



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

215 Wings Way  
Belgrade, MT 59714  
406-388-4480  
(Fax): 406-388-6270

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

**DATE:** November 18, 2025

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

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

<b>Trustees:</b>	Darren Wilkins, Chairman	X - Virtually
	Ron Murray, Vice Chairman	X
	Mark MacLeod, Sec/Treas.	X
	Rob Holt	X
	Ramie Blakeman	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>	Greg Tryon	X

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

**GUESTS/VISITORS:** Jim Martin, Chuck Romeo, Mo Holt, Jason Anderson, Samantha Honatke, Billy Kutyllo, Dylan White, Justin Monroe, Joe Doidge,

Cody Lipperd, Dustin Pitman, Chad VanBerkum, Holli Simcoe, Rick Chen, Gene Schadt, Jim Randall, Terry Neal, Trey Feigle

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

Vice Chairman Murray led the Pledge of Allegiance.

**AGENDA:**

As presented.

**MINUTES:**

Trustee Holt moved to approve the **October 14, 2025 minutes** as submitted. Trustee MacLeod seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved.

**FINANCIAL REPORTS:**

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

**COMMUNICATIONS:**

The Department received a thank you note and donation from the **Belgrade Bloomers Garden Club** for use of the training classroom for their monthly meetings. **Reese Creek Community Center** thanked CVFD for being a good neighbor by donating a “dinner for 4” to their annual fundraiser. **Kris Menicucci** wrote a touching thank you note to the C Shift Crew who responded to her medical emergency. **Chelan County Fire** sent a patch with thanks for a tour of the Station when they were in town, and a **Google Review** post was made thanking the CVFD crew for their quick and professional EMS response and appreciative of their expertise.

**PUBLIC COMMENT:**

**Jim Martin** of Summer Ridge expressed continued concern regarding the status of Station 2. He was joined by residents of Springhill Reserve, Spirit Hills and Summer Ridge. He has asked the County Commission to consider placing a moratorium on any further development in the County. He also asked for the status on efforts by the board to enhance funding. He asked why the City of Belgrade has a seat at the table in the board meetings. **Rick Chen from Red Cloud Place** noted that about 15 percent of his property tax bill goes to Central Valley Fire District and assumes that would go toward the opening of Station 2.

**Gene Schadt**, from Summer Ridge Road, also noted the property taxes which go to the Fire District. He would like to know what it would take to open up Station 2.

**Cameron**, of Spirit Hills, expressed concern for timely medical response, especially for the elderly in the area and asked if it would be possible to consider EMS only staffing at Station 2 or other some other alternative to meet the need.

**Jim Randall**, of Spirit Hills, had questions about a report which he received. He was asked to communicate directly with the Fire Chief with any questions.

**Hollie Simcoe**, of Springhill Reserve, thanked the fire department for all that they do. She added that Springhill Reserve residents are also concerned about the status of Station 2 and will be more aware of this issue in the future.

**Terry Neal**, of Spirit Hills, purchased their home 21 years ago and pay for fire protection. He is not sure of the cause, but his homeowners' insurance has doubled.

**Trey Feigle**, of Spirit Hills, asked what the community can do proactively to help with this situation. Is there a communication that needs to be put together that would help?

**Vice Chairman Murray** stated that many answers have been given in previous meetings to many of the questions asked and the attendees have been invited to meet with the Fire Chief or Deputy Chief in the past.

**Fire Chief Wittwer** said that he is pleased to see residents at board meetings and the community is always welcome. He is happy to answer questions and concerns and will pass out his business card and meet with anyone that wishes and refer residents to the Deputy Fire Chief or Fire Marshal as appropriate, but that the monthly Board of Trustees Meeting is a business meeting and the business of the District must be taken care of in this meeting.

**The Vice Chairman** invited individuals to also reach out to the trustees.

PRESENTATION:

**Rich Merrell of Center for Public Safety Excellence** shared information regarding the Community Risk Assessment & Standard of Cover Process. This is the second step in the

accreditation process, after the Strategic Plan which was completed earlier this year and is available to the public. CPSE works with the Fire Chief and Staff to keep this process moving and completed. The third part of accreditation will be the self-assessment. Bozeman is the only other agency to complete this accreditation process in Montana. Having this completed will establish benchmarks for the District which will undergo regular assessments and will be available to the community.

**FIRE CHIEF REPORT:**

As submitted.

**Fire Chief Wittwer** briefly reviewed his submitted report, including the CPR and First Aid training which is ongoing to the community. Staff continues to explore and implement ways to communicate with the community. Many revenue enhancements are being actively pursued to keep revenue in the District.

**OPERATIONS REPORT:**

As submitted.

**Deputy Chief Hurley** reviewed responses for the month of October. He reported that the wildland deployments returned reimbursements of \$580,000 with 40% revenue return on investment. The EMS Division is being formed with December 1<sup>st</sup> emergency and non-emergency transports beginning date. EMT's and EMS services will be moved to locations where the need is with plans to be more finalized once the EMS Division Chief arrives. 90% of calls to the department are EMS calls. Initially this division was built for inter-facility transports, however it has been realized that these staff may be positioned to also respond to calls as available. The District is also looking into available grants for community based paramedicine to better serve the community's needs.

**Fire Chief Wittwer** added again that these efforts will help keep revenue in the District.

**Deputy Chief Hurley** continued to report that the specialty teams, such as, water rescue, heavy rescue and large animal rescue, continue to train and prepare to more broadly meet the needs of high risk, low frequency calls in the area. The teams have also been participating in joint and regional training with neighboring

agencies. Currently Captain Anderson has been working to head the Wildland Division, including the pursuit of grants. All three Battalion Chiefs are completing their Fire Officer III training.

**FIRE PREVENTION REPORT:** As submitted.

**Fire Marshal Zlomie** reported that Fire Prevention will be reviewing this past year's goals and accomplishments. They have been identifying what other agencies are reporting to better share information with the community in the future.

**LOCAL 4939 REPORT:** None.

**TRUSTEE REPORT:**

**Trustee Holt** reported that the struggles that the District faces with EMS responses are not unique. He is on the Gallatin County 911 EMS Board and that board is specifically tasked with addressing the EMS needs in the County. Trustee Holt would also like the department to look into capturing more of the revenue from burn permit sales.

**CITY LIAISON REPORT:**

Included in the board packet were questions from the board answered by **City Manager Cardwell** and responded to by the Fire Chief. This exchange will provide the City Report for this meeting.

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

**ORDER OF BUSINESS:**

**DISCUSSION ITEMS:**

**Presentation was completed before the reports.**

**ACTION ITEMS:**

**Consideration and Approval of Resolution 252606 to Secure a Loan with Stockman Bank for Heavy Rescue Apparatus.**

Trustee Holt moved to adopt **Resolution 252606** to secure a loan with Stockman Bank for heavy rescue apparatus as submitted.

Trustee MacLeod seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved.

**Consideration and Approval of Resolution 252607 to Authorize the Borrowing of Funds for Fleet Services Shop Construction.**

Trustee Holt moved to adopt **Resolution 252607** to authorize the borrowing of Funds for Fleet Services Shop Construction. Trustee Blakeman 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 9, 2025.**

**ADJOURNMENT:**

The meeting was adjourned at 6:39 p.m.



Handwritten signature of Ron Murray in blue ink, written over a horizontal line.

**Ron Murray, Vice Chairman**



Handwritten signature of Mark MacLeod in blue ink, written over a horizontal line.

**Mark MacLeod, Secretary/Treasurer**

ATTEST:   
**Debbie Bloem, Clerk**