

Missoula Rural Fire District
Board of Trustees
Missoula, Montana 59804

March 9, 2021

PURSUANT TO RESOLUTION 20-10, adopted April 14, 2020, the Board of Trustees is limiting in-person participation to its meetings, in accordance with the Governor's Directive and Opinion of the Attorney General.

The Missoula Rural Fire District (MRFD) Board of Trustees (BOT) met in a regular session via a "Zoom" video conference on **Tuesday, 3/09/21**.

CALL TO ORDER: Chairman Hanson called the meeting to order at 19:00 hours.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE: Per Chairman Hanson, the consensus of the Board was to skip the pledge of allegiance for the video conference call.

ROLL CALL: Present: Hanson, Chairman; Murphy, Vice Chairman; Beagle, Secretary; and Corti, Trustee. Absent: Mangan, Trustee.

READING OF THE MINUTES: Secretary Beagle moved to accept the minutes as written. Trustee Corti seconded the motion. Motion voted and passed.

CLAIMS: Office Manager Schnee asked if everyone received the additions to the claims that she had sent out. Yes, Thank you. Chairman Hanson asked any questions on the claims. Secretary Beagle moved to accept the claims as submitted. Trustee Corti seconded the motion. Motion voted and passed.

COMMUNICATIONS: *Office Manager (OM) Schnee reported:* In addition to the packet, we received a Thank you letter from Forest Falls, CA for the time worked on the Eldorado Fire. Also, a record of exceptional performance for Jeff Noble, IT Report, Call for Service Report, the public relations breakdown, and a letter from the Clerk and Treasurers office regarding approval for annexation previously submitted properties.

TRUSTEE REPORTS: *Vice-Chairman Murphy reported:* He has been working with MESI, and it is always a pleasure running into MRFD firefighters on call to see from the outside the extraordinary effort they put forth. They represent the fire department well. Fire Chief Newman said "Thanks for that, Ben. I would not expect anything different. I do receive a lot of accolades for our folks from MESI and their employees. It is still good to hear. I know what our folks can do and how they conduct themselves but, it is still good to hear that from outside the fishbowl".

STAFF REPORTS:

VOLUNTEERS ASSOCIATION: No one to represent the Volunteer's Association.

LOCAL 2457: *President Burgess reported:* The International Association of Fire Fighters new President is Ed Kelly out of Boston and a former General Secretary, our new Secretary-Treasurer will be Frank Lima out of California. Local 2457 is slowly planning some in-person events within the 7th District and State Unions.

BC'S OPERATIONS REPORT: *Battalion Chief (BC) Bowman reported:* He is grateful and excited to start his new BC position. Vice-Chairman Murphy stated that he is appreciative of the words from Bowman. BC Bowman reviewed the Call for Service report and highlighted some incidents.

Vice-Chairman Murphy replied: "Congratulations, Mike".

Chief Newman replied: "Thanks, Mike".

Office Manager Schnee reported: Heidi's last day was last Friday. Last Monday Diana started as Administrative Assistant. Raquel will be starting on 3/15/21 as Accounting Assistant.

Assistant Chief Finlay reported: It was a busy month. The burning permit season has opened. MRFD was able to promote Blaine Cowan as a training officer. Today Assistant Chief Finlay met with our three BC's and had a monthly BC/Ops meeting discussing the needs of the Fire District, employees, and BC's. They discussed the past month regarding what has transpired and what expectations are upcoming. In addition, Assistant Chief Finlay has an average of five to six meetings a day related to the vaccine distributions. He has been spending his afternoons as part of the PHC Vaccine Clinic at the Fairgrounds as the operations section for the Western Montana All-Hazards Incident Management Team. It is a significant time commitment at this point. Thank you to Fire Chief Newman, who has been picking up what he is not able to do here at work as a result of that, which is vital to the community and beyond.

