

WHITEFISH FIRE SERVICE AREA

Board Meeting Minutes

6:00 p.m., Tuesday, October 15, 2024

Station 22, 1345 Hodgson Road, Whitefish, Montana

Call to Order at 5:55 by Chairman Carlson.

Roll call: Carlson, Dyon, Moran, McGrew. Kauffman, absent, excused.

Guests: Joseph Perry, Chief Hadley, Scott Miller, Will MacDonald.

Approval of September 17, 2024, Board Meeting minutes. Motion to accept made by Dyon, seconded by McGrew, motion carried.

Approval of October 15, 2024, Agenda. Motion to accept made by McGrew, seconded by Dyon, motion carried.

Public Comments for non-agenda items: No public comments

Will MacDonald & Board discussion on Homestead situation. The board had a brief discussion on the Homestead proposed fire district. Will MacDonald arrived and joined the meeting at 6:07. Questions and possible solutions were discussed with the board, Chief Hadley and MacDonald. Topics included district boundary, mill rate, funding for the station, apparatus, staff and equipment. Also discussed was the issue of a lack of insurance providers willing to write a homeowners policy. All agreed that a partnership would continue to help serve the community. MacDonald left the meeting after the discussion.

Moran\Haas: Treasurer Report/Communications

Moran explained the status of corrections from the county finance office. Corrections were made for September financials but are still needed for July and August 2024.

County Balances:

June	Opening	Debit	Credit	Ending Balance
7220	376,968.42	(864.78)	(7079.32)	369,024.32
7230	314,483.13	6,073.12		320,556.25

Accounts Payable

FEC	110.00
NWE	76.89
Big Drift	528.00
DC Haas	5833.00
Ben Foreman	250.00 (9/21)

A motion was made by Dyon to pay the bills, seconded by McGrew, motion carried.

Ongoing Business:

- 1) Vote on Whitefish Fire radio: Haas explained the conditions of the fire engine purchase, after reviewing the audio narrative from the July 2025 board meeting. A motion to purchase the fire engine radio (\$7110.90) was made by Dyon, seconded by McGrew, motion carried.
- 2) WFSA to Fire District update: Haas explained the status of the board.
 - a. Petition back from legal: Legal council was sought back on August 29 to help with the petition narrative. Haas submitted a second draft last week to the county. We are waiting for the final approval to move forward.
 - b. Marketing ideas: Joseph presented a plan to launch the petition process through marketing and social media. Joseph will secure the desired web sites for future use.
- 3) Station 22 plan: The first meeting with the Architect and Engineer has been moved to Wednesday, October 16 at 9:00 a.m.

New Business:

- 1) Forming a 501 (c) 3 Nonprofit organization
 - a. Name: Friends of the Whitefish Fire Service Area.
 - b. Tax ID has been received from the IRS.
 - c. It was decided that the current board will serve on the nonprofit board, plus one citizen member at large.

Haas: Executive Director Report

- 1) Haas summarized the September issues.
- 2) Joseph Perry was recognized for his service to the WFSA.

The next board meeting is November 19, 2024, 6:00 p.m.

A motion to adjourn was made by McGrew and seconded by Dyon, motion carried. The meeting adjourned at 6:58.

/s/ DC Haas, Executive Director

This meeting was digitally recorded.