

Missoula Rural Fire District
Board of Trustees
Missoula, Montana 59804

November 9th, 2022

The Missoula Rural Fire District (MRFD) Board of Trustees (BOT) met in regular session at the Station 1 Headquarters meeting room and via a "Zoom" video conference on **Tuesday, November 9th, 2022.**

CALL TO ORDER: Vice-Chairman Hanson called the meeting to order at 16:00 hours.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

ROLL CALL: Present: Vice-Chairman Larry Hanson, Secretary Dick Mangan, and Trustee Jeff Merritt.
Absent: Chairman Ben Murphy and Trustee Dan Corti.

READING OF THE MINUTES: Trustee Merritt moved to accept the minutes as written. Secretary Mangan seconded the motion. The motion was voted on and passed.

PUBLIC COMMENT: No one from the public was present for comment.

CLAIMS: Secretary Mangan moved to accept the claims as submitted. Trustee Merritt seconded the motion. The motion was voted on and passed.

COMMUNICATIONS: Melissa Schnee conveyed that the communications consisted of two notices of a public hearing for annexation, two DFM reports, an IT Report, a Public Relations Outreach Breakdown, and a Call for Service Report.

TRUSTEE REPORTS: Secretary Mangan mentioned that he noticed an article in the paper that Missoula City Fire Department did a study on responses. He suggested that MRFD work with the other fire departments in the area to address some of those issues that will come as the Missoula population increases.

STAFF REPORTS:

Local 2457: No one from Local 2457 was present for their report.

Finance and Human Resources (HR): Melissa Schnee reported that MRFD balanced with the County through September. Earlier in the month, Melissa met with Chairman Murphy and Trustee Merritt to review bylaws and Board Policies. They hope to have it ready to present to the Board by the next meeting.

Battalion Chief (BC): The BC was on an incident and not present for a report.

Assistant Chief of Operations: Chief Finlay was at a conference and not present for a report.

Fire Chief: Chief Newman reported that the Calls for Service showed that October 2022 had 279 dispatches compared to 265 for October 2021. The percentage increase was 5.28%, and the year-to-date increase is now 7% overall. Chief Newman conveyed that he is working on potential station rotations. He believes it would benefit everyone to get around and see the rest of the district, especially when working overtime shifts and unfamiliar with that area. Chief Newman stated that MRFD found a second company out of Bozeman for an installation bid for Station Alerting. Once the bid comes in, the Station Alerting

Committee will decide which company to use. Chief Newman also reported that a couple of union members presented him with interesting data on why 318 should be moved from Station 1 to one of the other stations. He also communicated that there had been discussions about MRFD's yearly awards banquet. Some of those discussions have been to incorporate retirements into the event. Accreditation was reported to be in full swing. Chief Newman attended the Big Sky Symposium to gain Emergency Medical Services (EMS) recertification hours and retained new information. Chief Newman had an opportunity to meet Emily Britt, the new Lands and Economic Development director, who handles all the tax increment districts in Missoula County. She supports MRFD, and Chief Newman is looking forward to future meetings.

OLD BUSINESS:

NEW BUSINESS:

1. **New Hire Oath of Office – Matt Santos, Liam Rossier, Noah Willison, and Zanon Fulbright:** Chief Newman read the Oath of Office to the new hires.
2. **Resolution #2022-12 Resolution – Voluntary Employees' Beneficiary Association (VEBA) Policy:** Melissa explained that the VEBA Policy is through Montana Public Employee Retirement Administration (MPERA). VEBA allows retiring members to place part of their sick and vacation leave into a tax-free account that is simliar to a Health Savings Account (HSA). The VEBA account can also be used for insurance premiums or deductibles. Trustee Merritt made a motion to accept the resolution. Secretary Mangan seconded the motion. The motion was voted on and passed.
3. **Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between MRFD and Local 2457 regarding the formation of an MRFD VEBA group:** Trustee Merritt motioned to sign the MOU. Secretary Mangan seconded the motion. The motion was voted on and passed.

ADJOURNMENT: Trustee Merritt made a motion to adjourn. Secretary Mangan seconded the motion. Vice-Chairman Hanson adjourned the meeting at 17:25 hours.

Respectfully submitted,



Jenn Culp, Administrative Assistant
Missoula Rural Fire District



John (Ben) Murphy, Chairman

12/13/22

Date



Dick Mangan, Secretary

12/13/22

Date