Fire Chief Newman reported: Thank you to Assistant Chief Finlay for his work at the vaccine distribution clinics. When you look at the numbers of the other states, they are only administering in the 50% range of vaccines on hand. We are over 90% in the state of Montana. It will not be over in two weeks. We will need to adapt to this. OM Schnee alluded to the Accounting Assistant interviews. We had three candidates that were interviewed on 2/25/21. Raquel Wilkinson was the successful candidate. Raquel starts on 3/15/21. BC's Assessment was held on 3/01/21. Captain Bowman was the successful candidate. Diana Bowen, the new Administrative Assistant, started on 3/01/21. We are running a Captain Assessment also, which will be held on 3/17/21. When there is a vacancy as a Captain, that means there becomes a vacancy for a Lieutenant. The Lieutenant assessment date will be 3/29/21. OM Schnee, Fire Chief Newman, and Vice Chairman Murphy had a good meeting on fuel mitigation and FEMA grant options through the Missoula County. FEMA grant money is welcomed money to a program that is important to this area. We continue to work on the community risk assessment standard of cover. Engineer Horsens continues to do a fantastic job. We are in the critical tasking phase right now. Happy to say we are still on budget with Station 4. We have one vacancy in the firefighter ranks right now, and we will be re-interviewing our current hiring pool on 3/25/21. One last thing regarding the discussion at the previous board meeting regarding protection for the District from a financial standpoint with how we are funding the paramedic program (significant financial investment) for those who are interested. I have had a couple of meetings with our attorney on that. It is more complex than he originally thought so we will meet with Labor Management next month regarding this topic. We will have a full report for the April meeting on that.

OLD BUSINESS: None.

NEW BUSINESS:

1. **Water Tender Bids:** Assistant Chief Finlay explained that Water Tender 347 is 25 years old, and based on years of service, that it is to be replaced. The intention is to build something similar in pumping capacity, weights, gallons per minute, axels, etc. We had initial interest in this bidding but, General Fire was the only bid we received. This evening we are joined by Brenden Feist of General Fire out of Spokane, WA. This bid used Rosenbauer as the manufacturer, which is the same manufacturer of our two recently purchased engines, and our latest aerial apparatus that are quality. We have had warranty work done through General Fire without any issues and with good support. General Fire's bid came in at \$333,607.00 for a

replacement Water Tender. We would need to sign this document soon to get this purchase price; otherwise, it will increase by 3%. They will allow us to buy the cab chassis when it is delivered, which saves us \$3,600.00 roughly. I suggest that we move forward with this bid. Assistant Chief Finlay asked if there were any questions. Trustee Corti asked what the preliminary budget was or the expected bid price. Our estimate was \$23,000.00 off as we originally estimated \$310,000.00 in 2020. We made changes that have impacted this pricing. We updated the Freightliner cab chassis, which provides additional cab room and comforts for our firefighters. Also, the engine is more reliable based on some reporting. Fire Chief Newman stated that this was not a huge surprise to him and that he recognized that our \$310,000.00 estimate was low because of these changes, and the estimate was going to be a little low due to costs going up since then. We have updated the apparatus replacement plan to reflect that. Brenden Feist replied, "Thank you very much for your partnership and business". Trustee Corti moved to approve the bid as submitted. Vice-Chairman Murphy seconded the motion. Motion voted and passed.

2. **2nd QTR FY21 Budget vs. Actual:** Fire Chief Newman stated that there are no significant issues. We ended up holding on to the extra Type 1 engine this year as opposed to selling 341 as planned. There was additional outfitting cost to an extra engine and our reserve so that all the Type 1 engines are equal across the board. The small equipment budget line in the training department budget was at 287%; we are talking \$5,000.00 over what we initially budgeted for due to the Blue Card training. Originally, we did not expect equipment & computer purchases for that training. Fire Chief Newman asked if there were any questions, comments, or concerns. There were none.
3. **2020 Awards:** Fire Chief Newman asked the Board to suspend the executive session on the 2020 awards. Fire Chief Newman will email the nominations to the board this week so we can get those awards finalized. The Board agreed.

ADJOURNMENT: Vice-Chairman Murphy made a motion to adjourn. Secretary Beagle seconded the motion. Chairman Hanson adjourned the meeting at 19:39 hours.

Respectfully submitted,

Diana Bowen, Administrative Assistant
Missoula Rural Fire District



Larry Hanson, MRFD Board Chair

4-13-21

Date

 obo Chuck Beagle

Chuck Beagle, MRFD Board Secretary

4-14-21

Date