

**Canyon Creek Rural Fire District
Board of Trustees
Regular Board Meeting**

Monday – Jan 27, 2025



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

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/84451234567>
Passcode: 0Ge*NUF^

Attending:

Rick Grady, Chair (zoom)
Jim Thomas, Vice Chair
Wendy Adamson, Treasurer (absent)
Ellen Eskildsen, Secretary (zoom)
Max Eskildsen, Trustee-at-Large (zoom)

Fire Company:

Kai Bauer, Volunteer

Community Members/Guest/Zoom:

Gegi Guay (zoom)	Constance Horder	E.J. Betka (zoom)
Ray Miller	Dale Hudec	Chris Hindoiien (guest zoom)
Lillian Miller	Candi Mullenbach (zoom)	Jon Cunningham (zoom)
Judith Vincent (zoom)	Sam Stigman (zoom)	Joane Bayer (zoom)
Bob Justesen	Peggy Justesen	Charlie Spinning
Patty Butterfield	Sonny Tapia (zoom)	

Meeting Commenced at 6:30pm

Guest Speaker

-Chair Grady introduced Chris Hindoiien; Marketing Coordinator for VFIS Rocky Mountain Insurance Services; Chris spoke about the possibility of the board losing its liability insurance completely; Liability provision being removed from our policy. The umbrella limits have changed under Notice of Policy Conditional Renewal for the CCRFD Board of Trustees insurance policy. Chris stated he was able to negotiate a 10k deductible being added to our policy mainly due to the fact that the board is being sued and the money to pay attorney fees is paid by the policy; this isn't an isolated incident for us as he stated other law suits against other entities have also contributed to insurance agencies making policy changes. There is also a 25k deductible to consider as well.

CCRFD Board of Trustees Minutes

Secretary Ellen made a motion to approve the meeting minutes for November 18, 2024; Trustee Max seconded the motion.



No board discussion.

Public Comments- No comments

Board Vote to approve the minutes; All in favor, motion carried

Treasurer Report

The treasurer was out sick and not available to present financial reports for the months of November and December 2024 to include WEX reports and pending bills requiring payment.

Chair Grady spoke of the need for a second person to be added to the US Bank account and he volunteered to represent the board. Chair Grady made a motion to add himself to the bank account; Secretary Ellen seconded the motion. No board discussion.

Public Comments: 6:36pm

-Kai Bauer stated that he feels at least one firefighter should be on the account; currently the department doesn't have a credit card to purchase items for the department

-Sam Stigman stated he doesn't feel Rick Grady should be on the account

-Connie Horder stated that because of redress and recall actions she doesn't think Rick Grady should be on the account due to on going litigation

-Joane Bayer stated she thinks Ellen should be on the account

-Lillian Miller thinks a firefighter should be on the account

-Dale Hudec wants to know why Rick wants to be on the account

Board Discussion: Trustee Max feels we need another trustee on the account not just one person. Vice Chair Thomas thinks the highest ranking firefighter should be on the account; feels Rick is incompetent. Secretary Ellen agrees that a firefighter should have a credit card with purchasing power through the account. Vote on the motion; Secretary Ellen Yes; Chair Rick Yes; Trustee Max Yes; Vice Chair Thomas No; 3 to 1 motion carries. Chair Grady will contact US Bank to get his name added to the account.

Receiving Copies of actual bank statements from US Bank and financial reports from the county 48 hours prior to regular board meetings.

Board discussion: Trustee Max made a motion to receive the financial reports and bank statements 48 hours prior to the regular board meeting; Secretary Ellen seconded the motion.

Public Comments: 6:45pm

-Joane Bayer stated that reports do not always arrive in time for the regular board meeting which is currently the 3rd Monday of the month.

-Connie Horder thinks the decision should be postponed until the treasurer is present at the meeting to address the issue

-Kai Bauer also thinks the decision should be tabled until the Treasurer is present

-Sam Stigman wanted to know if Chair Grady wasn't on the Trustee board would the insurance rates be cheaper

-Dale Hudec agrees with Kai

Board discussion: Trustee Max amended the motion to table the decision until Wendy is present to discuss; amended motion is to table until the next regular meeting; Chair Rick seconded the motion; Vote All in favor.

New Business

Chair Grady stated that the Management and Liability Insurance is offering the board a 10k deductible for continued insurance coverage as presented by Chris. Secretary Ellen made a motion to approve the 10k deductible for the policy renewal; Chair Rick seconded the motion.

