

**Seeley Lake Rural Fire District
Seeley Lake MT 59868
Regular Board Meeting
Minutes for January 21, 2026**

**200 Firehouse Dr
Seeley Lake MT 59868
6:00 p.m.**

Present: Interim Fire Chief Blain Cowan; Jon Kimble, acting Chair, Susan Monahan, Secretary; Shirley Goudzwaard, Trustee; Rita Rossi, Trustee,

I. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Led by Cowan

II. Call to Order/Roll Call

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

III. Correction and/or Approval of Minutes

Monahan made a motion to approve the December 15, 2025, minutes, Goudzwaard seconded the motion. Motion passed.

IV. Public Comments for Items not on the Agenda/Correspondence

Goudzwaard Thanked the volunteers for phenomenal response to recent fire.

V. Financial Report and Approval of Checks and Warrants

Monahan made a motion to approve the December 2025 expense report in the amount of \$51,315.61. Weigel seconded the motion. Motion passed. Rossi questioned lack of budget showing budgeted line items and actual for the year as had been previously presented at meetings.

VI. Reports

Call Volume

Dec 2024	Dec 2025	YTD 2024	YTD 2025
22	44	374	410

Recruitment – 24 current volunteers, Five working on tasks books, two near completion. Cowan introduced new employee Evan Tabler, basic EMT who splits job with another person.

Grants Update – Cowan advised reviewing state grant which offers 50/50 split.

Update/Actions –

Cowan reported Roof repairs to be completed sometime in April if weather allows. Staffing is number one priority. New hires can't go on calls alone yet. A meeting was set with Missoula County Finance to learn more about the reports. County reports have been provided through November and we continue to work through them. Members have worked together to outfit a fitness workout area at station 2. Continue to work on clean up of area. Found bumper for Ford F250 likely to surplus. Licensure inspection was completed and district passed. Recent structure fire, eight personnel responded. Members of Swan Valley Fire Department from Condon responded to assist. Jon Espenschied comment great to have 2nd truck rotating to get water for fire.

VII. Old Business

Operations Audit – Report Fire Logistics is 60 – 65 percent complete with review. Billed \$4,000 of approved \$7,000.

Financial Audit – Goudzwaard report reached out to Mahrt for financial audit. He recommended Jen Lorish (sp) who is familiar with fire district issues. Mary Ellen Stubbs has offered to continue with clean up of financials. Weigel suggested looking for retired CPA to volunteer services.

Cowan reported in Five years district went from \$191,000 surplus to \$45,000. The district has been over spending the last few years according to county finance department people.

Chief Position – Kimble reported 12 total applicants. Two withdrew their application, one not qualified. Nine applicants. Kimble was unable to find an exam to further qualify candidates. Options for further review of candidates was Goudzwaard's proposal of advisory committee, another proposal was to modify to modify proposal to include one board member and one person from departments district collaborates with such as DNRC, Forest Service, someone from one of the other area volunteer departments, committee of just board members. Weigel commented committee must have one board member.

Goudzwaard made a motion from proposal she presented with a board member added. Monahan seconded. Monahan proposed amendment to motion to add collaborative person to make committee seven members. Goudzwaard seconded. Motion passed. Rossi opposed.

Monahan made motion for Weigel to be board member on committee.

Goudzwaard seconded. Motion passed. Rossi abstained.

Roof Repair – Monahan made motion for repairs to be made. Goudzwaard seconded. Motion passed.

VIII. New Business

Mileage reimbursement for EMTs – Weigel made motion to pay Mileage at state mileage rate. Goudzwaard seconded. Motion passed. Rossi opposed.

Community Integrated Health proposal- Cowan presented information regarding mobile integrated health. Districts work with doctor to provide in home visits to patients. Paramedic and EMT can meet and assess patients, perform labs, urinalyses, full body exam. Not limited to district could be large revenue stream. Missoula County has listed our area as a place to consider for mobile health. Board asked for more information.

Policy Review – Monahan made motion to accept changes proposed. Rossi seconded. Motion passed.

IX. Adjournment/Next Meeting

Rossi made motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:35 p.m.