

# WHITEFISH FIRE SERVICE AREA

## Board Meeting Minutes

6:00 p.m., Tuesday, August 20, 2024

Station 22, 1345 Hodgson Road, Whitefish, Montana

Call to Order, 6:00 p.m. by Chairman Carlson

Roll call, all present

Guests: Eddie Smith, Michelle Howke, Joseph Perry, John VanDenBerg

Approval of July 9, 2024, board meeting minutes. Motion made by McGrew, seconded by Kauffman, motion carried.

Approval of August 20, 2024, Agenda. Motion made by Dyon, seconded by McGrew, motion carried.

Public Comments for non-agenda items: No Public comment

Moran\Haas: Treasurer Report/Communications

County Balances:

June	Opening	Debit	Credit	Ending Balance
7220	544,798.03	71,473.94	42,225.42	584,046.75
7230	905,450.66	5804.40	0	911,255.06

July: The available report is listed "preliminary", with the transfer to purchase the fire engine currently crossed up, with the \$600,000 (7220) debit from 7230 listed as a credit and the transfer from 7230 to 7220 listed as debit to 7220.

It is expected the county will adjust the accounts after the fair finances are delt with.

### Accounts Payable

FEC	96.00
NWE	34.63
Big Drift	692.00
DC Haas	5833.00
Ben Forman Mowing	500.00 (7.16.2024 & 8.5.2024)
MFTA	500.00
Reimbursements:	Haas \$344.47
	Moran \$23.16

Motion made by Kauffman to pay bills, seconded by Dyon, motion carried.

Ongoing Business:

- 1) Bylaws signature page. Michelle Howke notarized the bylaws.
- 2) Request to purchase Whitefish Fire radio (\$7110.90). Motion made by McGrew to have Whitefish Fire Pay for the radio in the new engine. Seconded by Dyon, motion carries.

New Business:

- 1) Discussion/action: Homestead MOU signature page. The board followed the Assistant County Attorneys input and asked the Homestead for a revision on the MOU.
- 2) Discussion on converting to a district or request funding again in May 2025. The Board agreed to start the process to convert the Fire Service Area to a Fire District. Several key final points will need to be clarified so the public can understand the benefits and know what the mill rate would be.
- 3) Station 22 Planning process. A request for proposals (RFP) will be developed to seek engineering/architectural plans to make Station 22 available for staffing.
- 4) There was a motion made by Dyon to spend up to \$2500 to update the Carnegie Mellon Study. The motion was seconded by McGrew, motion carried.

Haas: Executive Director Report. Haas provided comment on several issues including furthering city planning with the WFSA and grant sources. Haas stated he will be out due to surgery on September 4. He was not sure how many days he will miss after that.

Chairman Carlson mention the Firefighter Appreciation event that is being planned at the fairgrounds on Saturday, May 17, 2025. The event hopes to bring all county departments together to help strengthen partnerships in the valley.

Public comments on agenda items

Next Board Meeting: September 17, 2024

Motion to Adjourn made by McGrew, seconded by Kauffman, motion carried.

Meeting adjourned at 6:58 p.m.

/s/ DC Haas, Executive Director

**This meeting was digitally recorded.**