

Seeley Lake Rural Fire District
Seeley Lake, MT 59868
Regular Board Meeting Minutes
April 20, 2026
6 p.m.

200 Firehouse Dr
Seeley Lake MT 59868

Present: Interim Fire Chief Blain Cowan; Michael Bowman, 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, Susan Monahan, Mike Weigel, Rita Rossi, Shirley Goudzwaard, Blaine Cowan, Michael Bowman

Correction and/or Approval of Minutes

Weigel made a motion to approve March 16, 2026, minutes, Goudzwaard seconded the motion. Motion passed.

Public Comments/Correspondence

Chair Jon Kimble read statement from Scott Kennedy, attached. Trustee Rita Rossi read exit statement, attached. Kristi Pohlman requested copy of Kennedy's statement and Jon Espenschied requested opportunity to refute statements.

Financial Report and Approval of Checks and Warrants

Monahan made a motion to approve the March 2026 expenses report in the amount of \$ \$45,877.69. Goudzwaard seconded the motion. Motion passed.

Reports

Call Volume - March 2026	March 2025	YTD 2026	YTD 2025
31	26	73	73

Recruitment – Roger Christiaens ambulance driver was pinned. 24 volunteers, three new, 12 active for calls.

Grants Update – Two small grants which are pretty much guaranteed, \$1,500 from state for equipment and \$750 from State Firefighters Health and Wellness grant. Use for upgrades to gym equipment. Bowman reported that Montana Dept of Transportation grant opens 5/1. District will apply for new ambulance. Grant requires 10 percent match; this will mean \$30,000 to \$40,000 based on ambulance cost of \$300,000 to \$400,000. Weigel has asked for \$4,000 donation for EMT education.

Update/Actions – Cowan and Cotton attended county wide board training. Attended Wildfire Preparedness meeting with Forest Service and DNRC. District agreed to be on hand for forest service pack test training. Vehicles for extraction training were donated by Clearwater Towing. District wildfire pack test training is upcoming along with an active shooter class. Still haven't located Safety Deposit Box key, cost to rekey will be \$250 to \$400. Signed contract with MESI. Signed contract with state for wildland firefighting. Cotton is now certified as notary. District will participate in High School career day 4/29.

VII. Old Business

Financial Audit – Cowan advised reconciliation is complete everything up to date with information received from the county. Currently two transactions do not match. County says paid \$4,700 but can find confirmation.

Operation Audit – Fire Logistics final report is available. Not reviewed until June when Bruce Suenram will be available for questions.

Chief Position – Weigel reported committee is concluding background checks and will then begin interviews mid-May. Two applicants are being considered.

Community Integrated Health Proposal – still looking at September for funding to open. Working with Seeley Hospital Board. Currently working on drafting grant language so ready to submit.

VIII. New Business

Budget Review 2026-2027 1st Draft Review – Anticipated tax revenue \$284,539, approximately \$125,000 medical income. Budget should be completed by next meeting.

Station 2 Fence Repair – Cowan reported bid of \$500 to re-stretch fence and replace a couple of posts. One top rail needs replaced. Goudzwaard made motion to repair fence. Weigel seconded. Motion passed.

Weigel made request for resort tax discussion on May agenda.

Meeting adjourned at 7:01 p.m.