Public Comments-6:47pm

-Connie Horder feels that further research needs to be done before the board commits to this amount; this is the communities funds and should be paid by Rick

-Sam Stigman thinks that Rich Grady should step down and save the community money; especially if it would save the department money

No other comments

Board Discussion

Secretary Ellen restated the motion and asked Chris if the policy would be less if Chair Rick wasn't on the board; Chris stated that he couldn't answer that specifically but said it wasn't an individual matter it was a board issue and insurance companies cringe when a community sues for supposed mismanagement. Trustee Max asked Chris if this was a nationwide issue; Chris stated that there is a dramatic increase in policy cost due to managerial issues. Vice Chair Thomas reminded Rick of the Roberts Rules and points of order; he does feel we should look into the insurance situation more before deciding either way. **Vote** on the motion; Trustee Max No; Secretary Ellen Yes; Vice Chair Thomas No; Chair Rick Yes; **lie vote motion dies**. Trustee Max will followup with Chris to get further information and cost associated with the deductibles and present at the next regular meeting.

Approval of payment to Action Fire Extinguisher Service for annual maintenance cost of \$228.40. Secretary Ellen says yes we should approve the payment; Trustee Max also says approve. Vice Chair Jim Thomas says pay the bills.

Public Comments: 6:49pm

-Dale Hudec says pay the bill

No other comments

Secretary Ellen **made a motion** to approve the payment of \$228.40; Trustee Max **seconded the motion**. **Vote** **All in favor motion passed.**

Approval of payment to Three Brothers Plumbing for repairs made to the filling site in the amount of \$1,064.00.

Board Discussion- Secretary Ellen stated the bill needs to be paid; Trustee Max and Vice Chair Thomas also said to get it paid.

Public Comment- 6:58pm

-Dale Hudec pay it

-Connie Horder said this has happened before and puts it on the Chair that it wasn't taken care of prior.

-Jon Cunningham said he was accused of breaking that water fill and wondered what ever happened

No other comments

Trustee Max **made a motion** to pay Three Brother's \$1,064.00 for the repair cost; Secretary Ellen **seconded the motion**. **Vote all in favor motion passed.**

Approval of payment to Grizzly Diesel for repairs made to Engine 8111 in the amount of \$3928.33.

Board Discussion- Secretary Ellen said that if all repairs are completed the bill needs to be paid asap so we can get the truck back in service; Trustee Max also agrees to pay; Chair Rick stated that the truck has been in town since October and was finished up in January; Secretary Ellen **made a motion** to pay the bill; Trustee Max **seconded the motion**.

Public Comment- 7:02pm

Kai Bauer last summer a priority list was provided to look at vehicles that we need to start replacing due to cost of repairs. Feels the truck spends more time in the shop than its worth. Please send an invoice so they can file in the truck records.

Sam Stigman consider putting this vehicle up for sale and look into getting something newer and more reliable; you need to pay the bill for the repairs. Look into DNRC program to replace the vehicle.

Candi Mullenbach- yes bill needs to be paid on a received invoice; cautions the board against paying for things without an invoice.

Connie Horder- yes need to pay the bill but should have a yearly plan or budget to pay bills for vehicle repairs.

No other comments

Board comments; Trustee Max agrees we should pay the bill but also agrees with Sam that we should look into taking this vehicle out of service and get another vehicle in better condition. Secretary Ellen agrees to pay the bill. Vote on motion; all in favor to pay the bill motion passed

Decision to take Engine 8111 out of service due to lack of space in department; Secretary Ellen asked if we have room for the Engine 8111 in the station if not where is it going to be stored for the winter and feels that the decision as to what should be done with the Engine should be left up to the firefighters to determine the need of the vehicle; Trustee Max just wants to make sure we have room in the station; Vice Chair Thomas agrees that the firefighters should decide where the Engine is stored; Chair Grady made a motion to leave Engine 8111 out of service until space is sufficient for storage; Vice Chair Thomas seconded the motion

Public Comments- 7:13pm

Kai Bauer- 8133 has been winterized and will be moved outside; 8131 will be moved back and the QRU will be parked in front of that vehicle so that makes room for 8111 to have a spot in the station.

Sam Stigman- feels 8111 needs to be in service because of possible structure fires and have to at least make attempts to reach community members homes that are far out.

Jon Cunningham- stated that Birdseye's Engine is currently down and makes our Engine even more valuable to remain in service

Connie Horder- the firefighters know what should be in service and it should be left up to them

Bob Justesen- Said without 8111 no other Engine could reach his residence

No other comments

Board discussion- Trustee Max agrees to put 8111 back in service; Chair Grady amended his motion to put 8111 back in service and the firefighters will ensure its stored appropriately; Secretary Ellen seconded the amended motion; Vote all in favor motion passed

Non-agenda comments 7:19pm

Kai Bauer stated that Chair Rick has left off the request to appoint a new Chief; he should make it a priority to recruit for a new chief; top priority

Candi Mullenbach-had questions about insurance rates and wondered about rates because of lack of recruits
Joane Bayer- thanked John Keller for being name firefighter of the year; also stated that the County Attorney found that 11 1/2 of the 12 redress petitions had merit and we are just waiting for the County Commissioners to schedule training; public right to know is lawful; because of the findings of the redress the lawsuit is valid. Recall ballots should be sent out in late February

Sam Stigman- announced he is running for trustee

Connie Horder-appreciate John Keller and Kai for holding the station together and blames Chair Grady for getting rid of firefighters; the board can comment on non agenda comments but he choses not to; says the meetings are supposed to be hybrid not zoom only. Also, said Rick's response to the lawsuit is not appropriate to say he didn't do it. Community is not stupid and it will be taken care of in March.

