



**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:** November 12, 2024

**TIME:** 5:30 p.m.

**ATTENDANCE:** (Present) (Absent)

<b>Trustees:</b>	Ty Elliot, Chair	X
	Darren Wilkins, Vice Chair	X
	Mark MacLeod, Sec/Treas.	X
	Ron Murray	X
	Rob Holt	X
<b>Fire Chief:</b>	Jay Wittwer	X
<b>Operations Chief:</b>	Jeff Hurley	X
<b>Fire Marshal:</b>	Jake Zlomie	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:** Samantha Honatke, John Dyas, Nick Stinson, Greg Tryon, Teyck  
Weed, Chum and Sally Howe, Chloe Wasteneys, Cindy Languet,

Kelsey Ross, Jamie Hurley, Tiffany Yung, Deanna Yung, Mo Holt, Kathleen Godfrey, Dylan White, Edward Ivey, Thomas MacIntyre, Briana Monroe, Matt Polzin, Nick Tucker, Billy Kutyllo, Cody Lipperd, Ashley Coulthard.

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

Fire Chief Wittwer administered the **Oath of Office** to:

**Engineer/Paramedic Nicholas Stinson**

**Fire Inspector John Dyas**

**Deputy Fire Marshal Brandon Yung**

**Deputy Chief Jeff Hurley**

Chairman Ty Elliot administered the **Oath of Office** to **Fire Chief Jay C Wittwer**.

Chief Wittwer introduced former area Fire Chiefs, Teyck Weed, Chum Howe and Greg Tryon, each of whom pinned his badge and bugles.

A photo with an inscription from **New York Firefighter, John Woody Nesbitt**, commemorating 9/11, was presented. Engineer/Paramedic Stinson read the message.

The meeting broke briefly for refreshments.

**AGENDA:**

As presented.

**MINUTES:**

Trustee MacLeod moved to approve the **October 8, 2024 minutes** as submitted. Trustee Wilkins seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved.

**FINANCIAL REPORTS:**

Trustee Wilkins moved to approve **the financial reports**. Trustee **MacLeod** seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved.

**COMMUNICATIONS:**

The District received a communication from the medical director, **Dr. Bret Birrer**, encouraging the plan to **rotate paramedics** between CVFD and Yellowstone Mountain Club Rural Fire District.

Volunteer Katie Godfrey passed along a thank you for the public education that the department does in conjunction with **Belgrade Library**. One young visitor recently had to be rescued from a locked vehicle by firefighters when she and her family were out of state and she was all smiles because she knew that a firefighter in his gear was there to help her. Another thank you note simply stated, "Thank you for saving my life. Megan." This was from an **EMS call** for B Shift.

**PUBLIC COMMENT:**

**Maureen Holt** of Reese Creek thanked the department for all that was done to support the Mill Levy in this past election. She offered to help in any way to find other funding options. She also thanked the Deputy Fire Marshal for his acquisition of water storage for Station 4.

**FIRE CHIEF REPORT:**

As submitted.

**Fire Chief Wittwer** introduced recent arrival, **Deputy Chief Jeff Hurley**. An interview will take place for the fleet mechanic position next week.

Chief Wittwer is excited about the rotation of paramedics between the **Yellowstone Club's fire department and the District** and the encouragement from Dr. Birrer.

Diligent efforts were made to spread information regarding the need for the **Mill Levy** and the results were disappointing, but staff will continue to keep up communication with the public.

The paramedic program through **Flathead College** continues to go well.

**The GVFA graduation** was a great conclusion to the 10-week career academy, with four members of CVFD graduating. Information is being gathered to apply for an **AFG Grant** to request funds for equipment and other resources to enhance the safety and effectiveness of the department. A county wide Homeland defense grant is also being explored.

**OPERATIONS REPORT:** As submitted.

**Deputy Chief Hurley** reported on the call volume over the past month as well as staffing and apparatus updates. DC Hurley is working on several policies with the **SOP Committee**. A leather helmet policy was implemented last month.

**FIRE PREVENTION REPORT:** As submitted.

**Fire Marshal Jake Zlomie** reported on the members of the Fire Prevention Department. **Fire Inspector Dyas** received certification in Fire Inspector I and is working on Fire Inspector II. **Deputy Fire Marshal Yung** celebrated his 25<sup>th</sup> Wedding Anniversary with his wife, Tiffany.

**Fire Marshal Zlomie** attended the **Montana State Fire Chiefs' 2024 Convention** with a scholarship from the Inaugural Emerging Leaders program and appreciated the opportunity for leadership development and networking.

