



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

215 Wings Way
Belgrade, MT 59714
406-388-4480
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MEETING PLACE: Central Valley Fire District, Station 1
215 Wings Way, Belgrade, MT

DATE: August 6, 2024

TIME: 5:30 p.m.

ATTENDANCE:		<u>(Present)</u>	<u>(Absent)</u>
<i>Trustees:</i>			
	Ty Elliot, Chair	X	
	Darren Wilkins, Vice Chair	X	
	Mark MacLeod, Sec/Treas.	X	
	Ron Murray	X	
	Rob Holt	X	
<i>Fire Chief:</i>	Jay Wittwer	X	
<i>Operations Chief:</i>	Vacant		X
<i>Fire Marshal:</i>	Jake Zlomie	X	
<i>Acting Clerk:</i>	Debbie 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: Nick Stinson, Samantha Honatke, Will Roberts, Gus Holcomb, Justin Monroe, Collin Brozka, Thomas MacIntyre, Stephen McAdams, Jeff Ball.

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

Chairman Elliot led the Pledge of Allegiance.

AGENDA: As presented.

PUBLIC COMMENT: None.

ORDER OF BUSINESS:

DISCUSSION ITEMS: **Fire Marshal Zlomie Discussion of the Need to Adjust Staffing Level in Fire Prevention**

Fire Marshal Zlomie presented a request for a new **Fire Inspector Position** to help with the expanded workload due to rapid growth. With the addition of this position he proposed that Fire Life Safety Specialist Yung be given the title of Deputy Fire Marshal to better reflect the duties of his position. The job position will be posted on the website and other available media and the hiring process will involve an assessment and interview. The individual hired will be able to shadow FLSS Yung, share his office and will need a basic vehicle. Trustee Murray asked if it was time to review the fee schedule again to help with revenue. This, along with ambulance transport fees, should be reviewed on an annual basis. The Board of Trustees agreed that the addition of this position is a good plan.

Discussion of Proposal to Call for a Mill Levy Election

Financial Manager Honatke presented the methods that she used to arrive at the request of 13 additional mills using different staffing scenarios projected out over the next several years. The goal is to keep personnel costs at 90% of the operational mills, a much better model than the current use of 115% of the operational mills for personnel.

Fire Marshal Zlomie handed out personalized property tax impacts to each of the trustees.

The property tax calculator will be embedded into the mill levy link on the website so that each property owner is able to see the impact of this Mill Levy request on their property taxes. **Fire Chief Wittwer** asked that each trustee review the Mill Levy Presentation to provide input. Contact has been made with other departments that have been successful at passing mill levies and the information gathered has been very valuable.

Chairman Elliot asked for a unified front during this process and Trustee Murray asked for discussion of any objections. Trustee Holt pushed to ensure that all other sources of revenue be pursued in the future rather than having the taxpayers shoulder the majority of the burden. Chairman Elliot pointed out that other sources of revenue should be pursued, but that, that will take time and the existing service needs this revenue. **Firefighter Gus Holcomb** stated how important it is to point out that the department is not just providing response but transport as well so that CVFD is able to provide door to door service and it is not necessary to hand off patients to another organization for transport. **Firefighter Nick Stinson** is the chair of the Mill Levy Committee for the Union and has sought buy in from each member. The Union is united in supporting this Mill Levy request. There was some discussion about the in-perpetuity clause in the ballot language. In consideration of this concern, Fire Marshal Zlomie pointed out that each firefighter is protecting more in property value than ever before and that, that is not likely to change. After reviewing the discussion points thus far, Fire Chief Wittwer recommended that the District move forward with this.

ACTION ITEMS:

Consideration and Approval of Resolution 242501 Calling for an Election in November to Authorize a Mill Levy

Trustee MacLeod moved to adopt **Resolution 242501 Calling for an Election in November to Authorize a Mill Levy**. Trustee Wilkins seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved.

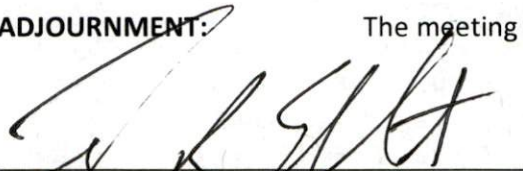
Trustee Holt provided an update to the traffic control plan for the exit onto Airway Blvd from Station 1. A meeting is scheduled this month with MDT to discuss the placement of an interactive reader board along with striping across the road and flashing lights and MDT will be placing a camera to get data on the number of cars traveling by the front of Station 1.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

The next regular meeting of the Central Valley Fire District Board of Trustees is scheduled for **August 20, 2024.**

ADJOURNMENT:

The meeting was adjourned at 6:42 p.m.



Ty Elliot, Chairman



Mark MacLeod, Secretary/Treasurer

ATTEST: 

Debbie Bloem, Clerk