

NOTICE OF JOINT SPECIAL PUBLIC MEETING AND PUBLIC HEARING

JOINT BOARD OF TRUSTEES FOR COLUMBUS RURAL FIRE DISTRICT AND PARK CITY RURAL FIRE DISTRICT

DATE: September 30, 2026

TIME: 6:30 P.M.

LOCATION: Special K Gymnasium, 34 Special K Lane, Columbus Montana

AGENDA

I. CALL TO ORDER & ROLL CALL

- Call to Order: Columbus Rural Fire District #3 Board of Trustees
- Roll Call: Trustees
- Call to Order: Park City Rural Fire District Board of Trustees
- Roll Call: Trustees
- Determination of a Quorum for both boards

II. PUBLIC COMMENT ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS

- *Opportunity for members of the public to address the Joint Boards on any matter not listed on this agenda that is within the jurisdiction of either fire district board (pursuant to [§ 2-3-103, MCA](#)).*

III. CONSOLIDATION PLAN PRESENTATION

- **Review of Approved Consolidation Plan:** Summary presentation of the formal plan adopted by both boards pursuant to [§ 7-33-2120\(2\), MCA](#).
 - **Boundary Map Review:** Discussion of the proposed unified geographical boundaries.
 - **Estimated Financial Impact:** Detailed overview of the proposed unified mill levy limits and estimated tax impacts on property owners.
 - **Operational Plan & Governance Structure:** Transition plan for equipment, staff, and the appointment of the unified Board of Trustees.
 - **Indebtedness & Assets:** Review of agreements concerning the shared assumption of outstanding debt or warrants.
- **Protest Window Clarification:** Presentation of the statutory protest rules under § 7-33-2120(4), MCA.
- **Official Deadline:** Notice that the written protest period will remain open until **5:00 PM on Friday, October 16th**.
- **Submission Instructions:** Explanation of how real property owners must formally submit their written, signed protests to their specific district board.

- *Statutory Note: The consolidation is rendered void if the owners of 40% or more of the real property (representing 40% or more of the taxable value) within either existing district submit valid written protests by the deadline.*

V. PUBLIC HEARING: PROPOSED CONSOLIDATION

- **Opening of the Public Hearing:** Formally opened by the Joint Board Chairs.
- **Review of Written Testimony & Correspondence:** Reading or summary of written statements received by mail/email prior to the hearing.
- **In-Person Public Comments & Evidence:** Open floor for community residents, property owners, and taxpayers to provide testimony, raise questions, or voice concerns regarding the consolidation.
- **Closing of the Public Hearing:** Formal closure of public testimony.

VI. JOINT BOARD DISCUSSION & NEXT STEPS

- **Trustee Discussion:** Deliberation among board members regarding public input, hearing testimony, and the structural transition.
- **Next Steps & Final Actions Notice:** No board action or voting will occur at this joint special meeting. Public notice is given that any final operational actions or formal adoptions will take place at the next regularly scheduled, individual public meetings of each respective district board, after the protest period has closed. (November 3rd, 2026 for Park City Fire District and November 9th, 2026, for Columbus Rural Fire District respectively).

VIII. ADJOURNMENT