

Gallatin River Ranch Rural Fire District
Board of Trustees Meeting
 Date: 2/15/23 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
 Trustees absent: Wendy Ward
 Others present: Executive Assistant John Andrews, Chief Marlin Sprow

Quorum established and the meeting was called to order at: 1558

Public Comment: No members of the public were present.

Agenda Topic	Background	Discussion	Resolution/Follow-up
Approval of Minutes	Minutes of the 1/18/23 meeting were presented to trustees prior to the meeting by email.	Minutes are reviewed and discussed	Motion to approve by: Piechowski Seconded by: Millimen Approved on unanimous vote
Treasurer's Report	Profit/Loss statement and balance sheets from December 2022 are presented. The January check register is presented	Treasurer's report discussed. Bookkeeping services charges will increase from \$50/hr to \$60/hr with a minimum charge of 1 hour per month. It is estimated this will cost the district about \$15 per month more. The last time the bookkeeper's charge was increased was in 2018.	Approved by acclamation. The BOT agreed that the increase in bookkeeper charges are overdue and reasonable.
Fire Chief's Report	Fire Chief's report was distributed to trustees prior to the meeting.	Chief's report discussed. The DOT inspections on several vehicles are out of date. These are not driven outside the district at this time. Chief Sprow has	The Chief's report is filed.

		worked to schedule these inspections but the provider has not been able to get them on his schedule yet. Inspection is anticipated to occur soon.	
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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	Rick McCourt has had a challenge communicating with the builder and has not received an invoice for the approximately \$32,000 in charges that remain on the project. The project is over the initial bid but still within the budget set by the BOT prior to construction. The work remaining includes the ventilation fan at the rear of the bay, which is supposed to arrive about 3/1 for installation around 3/7, some drywall repair, minor finishing details, and clean up. There is still no firm completion date from the builder that we can count on. The ability to move into the facility is therefore unclear: perhaps later March or April.	For information only.
Manhattan Discussions.	The relationship between GRRFD and MVFD is the subject of ongoing discussions.	Millimen was prepared to attend the February MRFD BOT meeting but did not have data regarding the tax matters and the MRFD did not have quorum and did not meet. Andrews discussed the tax matters at length with Attorney Dinwiddie. She states that she and the MT Department of revenue have worked out a formula for creating an adjusted mill value and levy for consolidating fire districts. This has never been used before and requires some	For information only.

		refinement and “beta testing” (Andrews’ impression) before it can be implemented. There are now a number of potential consolidations under consideration that she is working on. She will apply the new formula to our districts after discussing the matter with MRFD, and then will have to vet the results with the State and County. She hopes to have more specific data for us by next month. If that is the case, she is willing to meet (if MRFD BOT is willing) with MRFD and GRRRFD BOT in a joint meeting next month if the data is available. This is obviously a somewhat complicated process that has not been done before, and the timing has been much delayed due to staff turnover in the MT Department of Revenue.	
Grant Application Update	Grant applications are discussed.	Andrews has prepared and submitted the final invoices and canceled checks for the RFC grant. No new grant applications are anticipated at this time.	For information only.
EMS Update	Various EMS activities are reported to the BOT.	Andrews participated in a meeting of the County-wide EMS committee with a consulting firm that is working with the County in designing improvements for EMS throughout the county. Nick Derene has acquired CPR manikins for department use from BDH. The new AEDs donated through a State grant program will be delivered when available, probably in April.	For information only.

GRRRFD BOT Minutes from: 2/15/23

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.	The program is idle at the moment. New Ready, Set, Go pamphlets from the State have been received and are ready for use.	For information only
Reserve Update	Reserve activities are reviewed at each meeting	Angie Stewart's application is pending, only the background check remains to be done.	For information only.
Auxiliary Update	Auxiliary activities are reviewed at each meeting	Idle until the spring.	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.
Fundraiser Update	The New Station Fundraiser is ongoing.	The money donated so far is \$14,425. Donations have slowed. Reminders are going to district residents once a month at minimum. The grand opening will likely generate some more donations. The grand opening cannot happen until the station is complete and weather permits. Andrews estimates that will be in May.	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.	Chief Sprow may have parties interested in some of the surplus equipment and is working on disposition.	For information only.

New Business:
No new business

Date, time and location of next meeting: Wednesday, 3/15/23 at GRREC Tack Room.

Possible joint meeting with MRFD Board of Trustees if Attorney Dinwiddie is able and available to present the tax consequences of consolidation by the time of the next meeting of the MRFD Board (on 3/8/23).

Adjourned: 1700

Spencer Millimen, Chairman

Date

Susan M. Piechowski, Secretary

Date