**A red and blue fire department emblem

Description automatically generated**

**Canyon Creek Rural Fire District**

**Board of Trustee’s**

**Special Board Meeting**

Monday – Oct 7, 2024

**This meeting was conducted in person and via Zoom. The meeting, in it’s entirety, may be accessed via zoom link below:**

https://us06web.zoom.us/rec/share/i8gnYW2j9yLCqk4NFpko19Gv9H38itDfPa71FDIZoQ3vrEEKIp4rd0KgDR6BFca8.oSYaYiJ1HiaBI2JE

Passcode: Q\*72Un2u

**Attending:**

Rick Grady, Chair

Wendy Adamson, Treasurer

Jim Thomas, Vice Chair

Ellen Eskildsen, Secretary

Max Eskildsen, Trustee-at-Large

**Fire Company:**

Josh Dalzell, Asst. Chief (zoom) John Keller, Volunteer

Gregg Weed, Volunteer Mechanic Mark McDonough, Volunteer

**Community Members/Guest/Zoom:**

Mike Alkire (zoom) SA (zoom) Dave Quick (zoom)

Gegi Guay Steven Mullenbach Bob Justesen

Judith Owens(zoom) Jeremy Gilliam Constance Horder

David Ogle Judy Gilliam Joseph Linden

Peggy Justesen Charlie Spinning Sam Stigman(zoom)

Sonny Tapia Nancy Treib Josh Dalzell(zoom)

Ray Miller Dale Hudec Office Admin(zoom)

Lillian Miller Patty Butterfield

**Welcome/Pledge of Allegiance/Introduction of Trustees-Meeting commenced at 6:30pm**

**Chair Rick began the meeting by welcoming the community; Treasurer Wendy stood up and began to speak; Chair Grady said she was out of order; she was not following the agenda order, but she continued to speak.**

**(note: the zoom video was recording but the audio was accidently muted until 2:55 zoom time)**

**Wendy continued to speak about a Redress Petition effort she drafted to be filed against the board on behalf of more than 5% of electors. Most of the petition complaints fall under the responsibility of the Chair. She presented 10 different redress petitions that she drafted. (all will be filed with the minutes)**

**Treasurer Wendy made a motion to adjourn the meeting (zoom time: 25:00)**

**Vice Chair Jim Thomas seconded the motion; VOTE: Secretary Ellen voted nay; Trustee Max voted nay; Chair Rick voted nay; Treasurer Wendy voted yes; Vice Chair Jim voted yes; Vote 2-3 motion to adjourn dies.**

**Chair Rick brought the meeting to order, thanked Treasurer Wendy for her presentation. Explained the new business for tonight and asked if all applicants were present; John and Jeremy were present; Josh appeared on zoom later in the meeting.**

**New Business**

**Agenda Item 1: Discussion and decision on selecting an individual from list of applicants with submitted resumes and training documentation, emergency medical responder certification to be appointed by the Board of Trustees to serve as an interim Probationary Fire Chief on a 120-day interim appointment. (zoom time 26:13)**

**-**Chairperson Grady read the agenda item and asked if John Keller would like to speak first, he gave him 5 minutes to address the board;

-John Keller said given the presentation given by Mrs. Adamson he doesn’t think the board has the authority to proceed with this appointment and has nothing to say.

Treasurer Wendy tried to interject a statement and Chair Rick said she was out of order and she continued to try to speak; Chair Rick again said order, she continued to interrupt the meeting; Chair Grady wanted to pause the meeting for 5 minutes, and said all trustees meet in the kitchen; the trustees didn’t meet in the kitchen as this would’ve been a violation of Montana Open Meeting Law. The Secretary paused the zoom recording but after approx. 15 seconds Chair Grady decided to resume the meeting. Audio recording of this interaction is not clear as voices were loud and talking over each other it was hard to make out the entire conversation for the record. Treasurer Wendy went on to say that anything that was changed to the SOG’s didn’t have a signed adoption page.

**Chair Rick asked Jeremy Gilliam if he’d like to speak. (zoom time 28:15)**

-Jeremy Gilliam- stated why he would like to be selected as the interim Fire Chief; wife’s family is six generations in the Canyon Creek area; great relationship with the community members; held an EMT license for 12 years; on the ski patrol with Great Divide; debunked statements from community members saying he was fired from other departments and he said he resigned; said many people in the community support him and would welcome him as the Chief; wants to save the community money; and has worked with multiple agencies and also many people will join the department under his leadership. Willing to work with anybody and everybody and will encourage people to join the department, not reject anyone.