Fire Prevention is planning an off-site **planning meeting** including some collaboration with other agencies, later this month to establish goals and procedures moving forward.

Preparations to implement an **address sign program** are continuing.

During Fire Prevention week, firefighters assisted with a Domino's **smoke detector program** by teaming with Domino's Pizza for deliveries and providing smoke detector installations as needed or free pizzas for those with working smoke detectors. Six smoke detectors and two carbon monoxide detectors were installed.

Two pumpkin painting parties at Station 1, hosted 71 participants and plans are in progress for wreath making events for Christmas.

**FACILITIES REPORT:**

**Deputy Fire Marshal Yung** reported that new office furniture has been installed in several rooms at Station 1 and garage door issues have been addressed. There are new compressors at Stations 1 & 3. The septic tank at Station 2 has been pumped because the pump into the drain field is not working. The new beds have been installed at Station 3. Work is beginning at Station

4 to pipe water to the 20,000-gallon tank donated by Signature Aviation, for water storage. At Station 5 Total Fire Suppression will be installing a fire suppression system in the apartment. The Fire Service smoke jumpers are using Station 7 for parachute building, repair and maintenance. Fire Inspector Dyas and DFM Yung will be rebuilding the burn cell at the Training Facility for live burn trainings. An old fuel truck is also being donated by Signature Aviation to be used at Station 5.

**LOCAL 4939 REPORT:**

**Union President Dustin Pitman** outlined some of the outstanding work of many Union members and help from Unions around the state to spread information for the support of the **Mill Levy**. President Pitman also added his appreciation of newly arrived **Deputy Chief Hurley**. He added that in recognition of **Engineer Stinson**, the engineer program is rigorous and is a team effort with extensive work on the part of both the shift and the member. A team of career and volunteer members are going to Seattle for the **Firefighter Stairclimb** to support the Leukemia and Lymphoma Society. President Pitman also extended an invitation to a board member to attend **Fire Ops 101** in May in Boise to experience some of what firefighters do and to network with other organizations.

**TRUSTEE REPORT:**

**Chairman Elliot** expressed appreciation for the full panel of Administrative Chiefs now with the department.

**CITY LIAISON REPORT:**

**Council Member Jim Simon** reported that the City of Belgrade is addressing **water storage** needs and growth. The Belgrade Community Coalition will be **decorating** at the Senior Center November 16<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup>.

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

**ORDER OF BUSINESS:**

**DISCUSSION ITEMS:**

**Traffic Control for Emergency Response from Station 1; Chief Wittwer and Trustee Holt**

The stripes in front of the exit from Station 1 have been completed, however the crew has not noticed any improvement. An airport engineer is working on a plan for traffic control to stop traffic for emergency vehicles to exit Station 1 safely at Airway Blvd. Some signage will be implemented soon as another initial effort to attempt to help keep that area clear.

**November 2024 Mill Levy Election Results; Local 4939 and CVFD Administration**

Fire Chief Wittwer added to previous comments that many community members have reached out with support and ideas of ways to connect with residents. The department members are continuing to be more involved in the schools and the community. The crew members respond to calls with kindness and respect and the residents are very aware of their excellent work.

**Property Protection Classification Evaluation Presentation; Fire Marshal Zlomie**

Fire Marshal Jake Zlomie presented a power point with details regarding the ISO evaluation and the District's history from 2002, during which the rating has gone from a 5/10 to a 3/10 in 2012 and 2017. In 2023, the District was rated at a 4/10, but with retrogression efforts improved back to a 3/10. Fire Marshal Zlomie reviewed maps of the impacted areas and areas that would benefit from annexing into the District. He also looked at details of the ISO scoring, including the effect of the different water systems and availability in the District and some ways that the District could improve. Chairman Elliot explained some of the challenges that insurance companies have with new subdivisions developed in previous wildfire areas.

**ACTION ITEMS:**

**Consideration and Approval of Montana Fire Trustees Association Fee Increase to \$1,500 Annually.**

Trustee Holt reported that his attendance of the conference was well worth it. After a short discussion:

Trustee Holt moved to approve **the increase to the Montana Fire Trustees Association Fees**. 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 **December 10, 2024.**

**ADJOURNMENT:**

The meeting was adjourned at 7:06 p.m.

  
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Ty Elliot, Chairman  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Mark MacLeod, Secretary/Treasurer

ATTEST:   
\_\_\_\_\_  
Debbie Bloem, Clerk