



**CENTRAL VALLEY FIRE DISTRICT
BOARD OF TRUSTEES 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: June 10, 2025

TIME: 5:30 p.m.

ATTENDANCE:		<u>(Present)</u>	<u>(Absent)</u>
<i>Trustees:</i>	Darren Wilkins, Chairman	X	
	Ron Murray, Vice Chairman	X	
	Mark MacLeod, Sec/Treas.	X	
	Rob Holt	X	
	Ramie Blakeman	X	
<i>Fire Chief:</i>	Jay Wittwer		X
<i>Operations Chief:</i>	Jeff Hurley	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: Samantha Honatke, Mitch Davis, Dustin Pitman and Summer
Ridge Residents; Jim Martin, Lynn and Brian Arthur

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

Chairman Wilkins led the Pledge of Allegiance.

AGENDA: As presented.

MINUTES: Trustee Murray moved to approve the **May 13, 2025 minutes** as submitted. Trustee Holt 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: Department members received a thank you note from the **Anderson Family** for their support, including helping to put in the family's garden. The District was notified of a request to **annex** 2320 West Babcock Street into Bozeman. A **Belgrade Summer Nights** announcement was also received. These are every other Wednesday night, beginning on June 25th.

PUBLIC COMMENT: **Jim Martin** of Summer Ridge expressed concern over the closure of Station 2. He would like to pursue the re-opening of this station whether by volunteer or career staff. Chairman Wilkins re-assured the residents that they continue to be protected by the firefighters of Central Valley Fire District from the fully staffed stations. He added that the District is pursuing all avenues to provide the necessary revenue to continue to operate as well as to re-open Station 2. That will probably necessitate bringing forward another attempt to get approval of a Mill Levy. He thanked Mr. Martin for attending this meeting and for expressing his support of these efforts. DC Hurley reiterated the necessity of notifying the community of the lack of staffing for Station 2. Trustee Blakeman shared her experience of being helped by a CVFD crew and how reassuring it was to experience the "we" that Mr. Martin mentioned and that expresses the true community that Central Valley Fire District is. Trustee Blakeman also mentioned that many grants that were previously available are

not any longer and that there are many grants that the District does not qualify for. **Brian Arthur**, also of Summer Ridge added his support of the department and its efforts to raise revenue.

FIRE CHIEF REPORT:

As submitted.

In Chief Wittwer's absence, **Acting Chief Zlomie** presented the Chief Report. The GVFA academy has begun, with 15 cadets. Staff continues to explore revenue enhancements, along with consideration of the SAFER Grant. With the current cost share requirements in the SAFER Grant, it is necessary to evaluate the feasibility of committing to this grant. The annexation request from the Four Corners residents to annex into the Central Valley Fire District was denied by the Gallatin County Commission. The Commission requested some additional information regarding the process and reasoning and this request will likely be re-submitted. There was further discussion of the SAFER Grant options and concerns and as the application due date of July 3rd approaches a special meeting may be called for discussion and approval if the decision is made to proceed.

OPERATIONS REPORT:

As submitted.

Deputy Chief Jeff Hurley reviewed his report on call volume with overlapping calls and staffing. He also submitted a white sheet and business plan on a **Reserve EMS Transport Personnel Program**. This is a good opportunity to serve the community and generate additional revenue. Once this program is thoroughly developed and approved, this could be implemented within a couple of months. On another note, hopefully GEMT Funding will eventually be approved but implementation and disbursement of funds will probably not be until at least 2027.

FIRE PREVENTION REPORT:

As submitted.

Fire Marshal Jake Zlomie reported that fire prevention staff is beginning hydrant testing. They will continue to work to improve ISO scores in this area. The City of Belgrade is performing permitting for its residents and the department is focusing on pre-planning for those structures within the City.

LOCAL 4939 REPORT: **Union Treasurer Captain Mitch Davis** expressed the Union's appreciation for the Collective Bargaining process and outcomes with consideration of the limited resources available.

TRUSTEE REPORT: None.

CITY LIAISON REPORT: **Council Member Jim Simon** reported that the City of Belgrade had another Town Hall meeting about future Road Projects in the city. There was also discussion regarding the process of closing roads and the importance of allowing emergency services to access areas around road construction.

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

ORDER OF BUSINESS:

DISCUSSION ITEMS: None.

ACTION ITEMS: **Consideration and Approval of the Collective Bargaining Agreement with IAFF Local 4939.**

Acting Chief Zlomie reported that some of the items previously addressed in the Personnel Manual have now been incorporated into the CBA. Local 4939 ratified this agreement last Thursday. The members who participated in this process over the last few weeks were Trustee Wilkins, Financial Manager Samantha Honatke, Chief Wittwer, Deputy Chief Hurley, Fire Marshal Zlomie, Union President Nick Stinson, Captain Dustin Pitman, Union Treasurer Mitch Davis, Captain Jason Anderson, Firefighter/EMT Billy Kutylo. The FLSA cycle has been revised from a 14-day period to a 24-day period which should save some scheduled FLSA overtime hours. There are multiple areas of cost savings throughout the agreement. DC Hurley expressed appreciation for the patience from the Union regarding awaiting increases in wages beyond the 3% that was agreed to. Further increases to wages will be addressed in the future after additional funding hopefully becomes available. Retention becomes vital to

both keeping skilled, valued members and the many costs associated with replacing firefighters lost to other departments.

Trustee Holt moved to approve the **Collective Bargaining Agreement with IAFF Local 4939 for FY26 – FY27**. Trustee MacLeod seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved.

Consideration and Approval of the Establishment of a Roth 457(b) Account for Voluntary Employee Contributions.

Financial Manager Samantha Honatke reported that this is necessary to be in compliance for catch up contributions for high earners. These contributions must be put into a Roth account which the District does not currently have available. There is no additional cost to the District to open and maintain this account through Mission Square.

Trustee MacLeod moved to approve the **Establishment of a Roth 457(b)**. Trustee Murray seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved.

Consideration and Adoption of Resolution 242512 to Approve the Incident Billing Fees.

Fire Marshal Zlomie reported that incident billing is something which has been discussed in a previous meeting and is ready to be implemented with the Board's approval. Some of the incidents eligible for billing would be motor vehicle accident clean up, gas line breaks, hazmat and multiple false alarm calls. Pintler Billing would bill for these and some additional information would be gathered by the firefighters on scene, hopefully with minimum effort. Trustee Blakeman asked about the method that will be used to notify the public of this change. The fee schedule will be posted on the website and staff will look for other avenues to get the word out.

Trustee MacLeod moved to Adopt **Resolution 242512 to Approve the Incident Billing Fees**. Trustee Murray 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 **July 8, 2025, immediately following the quarterly meeting of the IFC Board of Appeals.**

ADJOURNMENT:

The meeting was adjourned at 6:57 p.m.

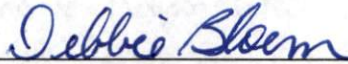


Darren Wilkins, Chairman



Mark MacLeod, Secretary/Treasurer

ATTEST:



Debbie Bloem, Clerk