

**Gallatin River Ranch Rural Fire District  
Board of Trustees Meeting**  
Date: 8/23/23 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  
Others present: Executive Assistant John Andrews, Chief Marlin Sprow

Quorum established and the meeting was called to order at: 1555 hr

Public Comment: No members of the public were present.

Agenda Topic	Background	Discussion	Resolution/Follow-up
Approval of Minutes	Minutes of the 7/19/23 meeting were presented to trustees prior to the meeting by email.	Minutes are reviewed and discussed	Motion to approve by: Anderson Seconded by: McCourt Approved on unanimous vote of all trustees present.
Treasurer's Report	Profit/Loss statement and balance sheets from June and July are presented. The July 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. Several people have indicated an interest in the reserve and there is one person interested in becoming a firefighter	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	The project is nearly complete. The final seal coating on the concrete will be done or around 9/12/23. We plan to move some of the non-vehicular equipment in on 9/9 with another moving session after we have determined storage shelf needs. The vehicles will move in the last half of September.	For information only.
Manhattan Discussions.	The relationship between GRRFD and MVFD is the subject of ongoing discussions.	No new information. Trustee Millimen will contact the chair of the MRFD board to follow up and keep the ball rolling.	For information only.
Grant Application Update	Grant applications are discussed.	No active applications or grants.	For information only.
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 and another is pending.	For information only.
EMS Update	EMS activities are presented to the BOT.	No new information.	For information only.
Reserve Update	Reserve activities are reviewed at each meeting.	Several prospects were discussed. An application will be sent to one of them.	For information only.
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.

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Fundraiser Update	The New Station Fundraiser is ongoing and results are reported at each meeting.	We received a donation of \$1,000 last week. The fundraiser is still active but more or less “on idle” until we schedule the grand opening.	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. The plan is to remove all FD gear from the main part of the building at 650 Equestrian Center Loop Rd by the end of September. There are a few things in the building’s unheated shed that will not move and may have to remain in place until appropriate disposition can be determined.	For information only.

## New Business

Agenda Topic	Background	Discussion	Resolution/Follow-up
Insurance Plan Proposal.	The yearly Fire District and Department insurance plan is ready for review. Andrews discovered a flaw in the proposal that resulted in a \$2,289 reduction in the premium. A prorated refund will be received when the district no longer insures the old Station 2. This will be in the \$2,000 - \$4,000 range depending on when the change is made.	The plan is discussed. The AD&D renewal is also available though not due until October. The premium can be paid for one or three years. Andrews will learn more about a few details of 1- vs 3-year renewal.	Andrews will communicate with the agent regarding the AD&D plan.  Anderson moved to accept the main plan as proposed. Second: Millimen. In favor: Anderson, Millimen, McCourt, Piechowski. Opposed: none.
FYE 2024 budget	The GC Finance Department contacted Trustee Ward with the news that our submitted budget cannot be approved due to the large cash reserve	The new budget uses the excess balance to pay off loans. The plan is to pay off the Engine-11 loan first and then determine how large a balance we can have at the end of this budget year, and to use the balance to pay off mortgage principal.	McCourt made a motion to approve the proposed budget, seconded by Piechowski. In favor: McCourt, Anderson, Piechowski, Millimen. Opposed: none.

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	present. A new proposed budget is presented.	A second issue came up in discussions between Trustee Ward and the County finance department. The district's maximal mill authority will decrease to about 77 mills for the budget year ending in 2025. Manhattan's will also decrease. This sounds like a county finance matter and is not due to our current balance or anything about our district's finances. The reasons are a bit unclear. The trustees asked to have either Andrews or Ward learn more about this and bring the information to the next BOT meeting.	<p>The budget is signed and will be scanned and sent to the County finance department.</p> <p>Piechowski made a motion to pay off the Engine-11 loan with Manhattan Bank, date to be determined. Seconded by Millimen. In favor: Piechowski, Millimen, McCourt, Anderson. Opposed: none The motion passed and the loan will be paid off during this calendar year.</p>
Fire Station Grand Opening.	A grand opening celebration will be held in the new station after it is complete.	The Trustees discussed the matter and will make a decision about the date and details at the next BOT meeting	For information only.

Date, time and location of next meeting: 9/20/23

Adjourned: 1709 hr.

Spencer Millimen, Chairman

Date

Susan M. Piechowski, Secretary

Date