

**COLUMBUS RURAL FIRE DISTRICT #3**  
**BOARD OF TRUSTEES**  
**MONTHLY MEETING Minutes**  
**November 10th, 2025**

*December 8th*

**CALL MEETING TO ORDER** Meeting was called to order at 5:30 pm.

**Present** Curt Robbins, Chuck Kronz, Brent Parkins, Debbie Parod, John Patterson

**Fire Chief:** Rich Cowger – by cell phone **Assistant Fire Chief** Nick Jacobs **Admin Assistant**  
Lisa Westervelt

**Visitors** Colton Cowger, Dan Otis, Dawson Otis, Braden Talarico

**PUBLIC COMMENT** None

**Presentations or Communications**

**APPROVE MINUTES** Minutes for the meeting on November 10th, 2025 were approved as presented.

**TREASURER REPORT** The treasurer's report was presented. See attached report. Income of \$217,444.65 which includes some property tax revenues, ambulance revenues, contract fire reimbursements. Expenses of \$161,393.06. Expenses include payrolls and expenses for contract assignments. **There was a motion made by Chuck to pay the bills in the amount of \$161,393.06. John seconded the motion, voted all in favor, motion carried.**

**CHIEF REPORT** See attached.

**MISCELLANEOUS COMMITTEE REPORTS**

**Park City Fire and Ambulance/Columbus potential merger update** – The Consolidation Q&A document that was shared at the Park City board meeting was reviewed. There is still some confusion around the process and doesn't seem to be a clear understanding that if we go forward with combining departments it would be a new makeup of the Board and organization. There seems to be a lot of support from the residents of Park City, and most of the Park City board members. CRFD board members would like to see more involvement from Park City in discussions going forward.

There is new legislation requiring MT Department of Revenue to be notified by the beginning of the year if there is the *potential* for changes to property tax values. Rich asked the board for a motion of intent to continue discussions and to investigating possibilities of consolidation with Park City and to notify MT DOR of potential changes to district boundaries. **Chuck moved to continue discussions and to notify MT DOR of potential changes to district boundaries. Brent seconded the motion, voted all in favor and motion carried.**

**NEW MEMBER APPROVAL** none

**OLD BUSINESS**

**Maintenance building update:**

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**Mechanic/Maintenance Position Update:**

**Project Priority List:** Representative Troy Downing's office had some grants they fund for departments, recently awarded Red Lodge Fire for example. We are now on their list for consideration for the next fiscal year (October-September). John encouraged Rich to contact Representative Downing's office and invite him to our Annual Appreciation meeting. Curt suggested contacting others to see if they have anything similar.

**NEW BUSINESS**

**Annexation request – annexing maintenance building into the city: Debbie moved to approve the annexation request. Motion was seconded, voted all in favor, motion carried.**

**OTHER MEMBERS BUSINESS:** Due to scheduling conflicts, it was agreed to move the next meeting to Tuesday, January 13<sup>th</sup>, 2026. Reminders will be sent out.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS/Public Comment items not on agenda:** None

**ADJOURN** The meeting was adjourned at 6:16 PM

**NEXT MEETING** January 13th, 2026 – 5:30 PM Fire Station 944 E. Pike Ave, Columbus

Minutes submitted by Lisa Westervelt

  
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Chairman: Curt Robbins

  
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Secretary: Debbie Parod