

COLUMBUS RURAL FIRE DISTRICT #3

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

MONTHLY MEETING Minutes

November 10th, 2025

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 **Assistant Fire Chief** Nick Jacobs **Admin Assistant** Lisa Westervelt
Visitors

PUBLIC COMMENT None

Presentations or Communications Presentations by Bridget Ekstrom and Liz Loomis regarding Mill Levies and Bond issues. Both shared recent trends in Montana have been positive in MT for Bonds and other ballot measures. Liz stated she'd like to be part of further conversations to determine what to do for our project goals and would need more information from us to decide if they would take on our project. Timeframe suggested would ideally be 8 – 12 months, with a goal of a November ballot measure should we decide to go that route.

APPROVE MINUTES Minutes for the meeting on October 13th, 2025 were approved as presented.

TREASURER REPORT The treasurer's report was presented. See attached report. Income of \$196,522.60 which includes ambulance revenues, contract fire reimbursements and revenues. Tax revenues should start coming next month. Expenses of \$192,725.22. Expenses include payrolls and expenses for contract assignments. **There was a motion made by Chuck to pay the bills in the amount of \$192,725.22. 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 – There is a Q&A meeting with Park City board and members on November 19th.

NEW MEMBER APPROVAL none

OLD BUSINESS

Maintenance building update – estimates: Sewer/water hookups started today. Chief got 2 new bids for the electrical work: \$11,500 from House Electric, and \$9,410 from Lofing. With the scope of work being the same, Lofing was selected. New remaining total looks to be \$59,818.45. Approval was given to get Northwestern Energy signed to do the work to switch to natural gas, with work being completed later based on weather. **Debbie moved to approve the remaining work to complete the project, up to \$60,000. Chuck seconded the motion, voted all in favor, motion carried.**

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Mechanic/Maintenance Position Update: The position is opened back up and has also been listed with WyoTech.

Project Priority List: The merger is probably the biggest/first hurdle, and we may know if we will be moving forward with this at the beginning of the year. It was asked if we've considered a grant writer to help find sources for grant funding for other project items and station/building construction plans. John and Curt are willing to start looking into other sources of funding.

NEW BUSINESS

Property Casualty Liability Insurance policy approval, upping coverage cost, deductible: There is some concern that we have some apparatus/vehicles undervalued on current insurance policies. We can provide the carrier with replacement values, so we are considering increased insured values and higher deductibles. Debbie would like to see the language in the policy to see if it's specified as actual replacement cost or depreciated value. John asked to make sure we have the appropriate coverage for medical/bodily injury, and make sure we have coverage in other areas also, to include workers compensation, supplemental life insurance.

The renewal is in December, so we may need to send information by email to be approved. Debbie moved to approve the renewals with a deductible that is at 10% of the replacement value. Chuck seconded the motion, voted all in favor and motion carried.

Approval of BC/BS Health Care policy for employees: The premiums with BC/BS of MT increased from \$10,629 to \$11,800. Funds from the permissive levy are starting to come in now, which will help cover the increase. John moved to accept the proposed plan. Chuck seconded the motion, voted all in favor and motion carried.

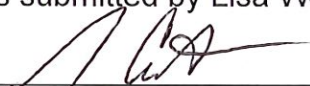
OTHER MEMBERS BUSINESS: None

ANNOUNCEMENTS/Public Comment items not on agenda: None

ADJOURN The meeting was adjourned at 7:12 PM

NEXT MEETING December 8th, 2025 – 5:30 PM Fire Station 944 E. Pike Ave, Columbus

Minutes submitted by Lisa Westervelt


Chairman: Curt Robbins


Secretary: Debbie Parod