

**Gallatin River Ranch Rural Fire District  
Board of Trustees Meeting**  
Date: 11/10/21 Time: 1600 hr  
GRR Equestrian Center Tack Room  
725 Equestrian Center Loop Road, Manhattan, MT

Present: Presiding officer: Chair Spencer Millimen.  
Trustees present: Secretary/Treasurer: Sue Piechowski, Vice Chair Richard Anderson, Wendy Ward, Rick McCourt  
Others present: Chief Marlin Sprow, Executive Assistant John Andrews

Quorum established and the meeting was called to order at: 1556 hours

Public Comment: No members of the public were present

Agenda Topic	Background	Discussion	Resolution/Follow-up
Approval of Minutes	Minutes of the 10/20/21 meeting were presented to trustees prior to the meeting by email.	Minutes are reviewed and discussed	Motion to approve by: Anderson Seconded by: Millimen Approved on Unanimous Vote
Treasurer's Report	Profit/Loss statement and balance sheets from August are presented. The October check register is presented	Treasurer's report discussed.	Treasurer's report approved by acclamation
Fire Chief's Report	Fire Chief's report was distributed to trustees prior to the meeting.	Chief's report discussed. The issue of lawn trash in the Reservoir Quarry burn site is discussed. The Developer has allowed GRRRFD to deposit the materials collected during Nixon Gulch Cleanup day in that location for burning within a month of collection but previously stated he did not want this to become a	The Chief's report is filed.  Andrews will discuss the matter with Tom Langel and work on unified messaging in coordination with the HOA.

		<p>community dumping ground. Some residents have dumped brush from their properties in that location. GRRRFD, GRRHOA, and the Developer need to provide unified messaging on the topic. The GRRRFD BOT members discussed the matter. They propose allowing HOA members to place burnable “yard material” such as brush and tree trimmings with no nails, spikes, screws, or other non-burnable hardware, and no plastics or non-combustible material in the burn pile just prior to the yearly burn, with a suitable announcement. Other messaging throughout the year will be needed to remind HOA members to not dump material in that site at any other time.</p> <p>Manhattan RFD trustees and the MVFD chief visited and toured facilities and water sources last week. The tour went well according to Chief Sprow. The proposal to station Manhattan Tender 2-7 on GRR is still under consideration as a replacement for T-11.</p> <p>Increased community messaging through the GRR Information Group Facebook page is discussed. The moderators of that group have given a green light to GRRRFD and GRRFD to post announcements and tips on the Facebook page. Coordination with GRRHOA and their bi-monthly bulletin and</p>	<p>Andrews has prepared a full year-long cycle of GRR Fire Safety Tips to email GRRHOA members through the GRRHOA contract with Infinite. He has received approval to do so from HOA President Smith. He is also coordinating with HOA Director Brown to submit “bullet point” tips for the mid-month edition of the HOA Bi-Monthly Bulletin.</p> <p>Andrews has received approval from the GRR Homeowners Information Group to post tips, notices, and updates on their Facebook page, subject to moderator review.</p>
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		monthly GRR Fire Safety Tips emails are discussed. The Trustees support this approach.	
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Unfinished Business

Agenda Topic	Background	Discussion	Resolution/Follow-up
Fire Station Project	The construction of a new fire station is an ongoing project. The Board is updated each month on project progress	Bruce Reynolds has had ongoing discussions with Cory Taylor regarding a bid on the project. There are some questions the plumbing and electrical contractors have raised that are still under discussion. There are several things in the architect's design that are either unavailable or now much more expensive than in the past where modifications may lead to significant savings. Reynolds is working with Taylor on these matters and will report back when there is more information.	For information only.
Manhattan Discussions.	The relationship between GRRFD and MVFD is the subject of ongoing discussions.	See Chief's Report	For information only.
Grant Application Update	Grant applications are discussed.	The RFC grant proposal by the County was approved and we can now order the hose we proposed.	Andrews will place hose orders with LN Curtis.
Community Wildland Fire Preparedness Project	This project was formalized in March 2021. It is an ongoing project to help prepare the community to mitigate risk and prepare.	No new activity since the last meeting. This program will be promoted actively again beginning in the Fire Department Safety Tips monthly announcements beginning in March.	For information only
Reserve Update	Reserve activities are reviewed at each meeting	No new activity.	For information only.

## GRRRFD BOT Minutes from: 11/10/21

Auxiliary Update	Auxiliary activities are reviewed at each meeting	No new activity.	For information only.
Facilities Update	Facilities activities not otherwise covered in the Chief's Report are reviewed at each meeting.	No new activity.	For information only.
Disposition of surplus equipment	A number of items in the inventory are considered surplus. The BOT examines the matter of disposition of this equipment at each meeting.	No new activity.	For information only.

## New Business

Agenda Topic	Background	Discussion	Resolution/Follow-up
Review of GRRHOA Fireworks Policy	The GRRHOA developed a Fireworks Policy in 2014. This permits fireworks on the 4th of July and on New Year's Eve along with Special Events. The GRRRFD Trustees have not reviewed this policy since it was enacted.	The effects of chronic drought conditions lead to increased year-round wildland fire risk in GRRRFD. This is a particular risk in July and a variable risk at the end of December. The trustees discussed the matter and a motion was proposed by McCourt to recommend to the GRRHOA to delete the permissions to display fireworks on July 4th and on New Year Eve, but to still allow the possibility of use at Special Events if approved by the HOA and the Fire Chief (in that order). Anderson was of the opinion that fireworks should be banned within the GRRRFD.	Motion: McCourt Second: Millimen Vote on the Motion: Yea: McCourt, Millimen, Piechowski, Ward. Nay: Anderson

Executive Session: Distribution of "boot" proceeds from fundraiser at GRRHOA Annual Meeting Pancake Breakfast.

Date, time and location of next meeting: There will be no December meeting due to holiday travel schedules.  
The next meeting will be held on Wednesday, 1/19/22 at 4 pm at the GRREC Tack Room

Adjourned: 1659 hours.

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Spencer Millimen, Chairman

Date

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Susan M. Piechowski, Secretary

Date