

**SEELEY LAKE RURAL FIRE DISTRICT
SEELEY LAKE MT 59868
REGULAR BOARD MEETING
MINUTES FOR JUNE 24, 2025**

**200 Firehouse Dr
Seeley Lake MT 59868
6:05 p.m.**

Present: Dave Lane, Fire Chief; Gary Lewis, Chairman; Susan Monahan, Trustee; Shirley Goudzwaard, Trustee; Rita Rossi, Secretary; Jon Kimble, Co-Chairman

I. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Led by Fire Chief Dave Lane

II. Call to Order/Roll Call

Dave Lane, Gary Lewis, Susan Monahan, Shirley Goudzwaard, Rita Rossi, Jon Kimble. To save time Chairman Lewis kept roll call to the board table.
Attendance List attached.

III. CORRECTION AND/OR APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Shirley commented that the minutes were incomplete and should be redone. At the May meeting Shirley had requested a correction to the April minutes which she felt a comment Gary made was attributed to her. Susan agreed while the minutes were lacking since recordings are deleted after meetings it would be difficult to recreate. Susan mentioned that the minutes could be transcribed there are several programs available. Susan made a motion to accept the minutes with the caveat the minutes are incomplete, Jon 2nd, motion passed. Susan made a second motion to change the way meetings are recorded and transcribed, and recordings are kept. Jon 2nd, motion passed.

IV. PUBLIC COMMENTS FOR ITEMS NOT ON THE AGENDA/CORRESPONDENCES

Gary led public comments with Thank you to volunteers who work to keep the community safe. Public comments were both supportive of and disparaging of the current leadership. Some public comment rehashed past incidents involving patient care. Gary commented that while the comments were valid, they had been addressed previously with some having gone before the medical board. Doc Welter advised the board with this much public comment there should be discussion among the board away from the public to address the issues brought

forward. Jon mentioned there is a fine line trying to protect the privacy of personnel with the public right to know.

V. FINANCIAL REPORT AND APPROVAL OF CHECKS AND WARRANTS

Shirley asked a question regarding how many accountants the district has gone through and requested to read an email from former accountant Bonnie Johnson. Lane strongly disagreed with reading of letter. Shirley read Bonnie's letter regarding her dismissal at the meeting. Shirley made a motion for an audit. Rita made a motion to accept the financials. Susan commented we don't see receipts. Gary said it was done previously and considered overboard. Shirley made a motion to not accept the treasurers report and have an audit conducted. Jon 2nd motion. Motion passed. Susan made a motion to accept the treasurers report, Jon 2nd, motion passed.

VI. REPORTS

1. Call Volume

May 2024	May 2025	YTD 2024	YTD 2025
23	26	113	120

2. Recruitment – four applications out, two have returned – one is already an EMT, the other would like to become an EMT.

3. Grants Update – no update currently

4. Update/Actions – Sno Kat was sold for \$9,000

5. Membership Report – no report

VII. OLD BUSINESS – Shirley brought up Foundation stuff. There were no items under old business. Shirley also brought up apparatus checks. She looked at April and no battery checks, not on checklist. Jon will review again. Kristi Pohlman commented on financials and budget, need for balanced budget.

VIII. NEW BUSINESS

Board Election of Officers – Susan made motion to nominate Jon as chairman. He declined too many other things going on. Rita made motion to nominate Gary as chairman. Susan 2nd motion passed. Rita made a motion to nominate Jon as co-chair. Susan 2nd motion passed. Jon made a motion to nominate Susan as secretary. Shirley 2nd. Motion passed.

Second reading 2025-2026 Budget Proposal Tabled

Closed Session – Chief’s COLA Tabled

Jon brought up the topic of evaluation of department. He has been in touch with a group that evaluates administration, equipment and training. This would be a third-party evaluation, fire season restricts him so evaluation could not be completed until September. Cost starts at \$5,000. Jon made a motion, Susan 2nd, motion passed.

IX. NEXT MONTH AGENDA ITEMS

June Reports

Annexation approval of Placid Lake property

X. ADJOURNMENT/NEXT MEETING

Meeting adjourned 8:15 p.m.