

SEELEY LAKE RURAL FIRE DISTRICT
SEELEY LAKE, MT 59868
REGULAR BOARD MEETING
Minutes For April 15, 2025

200 Firehouse Dr
Seeley Lake, MT 59868
6:00 pm

Present

Gary Lewis, Chairman
Jon Kimble, Co-Chairman
Susan Monahan, Trustee
Shirley Goudzwaard, Trustee
Rita Rossi, Secretary

Absent

Dave Lane, Chief

I. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Chief, Dave Lane led everyone in the pledge of allegiance.

II. CALL TO ORDER/ROLL CALL

Gary Lewis, Susan Monahan, Shirley Goudzwaard, Rita Rossi, Jon Kimble, Brian & Susan Page, Tabitha Bailey, David & Lu Perez, Lynnette Allen, Jon Bergen, Michael Bowman, Michael Richards, Kristy Pohlman, Shawn Ellinghouse, Keely Larson and Chief, Dave Lane.

III. CORRECTION AND/OR APPROVAL OF MINUTES

SUSAN Made a motion to approve the March 18, 2025, Minutes with a correction. SHIRLEY seconded the motion with the correction that Michael Bowmans correspondence be attached. Motion carried with all in favor.

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

Michael Bowman complained he never heard back from the board regarding his letter. Gary Lewis stated every sentence was reviewed on Michael's letter and it was handled. There was a discussion about the board responding to correspondence and giving an answer to the public to know if the letters were

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addressed. Jon Kimble – There's a fine line between an individual's right to privacy. Dave Perez – the public has the right to know the results of how the board acknowledges the public comments. Gary – we cannot open employee's records in a public general meeting. Chief Lane stated he has contacted the county attorney and is going forward with actions according to his hostile work environment complaint included in the packet. Lynnette Allen read correspondence from Scott Kennedy's concerns with Shirley Goudzward's ongoing harassment of the chief, employees and volunteers. Scott pointed out the process for written complaints. He also encourages the board to consider asking Shirley to step down. Board communication and correspondence via text, email or otherwise is public information under MT 2-6-1001. There are regulations that do not permit secret board meetings outside of the posted board meetings. Dave Perez says the county and department websites for the minutes of the meetings are not accurate. Chief Lane stated the minutes are sent to the county and uploaded by the county.

V. FINANCIAL REPORT AND APPROVAL OF CHECKS AND WARRANTS

SUSAN Made a motion to approve the March 2025 financial report in the amount of \$32,780.84. RITA seconded the motion. Motion carried Yes

VI. REPORTS

- | | Mar 2024 | Mar 2025 | YTD 2024 | YTD 2025 |
|---|----------|----------|----------|----------|
| 1. Call Volume – | 21 | 26 | 69 | 73 |
| 2. Recruitment – Chief Lane – An applicant is currently going through his task books and is being fit for PPE. | | | | |
| 3. Grants Update – Chief Lane – Through the VFC grant we will get radios. DNRC has county funds available, and we will be spending \$1,500 on wildland gear with those funds. | | | | |
| 4. Updates/Actions –Chief Lane reports: I'm writing a new policy regarding annexing property into our district because there is no policy. We have 2 EMT's that completed their course and still must finish their national registry testing. | | | | |
| 5. Membership Report – Dave Perez- Acquired a new mixer and an orange juice maker. | | | | |