

Missoula Rural Fire District
Board of Trustees
Missoula, Montana 59804

July 11th, 2023

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, July 11th, 2023.

CALL TO ORDER: Chairman Murphy called the meeting to order at 16:00 hours.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

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

READING OF THE MINUTES: Trustee Merritt moved to accept the minutes as written. Vice-Chairman Hanson seconded the motion. The motion was voted on and passed.

PUBLIC COMMENT: There wasn't a member of the public present for comment.

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

COMMUNICATIONS: Melissa conveyed that the communications consisted of two thank-you cards, two DFM Reports, an IT Report, a Public Relations Outreach Breakdown, and a Resolution to annex property into MRFD.

TRUSTEE REPORTS: Trustee Corti requested a subsequent meeting to discuss max mills and to go over the budget numbers to better understand why there's a need to ask for max mills. The BOT agreed that they would discuss the matter in the September meeting.

STAFF REPORTS:

Local 2457: Captain Ballard reported that the Assistant Resource Manager Memorandum of Understanding was voted on and approved in the last union meeting. He also noted that they are preparing for contract negotiations for next month.

Battalion Chief (BC): BC Orr reported that calls for service for June was 312, 10 less than in June of 2022. There were two significant incidents in June: a fire at Roseburg and a fire at the landfill.

Finance and Human Resources (HR): Melissa Schnee reported that MRFD was balanced with Missoula County through May 2023 and hoped to get the final June numbers in by the beginning of August. She also noted that FY23 ended on June 30th, and the new fiscal year opened on July 1st. The first payroll of the year has been completed. There has been a lot of work on the Center for Public Safety Excellence projects in human resources and finance. Lastly, Melissa reported that they are still working on the budget.

Assistant Chief of Operations: Chief Finlay reported that they've spent significant time on the budget, which continues year-round. They have three Type I engines, a Type VI engine, and a 1963 Boeing semi-trailer listed as a public auction and advertised nationally, to which there has been little interest. MRFD continues to strive for accreditation, so most of his time outside of daily operations has been focused on job descriptions and ensuring compliance between documents.

Fire Chief: Chief Newman stated that they are waiting on the contract from the consulting company for the station location study and will renew Medical Director Jon Gildea's contract in August. Chief Newman reported they were still dealing with warranty items at Station 4; the plants were supposed to be warranted for a year and didn't survive. The budget is almost complete for FY24, and they have finalized MRFD's insurance for the next fiscal year. Chairman Murphy asked if there was any movement on the Station 6 roof project. Chief Finlay responded that he had sent the plans to contractors and hoped to gain some interest in the project.

OLD BUSINESS:

NEW BUSINESS:

1. **Assistant Resource Manager Memorandum of Understanding (MOU):** Chief Finlay stated that Local 2457 voted on and passed the MOU as written in their last meeting. Chief Newman added that he believes this is the best decision for MRFD and would like to see this move forward. Chairman Murphy asked if the MOU would be opened during negotiations. Chief Newman answered that it has the potential to be opened and discussed. He added that the benefit of doing this before negotiations was filling the position before the academy started so the new hires will all go through the academy together starting in September. Chief Finlay added that the local 2457 president had attempted to further negotiate the MOU as recently as the morning of the BOT meeting. The subsequent attempt to make content changes to the MOU was denied as it would have not been consistent with the motion and vote of the union and would have been negotiating outside of established negotiations. Trustee Merritt made a motion to accept the MOU. Vice Chairman Hanson seconded the motion. The motion was voted on and passed.
2. **Certificate of Appreciation Program:** Chief Newman presented the program, which the BOT requested at the last meeting. Chief Newman stated that the program was well received in the Officer's Meeting. Trustee Merritt moved to accept the Certificate of Appreciation Program. Vice Chairman Hanson seconded the motion. The motion was voted on and passed.

ADJOURNMENT: Trustee Merritt made a motion to adjourn. Vice-Chairman Hanson seconded the motion. Chairman Murphy adjourned the meeting at 16:24 hours.

Respectfully submitted,



Jenn Culp, Administrative Assistant
Missoula Rural Fire District



John (Ben) Murphy, Chairman

8/8/2023

Date



Dick Mangan, Secretary

8/9/23

Date