**Open for Comments: (zoom time 33:08)**

**-**Joseph Linden-presented written comments stating he doesn’t feel the Grady 3 have the communities best interest; he lost his place in his speech had the wrong one pulled up; doesn’t agree with the demotion of Jon C., feels it wasn’t based on performance but duties that weren’t accomplished; disregarded MCA’s; slandered Jeremy Gilliam saying he was charged with crimes and he openly slandered Jon C. He feels there’s a close relationship between Chair Grady and Trustee Max sighting two incidents; Time was up but he continued to disparage Jeremy citing incidents in the past. This is a rogue board join me in signing the recall.

-Peggy Justesen- three people being considered for the position; would like to see proof of firefighting experience, certificate, letter; said Jeremy Gilliam resigned from Canyon Creek; stated she knows why, something about training at St. Peters and was asked to apologize to a nurse for something and he refused; ISO rating affects insurance rates not taxes. Thinks that its only fair, Wendy corrected her saying lawful not fair; that the community should be able to review the resumes.

-Sam Stigman- drama is caused by certain people in the community mainly by Rick and the Gilliams. Incident posted on facebook; said Jeremy accused Chief Stigman of being involved when Sam said it wasn’t true. Also stated an experience that occurred on the 888 ranch fire with the Gilliams when Sam arrived Jeremy said your with Canyon Creek, great you can take over.

-Vice Chair Jim Thomas read an email comment from Kori Dee- decisions to be made tonight by Rick, Ellen and Max 1: will potentially put residents at risk because of response time to incidents 2: removal of highly qualified and well regarded Fire Company members; 3: placed our mutual aid agreements in jeopardy as stated in the Sept 21st trustee meeting I am not clear at all of your intended goals and outcomes but to date they are certainly not in the best interest of the residents of Canyon Creek but in fact reckless.

-Josh Dalzell- via zoom he stated that his resume speaks for itself; he sent to Chair Rick so if anyone has a question to his qualifications they can ask the Chair.

-Joseph Linden- asked if he could get the Secretary’s email to send his comments to; Chair Rick said get with her after the meeting

**No other Comments**

**Chair Rick asked the board for comments (zoom time 47:10)**

-Secretary Ellen had no comments

-Trustee Max no comments

-Treasurer Wendy- stated that the boards actions today will not stand; unlawful

-Vice Chair Jim T.- stated that although training and qualifications are important; he feels that the most important value in hiring someone is having someone that can get along well with the other volunteers

-John Keller stood up and said he wasn’t afforded 5 minutes to speak; also, he stated that Jeremy submitted three pages and they were told only 2. Unfair.

**Vote: (zoom time 49:20)**

At this time Chair Rick stated that each board member will receive a ballot with the three applicant’s names on it. They were asked to circle the name of the person they would like to select as the Fire Chief, the votes were placed in an empty box and passed to the Vice Chair. The Vice Chair, Jim T. read the votes one by one: (zoom time 51:18)

No vote; Jeremy Gilliam; No Vote; Jeremy Gilliam; Jeremy Gilliam. By a majority vote Jeremy Gilliam is now appointed as the Fire Chief for Canyon Creek Rural Fire District. Jeremy will be on a 120-day probation period. A list of equipment items, radios, passwords, login information, medical equipment, etc. that needs to be transferred over to the newly appointed Chief will be sent to the previous Chief and current Asst. Chief for action.

Chair Rick stated that he wanted to open it up for non-agenda comments but was told by Treasurer Wendy and others that it wasn’t listed on the agenda and therefore improper to bring up now. He then stated fine.

**Vote:** Chair Rick made a motion for adjournment; Trustee Max seconded the motion; all in favor; Trustee Max, yes; Treasurer Wendy, yes; Vice Chair Jim, yes; Chair Rick, yes; Secretary Ellen, Abstained. Motion carries. **(zoom time 52:58)**

**Chair Grady adjourned the meeting at 7:23 pm**.

Statement from Kori Dee included with minutes

Statement and all redress petitions submitted by Treasurer Wendy included with minutes

Resumes for all three applicants included with minutes

Handouts from Chair Grady Presenting Oral or Written Public Comments; Fire Company Member Duties and Responsibilities for the Fire Chief Position included with minutes

**Meeting Minutes approved by the Chair person** \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**Date Approved**: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_