

**RED LODGE RURAL FIRE DISTRICT 7
BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING**

Sep 23, 2025

Meeting called to order by Trustee Harris Gabrian at 7:01 pm

Trustees Present: Tom Kastelitz , Harris Gabrian, Dan Coolidge, Beth Graham, Billy Oley

RLFR personnel present: Tom Kuntz, Tim Ryan, Kim Bednarz,

Public Present: There were no members of the public present.

The minutes from the June 10, 2025 meeting were read. Dan Coolidge made a motion to accept the previous minutes as presented. Gabrain seconded the motion. All in favor, Motion approved.

Coolidge moves to approve the minutes for the special meeting that was held on August 20th, Garbrian seconded the motion, all in favor. Motion carried.

Trustees Report: None

Treasurer's Report:

Board Financial Report

The financial report was reviewed by members. Kuntz noted that we have significant fire mobilization billing for this fiscal year. We currently have \$130,000 owed to us for the EMAC (in last fiscal year) assignment, and \$544,365 from the DNRC in this fiscal year. Gabrian Moves to approve the financial report, Oley seconds, all in favor motion carries.

Fiscal year 2024-2025 Year End Report- The fiscal year end report was presented to the board.

Unfinished Business:

Ambulance District Service Fee: The county funding has been received by all agencies and is helping significantly.

City Fire Agreement/ Capital Resort Expenditures: Tom states that he has met with city admin and other committees. Overall it was a good meeting, and Tom feels they finally

understand where we are coming from with the agreement discussion. They are discussing annexing the city into the rural fire district, and Tom explained that it really would be the best way to go for fire protection. He also explained that by doing that if there is less money coming from the city, they will need to backfill that loss with resort tax money.

Capital Improvement Plan:

Tom presented the capital improvement plan at the last meeting. Right now we really need 2 command vehicles, and 1 vehicle for fuels. Those are budgeted in this fiscal year. The next two important things are a rescue truck and another ambulance. The board gave approval to order the ambulance at the last board meeting, it will go into the 26/27 fiscal year. Tom let the board know that he will likely present one of those replacement vehicles at the next meeting.

Tom also explained to the board that he had applied for a congressional grant for a new fire station at the recommendation of Kat Healy. It has surprisingly made it through the process to the budget meeting. Tom feels there is a 90% chance that we will get this grant. If we get the grant we will have to work on obtaining the lots to the north, and match about 1 million dollars to make the project happen.

Property Exchange at Training Center: No development.

New Business:

Resolution 25-007: Approval for credit cards. Tom explains that the current credit card company is great because it takes fuel tax off, however it is a little difficult to manage, and we continue to bump into our credit limit, it also does not integrate with quick books. Graham moves to approve, Kastelitz seconded, all in favor, motion passes.

Chief's Report: Tom discussed the departure of Jon earlier this year, and Tim will be done at the end of this week. He also pointed out that there is only 1 remaining fire fighter from the time period between 2010 and 2020. We do have about 30 fire volunteers currently, but Tom would like to have that be 35. The department is working hard on recruiting for fire.

Announcements:

Gabrain made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Graham seconded the motion. Motion passed. Meeting adjourned at 8:18 pm

The next meeting is tentatively scheduled for January 13th.

Signed,
Kim Bednarz, RLFR Office Manager