

**Gallatin River Ranch Rural Fire District  
Board of Trustees Meeting**  
Date: 10/12/22 Time: 1600 hr  
GRR Equestrian Center Tack Room  
725 Equestrian Center Loop Road, Manhattan, MT

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

Quorum established and the meeting was called to order at: 1601 hours

Public Comment: No public present.

Agenda Topic	Background	Discussion	Resolution/Follow-up
Approval of Minutes	Minutes of the 9/21/22 meeting were presented to trustees prior to the meeting by email.	Minutes are reviewed and discussed	Motion to approve by: Piechowski Seconded by: McCourt Approved on unanimous vote
Treasurer's Report	Profit/Loss statement and balance sheets from August are presented. The September check register is presented.	Treasurer's report discussed. Payment of non-builder expenses are reviewed and discussed; in particular, the water softener and propane expenses are presented.	Approved by acclamation
Fire Chief's Report	Fire Chief's report was distributed to the Trustees prior to the meeting.	Chief's report discussed. The Trustees decided to no longer require quarterly presentation of the vehicle inspection logs; they will be presented at the end of each calendar year	The Chief's report is filed.

## 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	Drywall is done. The propane tank is installed. Partial payment for the water softener is needed. Metal siding on the walls is going up next and then the plumbing and electrical finishing work will be done next week. McCourt needs authority with the bank. Piechowski made the motion: be it moved that Rick McCourt shall have the authority to work directly with Manhattan Bank for coordination of progress payment draws under the construction agreement with 406 Custom Builders.	Motion by Piechowski Second by Anderson Approved: Anderson, Piechowski, McCourt.  The motion is approved. A copy of the signed minutes will be forwarded to Manhattan Bank.
Manhattan Discussions.	The relationship between GRRFD and MVFD is the subject of ongoing discussions.	Andrews spoke with attorney Kate Dinwiddie regarding the consolidation tax issue. She is working with the State Revenue Department to determine a formula that will be used to calculate the tax effects of district-to-district consolidations like ours. She hopes to be able to calculate the tax effects of consolidation by the November meeting, but cannot promise that yet. She noted that the counties are waiting for the State to make this determination. All previous consolidations were between districts and fire service areas, and thus, different. If there is a significant tax increase to either entity, she will work to calculate the tax effects of annexation, which is an alternative approach and legally different from consolidation.	For information only.  Andrews will continue to communicate with Dinwiddie and provide follow up information as it comes in.

## GRRRFD BOT Minutes from: 10/12/22

Grant Application Update	Grant applications are discussed.	Andrews has submitted the close out information for the 2019 AFG grant and is awaiting confirmation that it is closed. The delay was due to the lack of close out software at the AFG program. Sprow and Andrews will purchase two chainsaws and associated gear to complete the purchases for the current RFC grant.	For information only.  Sprow and Andrews will purchase chainsaws and equipment. Andrews will then submit the proof of payment to the grant coordinator.
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 risk assessments done in the past month, none are scheduled. Reminders about the availability of this program are included in the Fire Department's Monthly Tips sent to HOA members via email and Facebook.	For information only
Water Source Project Update	The district is working to develop further water sources for firefighting.	The Mossy Rock Pond spur road is in progress. Marlin will arrange to get enough 3" +/- mix to get about 3 inches of gravel on the surface and then install larger rocks along the far edge of the spur to support it. The water level of Castle Rock Pond is below the end of the siphon installed last year. Sprow may extend the pipe further, and will install the hydrant fixtures when time permits. In the meantime, east side water access will be the pond on the property on Meken Ranch Road, which is well-fed.	For Information only.  All water sources are marked on updated GRRRFD maps distributed to firefighters and reservists.
Reserve Update	Reserve activities are reviewed at each meeting	Applications have been sent to two prospects who have extensive firefighting and EMS/emergency services training and experience. They own property on GRR and plan to build in the next 2 years. They are interested in affiliating with GRRFD for training	For information only.  Discussed the candidates with Millimen and applications have been sent.

## GRRRFD BOT Minutes from: 10/12/22

Auxiliary Update	Auxiliary activities are reviewed at each meeting	No new activity	For information only.
Chief's House Update	Consolidation will trigger a default clause in the Leave and Lease Agreement with Hill Country, Inc.	Anderson, McCourt, and Andrews met with Tom Langel, with GRRHOA President LeMay and Vice President Clark on 10/3. Andrews updated the group to know that GRRFD plans to vacate the current Station 2 building by 12/31, so Langel knows GRRRFD will no longer need the facility and will discontinue its payment for power, propane, and any repairs unless some other agreement is needed. The disposition of the house was discussed but no final decisions were made.	Andrews will draft a proposal for a letter or memorandum of understanding regarding the disposition of the chief's house at the time of consolidation and present it at the November Board meeting.
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.	There are a number of surplus items in and around Station 2. Sprow will discuss these with Manhattan Chief Ulmen to determine if Manhattan wants any of these now or after consolidation. We will need to dispose of the rest. What to do with the white water tank is an open question, with no good solutions at the moment.	For information only.

## New Business

Agenda Topic	Background	Discussion	Resolution/Follow-up
Accidental Death & Dismemberment policy.	The AD&D policy is due for renewal. The renewal options from the insurance agency were sent to Trustees in	The policy was reviewed and discussed. Anderson made a motion to renew the policy at the current coverage levels. Second: Piechowski.	Motion: Anderson Second: Piechowski In favor: Anderson, Piechowski, McCourt.

	advance of the meeting for consideration at the meeting.		Motion approved. Andrews will communicate this with the insurance agent. The invoice will be sent to Ward for payment.
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Date, time and location of next meeting: Wednesday November 16th, starting at 4 pm in the GRREC Tack Room

Adjourned: 1716 hours

Richard Anderson, Vice Chairman

Date

Susan M. Piechowski, Secretary

Date