

# WHITEFISH FIRE SERVICE AREA

## Board Meeting Minutes

6:00 p.m., Tuesday, February 18, 2025

Station 22, 1345 Hodgson Road, Whitefish, Montana

Call to Order by Chairman Carlson at 6:02 p.m.

Roll call: All present

Approval of January 18, 2025, Work Session summary, motion by Dyon to approve, seconded by McGrew, motion carried.

Approval of January 21, 2025, board meeting minutes and approval of February 18, 2025 board meeting agenda made by McGrew, seconded by Dyon, motion carried.

Guests: John Vandenburg, Joseph Perry, Scott Miller

Public Comments for non-agenda items: There were no public comments.

### Old Business:

1. Haas: Update, petition, launch petition process: Comments were received from the board about including the Station 22 remodel in the fire district roll out. Overall, it will be up to the voters to fund the estimated \$1.1 million remodel of the station.
  - a. A draft petition was handed out for review. County legal staff approved the petition. The County Planning office is now reviewing the layout, working with the county commissioner's office. There was a question whether the narrative had to be included on every page. Haas is waiting to hear back from Sheena Sterling and the Planning office for their approval.
2. Moran: Station 22 follow up and status from work session. There was a discussion about the recent work session and what the next step would be with a remodel. Again, the overall opinion was to have the public vote on this and any other fire stations with a public vote once a district was formed. A vote for a mill rate increase would need to follow a school district election schedule and paperwork would need to be submitted 80 days prior to that election.

### Treasurer Report: Moran

County Balances (Financials arrived February 20):

Fund	Opening	Debit	Credit	Ending Balance
Maintenance & Operations				
7220	669,060.40	11,448.13	(187,597.41)	492,911.12
Capital Improvement				
7230	322,668.75	1,136.89		323,805.64

Accounts Payable

FEC	\$ 94.00
NWE	\$ 354.73
Big Drift	\$ 500.00
DC Haas	\$ 6415.00
Reimbursement, Haas, Travel, printing	\$ 407.61
TD&H Land Survey, 60% of total payment	\$ 7,824.50

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

Financial Summary Narrative: County numbers not available at meeting.

**New Business:**

- 1) Montana Fire Trustee Association, Fire Authority update: Haas stated that the Fire Authority bill sponsored by Willis Curdy (D-Missoula) was dead. The bill was tabled by the firefighter's union so that it could be worked on before the 2027 session. The union felt that pay issues needed to be clearly addressed before any merger could take place. There was also concern with proper staffing when the population of a combined area met the threshold of a class 1 or class 2 city. In summary, the problems the timber/wood products people had were addressed through a rewrite of the bill. The firefighter's union liked the bill, but felt it could not proceed until their issues were addressed
- 2) Haas will continue to monitor the legislative session with the Montana Fire Trustee committee that meets weekly.

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

Next Board Meeting: March 18, 2025

Submitted by /s/ DC Haas, Executive Director

This meeting was digitally recorded.