

Ground Rules: Prepared by the Chairperson Richard E. Grady:

Presenting Oral or Written Public Comments

**Zoom Meeting Only
Monday – January 27, 2025**

Canyon Creek Rural Fire District - Regular Board Meeting

The Principles of Civil Dialogue will be followed by all trustee's, and members of the public

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:

All members of the public are asked to be professional, ask no foul language, ask unwanted gestures, **those providing public comment, to speak free from any interruptions** to other members of the public and Board of Trustees. The first amendment right of freedom of speech is an entitlement under the US Constitution

Individuals providing public comments and the Board of Trustees

Once all public comments have been received on the specific agenda item, the chairperson will close the public comment period on the specific agenda item. The Chairperson will direct a response or designate to a member of the Board of Trustee pertaining to the specific agenda item.

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.

Oath of Office by the Board of Trustee

Article III, Section 3 of the Montana Constitution provides that "Members of the legislature and all executive, ministerial and judicial officers, shall take and subscribe the following oath or affirmation, before they enter upon the duties of their offices: **'I do solemnly swear (or affirm) that I will support, protect and defend the constitution of the United States, and the constitution of the state of Montana, and that I will discharge the duties of my office with fidelity (so help me God).'**" No other oath, declaration, or test shall be required as a qualification for any office or public trust." Oaths of Office are generally provided by the Clerk & Recorder's Office and Trustees should ensure their Oath is signed and filed accordingly.

**** All oath of offices has been completed by the existing Board of Trustees and are public record on file at the Lewis & Clark County Recorder office and/or Lewis & Clark County Commissioners Office**

(Reference Montana Fire Trustee Association Handbook - MFTA)

Ethical and Fiduciary Duties and Requirements. Trustees have both fiduciary duties and statutory ethical duties. It is the responsibility of each Trustee to understand their ethical duties and responsibilities and to seek legal advice if a question arises.

A duty of:

- **Good faith (honesty in fact in conduct).**
- **Fair dealing.**
- **Full disclosure.**

A duty of "Care" and "Loyalty:"

- **Informed decisions.**
- **Act as an ordinary prudent person.**
- **Place the interests of the Fire District/Fire Service Area above own interests.**
- **No self-dealing/no self-profit.**

Fidelity (noun)

faithfulness to a person, cause, or belief, demonstrated by continuing loyalty and support

Fiduciary. Trustees are fiduciaries. A fiduciary is **a person or organization that acts on behalf of and for the benefit of another person or persons.**

Trustee is a Fiduciary

1. **As a Fiduciary, there is an obligation to act in the best interest of another party**
2. **Must not put oneself in a position where personal interest and fiduciary duties conflict:**

/s/ Richard E. Grady

Richard E. Grady

Chairperson - CCRFD Board of Trustee's