Jim Thomas read a statement from a anonymous community member stating that he should apologize to Wendy for stating there was a delay in cashing a check from Ed Betka as she was incorrectly blamed for the delay; says it was actually Ricks fault.

Kai Bauer- said he wanted to speak for someone not present reminded having a camera in the station is illegal without consent and to keep recording as its illegal because no one has consented to being recorded.

No other comments

Chair Rick made a motion to adjourn the meeting; all in favor.

Chair Grady adjourned the meeting at 7:30 pm.

Meeting Minutes approved by the Chairperson

Richard E. Grady

Date Approved:

Monday - February 24, 2025

Canyon Creek Rural Fire District (CCRFD)

Board of Trustees

Regular Board Meeting

Monday – January 27, 2025

6:30 p.m.

Meeting will be held via zoom only

Per legal counsel advice there will be no agenda item or public comments regarding pending litigation on lawsuit Lewis & Clark County District Court Case No. DV-25-2024-674, recall petition and redress petition before the Canyon Creek Rural Fire District, Board of Trustees

Board of Trustee Principles of Civil Dialogue

1. We provide a safe environment where individual perspectives are respected, heard and acknowledged
2. We respect diverse opinions as a means to find solutions based on common ground
3. We encourage creative approaches to engage in public participation
4. We value informed decision-making and take personal responsibility to educate and be educated.
5. We believe that respectful public dialogue fosters healthy community relationships, understanding, and problem solving.
6. We acknowledge, consider and respect the natural tensions created by collaborations, change and transition
7. We follow the rules and guidelines established for each meeting

Public Comments on the respective agenda items(s) falling within the purview of the Canyon Creek Rural Fire District Board of Trustees.

There will be an opportunity prior to the final board decision on each of the respective agenda items for public comments. **Members of the public are welcome to submit written verbal public comments that will be entered into public record on each individual specific agenda item.**

1. Please state your name in an audible tone of voice for the record.
2. Verbal public comments will be limited to three (3) minutes and a clock will be used to monitor the time by the CCRFD Trustee at Large or trustee designee.
3. Be allowed to comment only one time on each individual agenda item.

Agenda

- **Introductions**

Guest Speaker

Presentation by guest speaker Chris Hindoen, Marketing Coordinator -VFIS -Rocky Mountain Insurance Services, LLC on the Management Liability provision being removed and the Umbrella limits have changed under **NOTICE OF POLICY CONDITIONAL RENEWAL under** the Canyon Creek Rural Fire District, Board of Trustees insurance policy.

CCRFD Board of Trustee Minutes

Approval, amendments, table or denial of the **“DRAFT”** minutes of the Regular Board Meeting Monday –November 18, 2024

Treasurer Report

- Financial reports for the months of November and December 2024
- Wex report on charges for the months of November and December 2024
- Report on pending bills that need review and approval by the Board.
- Discussion and decision to add the chairperson to the bank account at U.S. Bank for the CCRFD.
- Discussion and decision on receiving copies of actual monthly bank statements from US bank(to include all deposits, withdrawals and checks written to all trustees along with copy of the treasurers report 48 hours ahead of a scheduled board meetings.
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New Business

- Discussion and decision on accepting the changes on the Management Liability provision being removed and the Umbrella limits that have changed under the **NOTICE OF POLICY CONDITIONAL RENEWAL**
- Discussion and decision on approving the billing statement by Action Fire Extinguisher Service on the completion of the annual maintenance of the districts fire extinguishers in the fire station and apparatus of \$228.40
- Discussion and decision on the approval of the billing statement on the plumbing repairs completed on the outside overhead filling site on the west side of the fire station by 3 Brothers Plumbing & Heating of \$1,064.00.
- Discussion, and decision on approval of the billing statement on the mechanical repairs completed on the structural engine 8111 by Grizzly Diesel Service in the amount of \$3,928.33
- Discussion, review and decision on maintaining the structural engine 8111 out of service or placing back in service, and if back in service, the evaluation of taking a wildland engine out of service to provide space in the fire station apparatus bay storage.

Non-agenda items

The board can accept written or verbal comments on non-agenda items, but the board cannot respond at the respective meeting. **Members of the public are welcome to submit written or verbal public comments that will be entered into public record ..**

- 1. Please state your name in an audible tone of voice for the record.**
- 2. Verbal public comments will be limited to three (3) minutes and a clock will be used to monitor the time by the CCRFD Trustee at Large or trustee designee.**
- 3. Be allowed to comment only one time regarding any non-agenda item**

Adjournment