



FUEGO FIRE SERVICE AREA

BOARD OF TRUSTEES | YELLOWSTONE COUNTY

MINUTES of meeting of the Board of Trustees for the Fuego Fire Service Area, Yellowstone County, MT

June 17, 2025

Board members present: Rick Cebull, JD, Jim Swain, John Gregory, MD, and Bob Ruble, MD
Guests present: Fred Morganthaler and Shawna House, both from Fuego Volunteer Fire Company (VFC).

The meeting was called to order at 5 pm, June 17, 2025.

Fred Morganthaler presented his findings after extensive review of Fuego expenses and revenue. Corrosive well water has created the need for unbudgeted overhaul of the station water system. In addition, maintenance and repairs of the aging firefighting vehicles, currently being done in-house for free, will need to be done commercially in the future, due to the age of the individual performing those tasks heretofore.

With these expenses in mind, Morganthaler developed a budget for 2026 for the Fuego VFC, showing an expected deficit of \$22,300. The board, after reviewing his findings, approved this budget.

While an occasional small deficit can be managed in various ways, an ongoing deficit of this size is not sustainable. Therefore, the Board approved the following resolution unanimously:

Resolved, the fee for fire protection in the Fuego Fire Service Area should be increased from a flat fee of \$350 to \$500 for residential structures, and from \$500 to \$750 for business structures, pursuant to Sec. 7-33-2105 (1) (d), and Sec. 7-33-2404 (1) M.C.A.

Signed,

Robert T. Ruble, MD,
Lead Trustee