

**Gallatin River Ranch Rural Fire District**  
**Board of Trustees Meeting**  
 Date: 9/21/22 Time: 1600 hr  
 GRR Equestrian Center Tack Room  
 725 Equestrian Center Loop Road, Manhattan, MT

Present: Presiding officer: Chair Spencer Millimen  
 Trustees present: Vice Chair Richard Anderson, Secretary/Treasurer: Sue Piechowski, Rick McCourt  
 Others present: Executive Assistant John Andrews, Chief Marlin Sprow  
 Guest: Manhattan VFD Chief Mike Ulmen

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

Public Comment: No other members of the public were present.

Agenda Topic	Background	Discussion	Resolution/Follow-up
Approval of Minutes	Minutes of the 8/17/22 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 July are presented. The September check register is presented	Treasurer's report discussed.	Approved by acclamation
Fire Chief's Report	Fire Chief's report was distributed to trustees prior to the meeting.	Chief's report discussed.	The Chief's report is filed.

## Unfinished Business

Agenda Topic	Background	Discussion	Resolution/Follow-up
Shared Well Repair Expenses	The well shared by GRREC and the Chief's house required repairs. The control panel required to pump to the Chief's house is more expensive than what would be required for the EC as a whole, the difference being about \$4,700. Other repairs were needed that didn't sound as though they were caused by the failure of that panel, however.	The BOT reviewed the overall bills and the reported cost differential of the control panel mentioned to the left. The Leave and Lease agreement covering the Chief's house does not clearly state what portion of responsibility the GRRRFD has regarding well repairs. The water rights are owned by Hill Country, which also owns the EC, leasing it to Latigo Partners. Thus, there are three entities sharing responsibility, though Hill Country is the actual owner. After careful consideration, Millimen made a motion to compensate Latigo Partners in the amount of \$4,851, one third of the total repair amount, and an amount that covers the apparent added expense of the upgraded control panel.	Motion: Millimen Second: McCourt In Favor: Millimen, McCourt, Piechowski Abstaining: Anderson Opposed: none Motion carries Latigo Partners and Hill Country will be informed. A check will be sent to Latigo Partners in the next check payment cycle.
Fire Station Project	The construction of a new fire station is an ongoing project. The Board is updated each month on project progress	The insulation is complete and drywall installation is underway. The metal sheeting on the walls will be installed next, followed by plumbing finishing. Expenses outside the contract include the propane system, the water softener, and the air compressor system	Presented by McCourt and discussed by all; MVFD Chief Ulmen was present for the discussion
Manhattan Discussions.	The relationship between GRRFD and MVFD is the subject of ongoing discussions.	MVFD Chief Mike Ulmen joined the meeting at around 1630 and stayed until 1738. The BOT and Ulmen discussed the current status of consolidation discussions with the MRFD BOT, financial concerns and opportunities, and some of the technicalities of consolidation. As of this	Chief Ulmen will email the County financial department's response to him to Andrews for distribution to the GRRRFD BOT. The BOT authorizes Andrews to forward that information to attorney

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		time it appears that both Boards of Trustees are in favor of consolidation. Ulmen has updated financial information from Gallatin County on how the tax mills and mill rate would be treated in such a consolidation. Contrary to previous statements from the County, he is under the impression that the mill rate for the GRRRFD side of the consolidation would not lead to a significant tax reduction. This is different from previous statements by the County to MRFD and GRRRFD. It may leave the tax burden on GRRRFD essentially the same but may facilitate more rapid consolidation.	Kate Dinwiddie for her review and advice. The MVFD has worked with Dinwiddie in the past as well, and there is a general impression that both Boards are comfortable with her involvement to facilitate the legal aspects of the process.
Grant Application Update	Grant applications are discussed.	Andrews is discussing possible support for the cost of lighting fixtures with NorthWestern Energy; they have a program to defray costs of lighting upgrades in fire stations, but we are unsure of the eligibility of a new construction like ours	For information only. Andrews will follow through with NorthWestern Energy
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.	One assessment was done since the last meeting.	For information only
Reserve Update	Reserve activities are reviewed at each meeting	Ed Klotz has applied for reserve membership. Andrews has discussed membership, reserve or regular, with Nick Derene and Angie Stewart, who own and plan to build on parcel 174. Both have extensive fire and EMS training and experience.	For information only.

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Auxiliary Update	Auxiliary activities are reviewed at each meeting	No new information	For information only.
Facilities Update	Facilities activities not otherwise covered in the Chief's Report are reviewed at each meeting.	No new information	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.	Discussed; no new information	For information only.
New Station Fundraiser	The New Station Fundraiser began at the GRRHOA Annual Meeting in August. Several donations have been received. The details of the campaign progress are discussed at each BOT meeting.	A mass mailing was sent last Friday to 187 property owners in the district. Weekly social media updates on station progress with reminders of the fundraiser are posted on Facebook. Patagonia River Guides has offered to donate a 2023 fishing trip (excluding transportation) for raffle or auction. The details of how best to take advantage of that are under consideration. A Grand Opening celebration will be an opportunity to raise funds and show off the new station to both GRRRFD residents and the public. Members of the MVFD will be invited to see the facility	Andrews is working with Vanessa McMurray on the main fundraiser and with Shelley Cloyd on the raffle/auction component. Progress reports will be provided at upcoming BOT meetings.

## New Business

Agenda Topic	Background	Discussion	Resolution/Follow-up
Patagonia River Guides offer for fundraiser	Rance Rathie has offered to donate a fishing trip for two by PRG in the fall of 2023 as part of the fundraiser. The	We do not have the in-house experience or contacts to market this opportunity. However, we are in the process of reaching out to some people who may have that	Andrews is in contact with Shelley Cloyd, who has social media and internet marketing

	information about this has been emailed to the Trustees for consideration	ability or experience. The time frame is long enough that we should be able to take advantage of this very generous offer	expertise. She is considering the options.
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Date, time and location of next meeting: Wednesday, 8/12/22 starting at 4 pm at the GRREC Tack Room.

Announcements: None

Adjourned: 1740 hours

Spencer Millimen, Chairman

Date

Susan M. Piechowski, Secretary

Date