| **Gallatin River Ranch Rural Fire District**  **Board of Trustees Meeting**  Date: 11/15/23 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  Others present: Executive Assistant John Andrews, Chief Marlin Sprow |
| --- |

Quorum established and the meeting was called to order at:1600 hr

Public Comment: No members of the public were present.

| Agenda Topic | Background | Discussion | Resolution/Follow-up |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Approval of Minutes | Minutes of the 10/18/23 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 by unanimous vote |
| Treasurer’s Report | Profit/Loss statement and balance sheets from September are presented. The October 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 |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Fire Station Project | The new fire station is now designated Station 2. It will no longer appear in the minutes as a separate item and will be covered under the “Facilities” section below. |  |  |
| Manhattan Discussions. | The relationship between GRRFD and MVFD is the subject of ongoing discussions. | Manhattan VFD has stationed Tender 2-7 in Station 2. This is an indicator of further integration of the departments. | For information only. |
| Reserve Update | Reserve activities are reviewed at each meeting | One new reservist will join us in the near future. | 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. | The GRRFD has moved out of the heated part of the building at 650 Equestrian Center Loop Road. Some obsolete equipment remains in the unheated lean-to portion of the building and will be disposed of as time allows. The heated bay has been cleaned, vacuumed, and the concrete floor has been pressure washed. | Andrews will send an email to Tom Langel regarding the move out and discontinuation of the FD’s use of the heated building. |
| 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. Tender-11 has been decommissioned; the water and pump are drained. The tires will be used to replace worn tires on MVFD Tender 2-7. | Efforts are being made to find a buyer for Tender-11. The water tank seems to have a small leak, which will be revealed to any prospective buyer. |

New Business

| Agenda Topic | Background | Discussion | Resolution/Follow-up |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Radio needs | The county has deployed a new county-wide radio system with 800-Hz trunking on multiple channels. All fire agencies will have to move their main communications to that system, though a firm deadline date does not appear certain. | The GRRFD’s current radios do not operate with the new trunking system. All radios used for mutual aid will have to be compliant with that system. However, the old VHF tactical channels will still operate and will be used in wildland fires and other situations. Thus, all new radios will need to be dual-band capable. A new Motorola APX 8500 mobile costs $7,952 (not including programming and installation). A new Motorola APX 8000XE portable costs $9,021 (not including programming). These are the radios MVFD has purchased; to maintain compatibility of joint operations and consolidation, these are the radios GRRFD will have to use.  Chief Sprow has borrowed two Kenwood portables compatible with the new system from the GC 911 Center. Sprow and Andrews tested these in known “radio-dead” areas of the district. They performed well, loud and clear in previous areas that were “dead”.  The matter of how to proceed is discussed at length. Plans in the next column. | Chief Sprow will follow up with MVFD Chief Ulmen regarding the possibility of using one of MVFD’s portables and the pros and cons of installing mobile radios in various vehicles.  Sprow and Andrews think GRRRFD will need to place a new mobile radio in Engine-11, since it is the main mutual aid response vehicle. Portables should be sufficient to use in the other vehicles at at scenes. We will ultimately need a portable for every firefighter, but at present, three will probably be sufficient.  Andrews will get more information about installation and programming costs and also look at headsets for the portables to enhance their safety for drivers. |

Date, time and location of next meeting:

The Trustees will not meet in December due to the proximity of the usual meeting date with the holidays and the lack of new business to discuss at that meeting.

The Board of Trustees will meet next on Wednesday, 1/17/24, starting at 1600 hours, at the Tack Room, GRREC, 725 Equestrian Center Loop Road, Manhattan, MT.

Adjourned: 1658 hours.

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Spencer Millimen, Chairman Date Susan M. Piechowski, Secretary Date