

WHITEFISH FIRE SERVICE AREA

Board Work Session Summary
8:00 a.m., Saturday, January 18, 2025
Station 22, 1345 Hodgson Road, Whitefish, Montana

The Whitefish Fire Service Area, Board of Trustees, met on January 18 in a work session. The board discussed several aspects of a remodel of Fire Station 22 located at Hodgson and Whitefish Stage.

The board, along with Whitefish Fire Chief Hadley, discussed staffing needs and budget concerns with staffing. The group viewed the needs and determined that an addition would be needed to accommodate six firefighters, with updated living quarters. The remodel/addition is anticipated to cost 1.5 million and each firefighter would cost approximately 120K. The 120K is the “cost to government for a firefighter, which includes insurance, retirement, workers compensation, etc.

The board determined that there is a genuine need for this station to be staffed, as well as two other stations to be built and staffed. The board understands that since the county commissioners control the funding for the WFSA, the need for the formation of a fire district is critical to the development of infrastructure. The board will focus on the formation of a fire district first, which will then place the funding requests to the voters. The voters can then approve or disapprove of a request for additional funding to develop infrastructure. The WFSA will continue to work with the Whitefish Fire Department for infrastructure planning.

Submitted by /s/ DC Haas, Executive Director

This meeting was digitally recorded.