



**CENTRAL VALLEY FIRE DISTRICT
BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING**

215 Wings Way
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MEETING PLACE: Central Valley Fire District, Station 1
215 Wings Way, Belgrade, MT

DATE: May 12, 2026

TIME: 5:30 pm

ATTENDANCE:		<u>(Present)</u>	<u>(Absent)</u>
<i>Trustees:</i>	Ron Murray, Chairman	X	
	Rob Holt, Vice Chairman	X	
	Mark MacLeod, Sec/Treas.	X	
	Ramie Blakeman	X	
	Joel Fassbinder	X	
<i>Fire Chief:</i>	Jay Wittwer	X	
<i>Operations Chief:</i>	Jeff Hurley	X	
<i>Fire Marshal:</i>	Jake Zlomie		X
<i>Acting Clerk:</i>	Debbie Bloem	X	

NOTICE: ALL MEETINGS OF THE CENTRAL VALLEY FIRE DISTRICT BOARD OF TRUSTEES ARE RECORDED

GUESTS/VISITORS: Stephen McAdams, Samantha Honatke, Rylie Songer, Jaime Songer, Bryan Songer, Mo Holt, Jake Simpson, Brinn Fiorentino

Meeting was called to order at 5:30 p.m.
Trustee Ron Murray led the Pledge of Allegiance.

AGENDA: As presented.

LOCAL 4939 PRESENTATION: Captain McAdams announced that after conducting an essay competition for local high school seniors, Local 4939 will be **presenting scholarships** to two students at their next meeting May 21st.

EMS CHIEF INSTALLATION: Fire Chief Jay C Wittwer expressed appreciation for Pat Songer's history with fire and EMS services which ranged from Lewistown, Montana, to Colorado, Nevada and Washington State. Chief Wittwer administered the **EMS Chief Oath of Office** to Pat Songer. Pat's wife, Jaime Songer pinned Chief Songer.

ANNUAL ORGANIZATIONAL MEETING:

Oaths of Office were administered by Office Manager Bloem for **Trustee Murray and Trustee Fassbinder.**
Roll was called.

Trustee Murray opened the meeting to **Officer Nominations.**
Trustee Blakeman nominated **Trustee Murray for Chairman.**
Trustee MacLeod seconded the nomination. The nomination was unanimously approved.

Trustee Blakeman nominated **Trustee Holt for Vice Chairman.**
Chairman Murray seconded the nomination. The nomination was unanimously approved.

Trustee Blakeman nominated **Trustee MacLeod for Secretary/Treasurer.** Vice Chairman Holt seconded the nomination. The nomination was unanimously approved.

MINUTES: Trustee Holt moved to approve the **April 14, 2026 minutes** as submitted. Trustee MacLeod seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved.

- FINANCIAL REPORTS:** Trustee Holt moved to approve **the financial reports**. Trustee Fassbinder seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved.
- COMMUNICATIONS:** Sandy Waters sent a thank you note for the Memorial Service held at Station 1 for former **Fire Chief Brett Waters**. The crew received a **donation from a resident** with words of appreciation when they were at the grocery store purchasing food for their shift.
- PUBLIC COMMENT:** None.
- FIRE CHIEF REPORT:** As submitted. Chief Wittwer referred to his written report. He expressed appreciation to Battalion Chief White and his work with CPSE to facilitate the **accreditation process** and urged review of his report for a better understanding of the details. He reported that the **City of Belgrade's** work session was focused on storm water processes and proposals. He will continue to report to the Board on City updates.
- LOCAL 4939 REPORT:** As submitted. **Captain McAdams** reported that **wildland** teams have now deployed twice, and firefighters continue to prepare for the wildland fire season. Members have participated in **raising the flag** for opening ceremonies for both major and minor local baseball teams. The Union is pleased with the election and welcomed **Joel Fassbinder** as a new trustee for the District. In a week, three members will be attending the **State Convention** in Whitefish.
- VOLUNTEER ASSOCIATION:** As submitted.
- TRUSTEE REPORT:** Trustee Blakeman reported that two recommendations proceeded out of the Trustee Strategic Planning session. The first was that a **formal meeting should be planned with Dan Clark**, the Director of the MSU Local Government Center to help clarify the role of the Trustees in the Strategic Plan implementation. The other proposal is to have Director Clark **oversee a discussion** between the Board of Trustees, the CVFD Executive Team and representatives from Local 4939 to plan for future governance.

This would be in lieu of a separate trustee training session. Chief Wittwer will propose some dates and times.

Trustee Holt recommended that in spite of the various designations within the Board, **information should be shared** with all and not only certain officers. He also asked that a plan be formulated for the opening of Station 2.

Chairman Ron Murray thanked the CVFD crews again for their **response** when a lawn mower rolled over on him. He praised the consistently compassionate and professional work of the crew.

Trustee MacLeod moved to accept **the reports** as submitted. Trustee Holt seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved.

ORDER OF BUSINESS:

DISCUSSION ITEMS: None.

ACTION ITEMS: **FY27 Preliminary Budget Consideration and Approval**

Financial Manager Samantha Honatke asked if there were any questions about this FY27 Preliminary Budget which was presented last month at the April Board of Trustees Meeting. Chairman Murray expressed appreciation for the information that Financial Manager Honatke consistently prepares and presents which facilitates the Board's decisions regarding these matters.

Trustee Fassbinder moved to approve the **FY27 Preliminary Budget as presented**. Trustee Blakeman seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved.

Discussion and Decision Regarding Fire Station Options for Future Board Meetings and Open Houses

Chief Wittwer explained that the **Community Outreach Team** has suggested that board meetings take place in different locations,

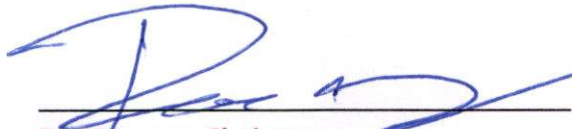
including the new Station 6 facility. They are proposing that the next meeting be held at Station 3 and the Trustees agreed.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

The next regular meeting of the Central Valley Fire District Board of Trustees is scheduled for **June 9, 2026 at Fire Station 3, 275 Ice Center Lane, Bozeman.**

ADJOURNMENT:

The meeting was adjourned at 6:10 p.m.



Ron Murray, Chairman

Mark MacLeod, Secretary/Treasurer

ATTEST: 

Debbie Bloem, Clerk