

**Seeley Lake Rural Fire District**  
**Seeley Lake, MT 59868**  
**Regular Board Meeting**  
**Minutes for February 16, 2026**

**Present:** Interim Fire Chief Blain Cowan; Jon Kimble, acting Chair via Zoom, Susan Monahan, Secretary; Shirley Goudzwaard, Trustee; Rita Rossi, Trustee, Mike Weigel, Trustee.

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

Led by Cowan

**Call to Order/Roll Call**

Jon Kimble, via Zoom, Susan Monahan, Mike Weigel, Rita Rossi, Shirley Goudzwaard, Blaine Cowan

**Correction and/or Approval of Minutes**

Rossi made a motion to approve January 21, 2026, minutes, Goudzwaard seconded the motion. Motion passed.

**Public Comments/Correspondence**

Alyssa McLean read letter from Kristy Pohlman. (Attached)

**Financial Report and Approval of Checks and Warrants**

Weigel made a motion to approve the January 2026 expenses report in the amount of \$30,786.24. No second. Expense report tabled.

Cowan projected Mary Ellen Stubbs would have financial information caught up and current within the next couple of weeks. Approximately \$38,000 in favor of the district has been found during reconciliation of accounts. Cowan and administrative assistant Renee Cotton are set for training with the county and will receive secure logins. They will be able to pull reports monthly once the county releases information to a portal.

**Reports**

<b>Call Volume - January 2026</b>	<b>January 2025</b>	<b>YTD 2026</b>	<b>YTD 2025</b>
18	25	18	25

**Recruitment** – 25 Members currently, 1 new along with a volunteer EMT from Kalispell. Coverage of shifts has been great, still light on Sundays. Resident program is coming to fruition.

**Grants Update** – Looking at \$1,500 DNRC grant only stipulation no radios. Looking to upgrade some items in the new gym and need for some PPE items. This is a guaranteed grant.

**Update/Actions** – New computers were purchased for \$1,100 with antivirus software and Office 365. District is due for ISO re-rate in March 2026. Looking to upgrade internet for faster speeds. More bodies in the office is causing slow down. Cowan advised board should consider two special meetings to review and come up with budget for next fiscal year. Looking to send three people to engine boss training in May.

**Old Business**

**Financial Audit** – Nothing more on CPA, so far no one willing to conduct audit.

**Operation Audit** – Fire Logistics should have draft report in the next two weeks

**Chief Position** – Committee met and has come up with recommendation of three candidates, Hal Bumgarner, Kansas, Josha Marvin, Oregon and Cowan. Next is background checks and interviews  
**Community Integrated Health Proposal** – There are grants available Rural Integrated Health Plan. Program for entire state. It can add to the community for additional care working with doctors for some testing, patient assessment. Save people a trip to Missoula.

**Roof Repair** – scheduled for June

### **New Business**

**New Logo** – Cowan presented new logo. Goudzwaard made a motion to approve the new logo. Weigel seconded the motion. Motion passed. Rossi opposed.

**John Ungaretti from Gold Cross ambulance** – Ungaretti made a presentation for district to move medical billing services. Gold Cross was formerly Sole Stone and had previously handled district medical billing. Prior issues in reporting between district and Sole Stone. No action, Cowan was advised by board to research current contract for out clause, costs to make transition.

**Engine maintenance vendor** – Cowan would like to work with Missoula Rural Fire District they currently have two full time people for maintenance. There is one main vendor for the area.

### **Adjournment**

Rossi made a motion to adjourn at 7:41 p.m.