



**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:** December 9, 2025

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

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

<b>Trustees:</b>	Darren Wilkins, Chairman	X virtual	
	Ron Murray, Vice Chairman	X	
	Mark MacLeod, Sec/Treas.	X	
	Rob Holt	X	
	Ramie Blakeman	X	
<b>Fire Chief:</b>	Jay Wittwer	X virtual	
<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>	Neil Cardwell		X

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

**GUESTS/VISITORS:** Jim Martin, Dwight B. Short, Ryan Olson, Dennis Fischer, Stacey Dahman, Chris Owens, Chase Roe, Trent Saunders, Jerry Zorechak,

Tiffany O'Neil, Anthony Stratman, Mike Kalmanson, Gordon Davidson, Chuck Romeo, Stephen McAdams

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

Chairman <sup>Murray</sup> Wilkins led the Pledge of Allegiance.

**AGENDA:**

As presented.

**MINUTES:**

Trustee MacLeod moved to approve the **November 18, 2025 minutes** as submitted. Trustee Holt seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved.

**FINANCIAL REPORTS:**

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

**COMMUNICATIONS:**

**C Shift** received a thank you note from Trustee Blakeman for sharing dinner and physical training with her and giving her insights into the workings of the department.

**PUBLIC COMMENT:**

**Jim Martin** from Summer Ridge thanked the Fire Chief for the Far Out and Waiting training event at Reese Creek Community Center. He has a list of contacts that he would like to share to encourage more participation in this event in the future. He is interested in participating in the budget process in the future.

**Stacey Dahman** is also from Summer Ridge and after attending the meeting last month has some suggestions regarding the configuration of the areas covered by the District and possibly dividing areas into separate fire areas.

**Chuck Romeo** of Summer Ridge suggested that for the next mill levy, all the revenue should be designated to go to the opening of Station 2.

**Chris Owens** is concerned that her area does not have fire coverage.

**FIRE CHIEF REPORT:**

**Chief Wittwer** reported virtually from the Montana Firefighter Testing Consortium in Billings where he and three other members are assisting with the **CPAT testing** and sharing information about the department with potential hires. He had nothing to add to his submitted report.

**OPERATIONS REPORT:**

As submitted.

**Deputy Chief Hurley** reported on the **incident response**. The **EMS Division Program** is moving forward and is part of the revenue enhancement effort. Medic 5-2 is in service for interfacility transports and as a resource for emergency response. An EMS Division Chief hiring is in process. The **Water Rescue Team** will be holding a joint ice rescue training. A **Wildland Team** is being assembled by the Wildland Officer in preparation for the wildland fire season. DC Hurley also provided a breakdown of the **certifications** that the members currently hold.

**FIRE PREVENTION REPORT:** As submitted.

**Fire Marshal Zlomie** shared the results of the inspection, testing and maintenance reports that are generated by the fire prevention software, **Inspection Reports Online**. This software helps track and record findings submitted by fire suppression system providers more efficiently and makes information more available to customers. The fire prevention team spent **Career Day** at the high school and were able to talk to around 200 kids.

**LOCAL 4939 REPORT:**

**Union President Nick Stinson** reported that CVFD members have been able to lead much of the joint **Technical Rescue Team** trainings with other departments, as this team continues to develop. The **Fire 101** training is coming up. In this program a civilian, often a trustee, is invited to take part in firefighter experiences with the goal of learning more about what being a firefighter entails.

**Firefighters Miranda Johnson and Ashley Coulthard** have been cleared as paramedics by the Medical Director, Dr. Birrer. Two members are continuing to work on completion of their clinicals.

Membership has been supporting the **EMS Reserve Program** with orientation, training and precepting. President Stinson reached out to anyone interested in learning more about how the department works to please participate in a **ride along** with the crew. It is important to have some understanding of what is involved in both the composition of the department and in the emergency response process in order to speak to issues.

**TRUSTEE REPORT:**

**Trustee Ramie Blakeman** has been a trustee with the CVFD board for 6 months now and expressed **appreciation** to everyone for their help.

A number of businesses helped to make the department

**Christmas party** a success with their generosity. They included:

- The Local
- Montana Flooring Center
- Cosmic Pizza
- Werm of Montana
- US Diesel Chips.com
- DC Excavation
- Belgrade Ace Hardware
- Olivelle
- Daniel's Meats
- Gallatin Valley Newcomers Club
- Tiny Tails Canine Rescue
- Whole Foods Market
- Kenyon Noble
- Buck Bone Organics

Trustee Blakeman also thanked Tiffany Yung, Wendy Wittwer, Katie Godfrey, as well as Samantha and Deb.

The Trustees added a special **Thank You to Ramie** for all of her hard work.

Chairman Murray communicated that the Board is attempting to ensure that they follow the **rules pertaining to board meetings** and it was determined that public comment be held to the time for public comments and to each discussion and action item for comments specifically pertaining to those items. He also reminded everyone that there will be time after the board

meeting to speak to trustees or department members individually. Trustees and department officers welcome meetings with members of the District as well. He added that he has never been contacted to meet for further discussion or comment outside of a meeting.

**CITY LIAISON REPORT:** None.

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

**ORDER OF BUSINESS:**

**DISCUSSION ITEMS:** **Discussion of Services for the City of Belgrade**

**Chairman Murray** explained the desire of the Board of Trustees to have a joint meeting with the Belgrade City Council.

**Chief Wittwer** explained that he has had numerous meetings with staff at the City of Belgrade as well as Council Members and has requested a joint meeting in the past. Chief Wittwer would like a formal invitation to go out to the City Council. A letter has been prepared for the signature of the Trustees. This meeting would be open to the public.

The Board of Trustees agreed that **the invitation should be made** to the City of Belgrade to schedule a joint meeting at the date, time and location of the Council's choosing.

**ACTION ITEMS:** Trustee MacLeod made the motion to move into **Executive Session** to discuss litigation. Trustee Holt seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved.

**The regular board meeting was re-opened.**

**ANNOUNCEMENTS:** The next regular meeting of the Central Valley Fire District Board of Trustees is scheduled for **January 13, 2026, immediately following the Quarterly Meeting of the IFC Board of Appeals.**

**ADJOURNMENT:**

The meeting was adjourned at **7:32 p.m.**

  
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**Ron Murray, Vice Chairman**

  
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**Mark MacLeod, Secretary/Treasurer**

**ATTEST:**   
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**Debbie Bloem, Clerk**