

Yellowstone County Fire Council

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FIRE COUNCIL MINUTES - JAN. 14, 2025

1. Introductions.
2. Minutes Corrected - It was left out in the Nov. 2024 minutes that Travis Jones had been nominated for vice president.
3. Treasurer Report - Checking account holds \$422.42. Dues notices for 2025 have been sent out. Confirmed that the YCFC will remain a non-profit and that a report will be filed with the IRS for 2024.
4. DES/Fire Warden Report - Work is proceeding on the county's community fire plan. There will be 3 public meetings held in Laurel, Lockwood, and Billings. The deadline to complete this project is July. This plan can be used to plan and seek funding for fuel mitigation projects. Lockwood and Blue Creek are identifying areas under this plan. This project can be used to help citizens understand if they have fire protection and to what level. A county haz-mat plan is also being reviewed, with Billings Fire Dept. being our regional Haz-Mat Response Team.

OLD BUSINESS:

5. No old business submitted.

NEW BUSINESS:

6. Wildland Fire Contracts and Plans - Derek Yeager briefly reviewed several items. The COUNTY CO-OP PLAN is between Montana DNRC and the county. Therefore there is not much input from the fire depts. to be had and therefore not much to change. Other items that directly involve the county fire depts. are: Grassfire Contracts (between the county and fire depts), the Wildland Fire S.O.P's, the Staffed Station program, and Mutual Aid agreement. These items will be discussed at a fire chiefs meeting on Feb 4 at the Huntley fire station at 6:30 pm. Review these items and bring your suggestions.
7. Elections - No further nominations were received and upon a motion, re-elected were Phil Ehlers for president, Travis Jones for vice president, and Larry Carpenter for sec/treas. These are for two year terms.
8. Agency Reports: BILLINGS - currently have 11 new recruits undergoing training and will have 11 more in March. LAUREL - a flyer was sent (emailed) out announcing a varmint hunt at the end of Feb. Training with police and ambulance crews on scenarios. Doing structure fire training with Molt. MOLT - doing structure fire training with Laurel. Planning extrication training. Had their SCBA's checked out and certified. Purchasing a Type 3 engine to help with structure fire fighting. BROADVIEW - building up a Type 6 brush truck. FUEGO - bringing on one new member for a total of 10 people. Considering selling their command truck (a 2004 Ram 2500 4WD). BLUE CREEK - bringing on 2 new EMT's which will give them a total of 7 EMT's plus 1 advanced EMT. HALEY BENCH - nothing to report. SHEPHERD - also have new members. They have 17 EMT's, 3 Paramedics, and 1 Nurse. They have a new dry hydrant at 87 North and Shepherd-Acton Road. They have a surplus 1996 Suburban for sale after buying a "new" 2013 Suburban out of Texas. Phil talked about different companies and costs to hydro test SCBA bottles. WORDEN - have 2 new members with 3 more possibilities. Lance says do not buy adapters - he has buckets full to sell or give away. Contact him. AMR - they are going to the dual band radios and might have VHF radios available to the fire depts. Fully staffed right now. They are offering to bring an ambulance to your fire

dept to familiarize your members of the layout and answer questions. SHERIFF'S OFFICE - hiring 5 deputies now with 2 more later. They are down 3 positions right now. DNRC - training is commencing. Please get your requests in now to Dustin. Please look at the DNRC training calendar. There will be a wildland fire training academy once again in Dillon. EFF "packets" will be ready on line. Fire chiefs get your nominations to DNRC classes early. FSTS - working on getting 2 new fire training props. Hiring a new instructor for the central region in March. Changes coming in FF1 and FF2 classes. The school is developing a fire certification program for support people on your fire dept. Extrication training is an excellent chance to try out the newest in extrication tools. Vendors provide the tools which are sometimes offered for sale at the end of their trial for a reduced price. The newest hydraulic extrication tools use a single hose and are lighter than the battery operated tools. There is a possibility in the near future that firefighters who respond to incidents on public roads will be required to take a traffic incident management class with an actual certificate of attendance.

County Fire Chief for a 2 year term will be Mark Morse. He introduced Mike Waters our newest commissioner. He said there are preliminary talks with St. Vincent's Regional Hospital to provide additional ambulance service to the county. Mark asked that fire fighters monitor the new legislative session for bills pertaining to fire fighters. One proposed bill would prevent employers from firing volunteer fire fighters who respond to calls while working. Another bill would give a tax break to firefighters in hopes of attracting and retaining them.

FIRE CHIEFS MEETING AT HUNTLEY ON FEB. 4 AT 6:30 PM.

NEXT FIRE COUNCIL MEETING IS AT LAUREL ON MARCH 11 AT 7:00 PM.

Larry Carpenter, Sec/Treas.

YCFC

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Fargo . Haley Bench . Laurel . Lockwood . Mori . Shepherd . Worden