

YELLOWSTONE COUNTY FIRE COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES - JULY 11, 2023

1. Meeting was hosted at 7 pm by the Worden VFD at their Huntley fire station. Introductions were made.
2. Minutes were approved from the May 9 Fire Council meeting.
3. Treasurer's Report: In the "general" account , we have \$319.42. In the "calendar sales" account, we have \$10,397.69.
4. Fire Warden/DES Report: Printed radio frequency and grouping cards were handed out to the chiefs to be handed out to firefighters. The 2023 co-op agreement between Yellowstone County and DNRC was signed. The new County wildland fire SOP's were also presented for signatures by the fire chiefs. A reminder: fire chiefs must send in COPIES of fire training certificates to Annemarie Overcast in order for their firefighters to receive workman's compensation. New grass fire contracts are being readied. There will be a 1.5% increase plus a flat \$5,000 added to it. There is a request by the fire chiefs to have the county review grass fire contracts to reflect the true costs of wildland fire equipment and not for the current 6 month period, but for a 12 month period. The Custer repeater is being relocated to the Hysham repeater tower in Treasure County. The cost will be about \$30,000 which is a substantial savings over building our own tower in far eastern Yellowstone County.

OLD BUSINESS:

5. Calendar Sales: The fire chiefs are requested by Phil Ehlers to respond to him by July 31 with ideas on how to divide up the \$10,397.69 in sales money. The money must be spent for PPE.

NEW BUSINESS:

6. Grass Fire Contracts: Phil Ehlers requested that fire chiefs research the actual costs of purchasing, housing, insuring, and maintaining wildland fire equipment. Phil would like those figures by July 31, and these will be used by the county to update next year's grass fire contracts. Phil reminded everyone to turn in grass fire reports to DNRC which equates to more funding and to NIFRS which equates to more opportunities for grant money.
7. Agency Reports: Laurel - nothing new to report. Fuego - hosted an open house. Blue Creek - have added 2 new firefighters and doing training. Lockwood - busy training. Chief Staley will be retiring. Haley Bench - buying a 6X6 for grass fires. Shepherd - have 2 new EMT's which gives them a total of 16 EMT's. Have 3 paramedics. Pacific Steel is opening up a new storage facility with a 30,000 gallon dry hydrant on Highway 87 N. Doing wildland engine driver training. Worden - new brush truck. Doing water shuttle training. AMR - building up staffing. Training paramedics. DNRC - sending hand crews to Canada and Custer Gallatin NF. Have openings on hand crews if interested. Must commit up to 3 weeks. 95 Mike helicopter is stationed in Billings. Staffed station will start soon when it dries out. BLM - fully staffed and have 2 SEAT's stationed here. Fire restrictions coming soon. Sheriff Office - down 3-4 people in staffing. Have had 3 river rescues already this year. Several promotions taking place. FSTS - hiring 3 full time instructors. Have had a 900% increase in demand for fire training. Firefighter 1 training is ongoing. Burn trailer will be gone in August and maybe return in Nov. Building 3 new burn trailers and a mobile roof prop. The Volunteer Firefighter Association convention in Miles City was a success. Extrication training on new style cars is demonstrating new difficulties. Send in

your training requests. County Fire Chief - getting additional funding for rural fire depts. The new Custer repeater should be operational by Nov.

8. Train Derailment - the recent wreck of MRL on the bridge near Reed Point demonstrated the need for a regional hazmat team. Right now it is taking too long to get a response going. The state is looking at solutions. There is an app for identifying railcar contents. A reminder was given reminding everyone that all fire depts. are required to take a basic hazmat class annually.

Larry Carpenter, Sec/Treas.
YCFC

NEXT FIRE COUNCIL MEETING IS AT 7 PM ON SEPT. 12 AT THE FUEGO FIRE STATION
LOCATED AT 7150 HIGHWAY 3.