers will be mailed out around the same time as the ballots.

Mo Holtz of Reese Creek asked that funding be explored from **other sources** besides the taxpayer, such as impact fees and that the message be expressed that services could be cut without additional funding.

As AMR is less available due to their own staffing issues, there is no longer the buffer for overlapping calls that there has historically been, so this adds to the concern for continuing ability to provide consistent services with CVFD's current staffing.

**ACTION ITEMS: MOTION TO ENTER EXECUTIVE SESSION.**

Trustee MacLeod moved to enter **executive session**. Trustee Wilkins seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved.

The Board closed the executive session and re-opened the meeting.

**CONSIDERATION AND POSSIBLE ACTION REGARDING CANDIDATE**

Trustee Murray moved to hire **Lonnie Rash as Fire Chief**. Trustee Wilkins 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 **November 14, 2023**.

**ADJOURNMENT:**

The meeting was adjourned at **6:29 p.m.**

  
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**Ty Elliot, Chairman**

  
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**Mark MacLeod, Secretary/Treasurer**

ATTEST:   
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**Debbie Bloem, Clerk**