



Hyalite Rural Fire District

Board Meeting Synopsis Approval Form

The written synopsis of the July 15, 2025 Hyalite Rural Fire District (HRFD) Board of Trustees Annual Board Meeting was approved by motion of the HRFD Board of Trustees on August 19, 2025.

Chair Signature

Justin Miller, Chairman

Printed Name

Secretary Signature

Ken Beideman, Secretary

Printed Name

**HYALITE RURAL FIRE DISTRICT
BOARD OF TRUSTEES REGULAR PUBLIC MEETING
SYNOPSIS**

DATE: JULY 15, 2025

TIME: 7:00 p.m.

LOCATION: Sourdough Fire Station, 4541 S. 3rd Rd., Bozeman, Montana

In compliance with [MCA 2017 2-3-212](#) and the Hyalite Rural Fire District Bylaws, the minutes of HRFD Board of Trustees open public meetings are comprised of an audio recording and a written synopsis. The audio recording is designated as the official record of a meeting. The written synopsis serves to assist the public in accessing portions of the audio recording and is a good faith attempt to provide the public with another method to be informed about the actions of the Board. The minutes are available to the public at www.hyalitefire.org/board-meeting-minutes/ or at the Hyalite Rural Fire District Administrative Offices, 4541 S. 3rd Rd., Bozeman, MT, during its standard business hours.

TRUSTEES IN ATTENDANCE:

Justin Miller
Walt Zidack
Pete Geddes
Ken Beideman

STAFF IN ATTENDANCE:

Brian Nickolay, Fire Chief
Sheryl Wyman, Administrative Assistant
Colin Prato, Division Chief, Maintenance

PUBLIC IN ATTENDANCE:

Norbert Hackel, Fort Ellis Trustee
Graham Geoff, Fort Ellis Trustee
Allie Kuntz-President, Volunteer Firefighter Association

0:00:08	CALL TO ORDER OF HYALITE RURAL FIRE DISTRICT Chairman Miller called the meeting to order and asked for any public comment on non-agenda items. None given. HYALITE CONSENT AGENDA Chairman Miller asks if there are any requests to pull anything from the Consent Agenda for review. None given. Motion: Trustee Geddes moves to approve consent agenda as presented Trustee Zidack seconded the motion. Vote: Zidack-Yes; Beideman-Yes; Miller-Yes; Geddes-Yes. Unanimous approval.
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	<i>[See May 20, 2025 Board Packet for Consent Agenda items Approved]</i>
	REGULAR AGENDA
0:00:39	<p>Agenda Item 1 – Updating Ambulance Transport Fees</p> <p>The Chief goes over the history of the fee schedule. We are currently transporting patients more than what was expected. We kept our fees low to help out the taxpayers. We have also received criticism for keeping our fees low because it skews the numbers for the rest of the state ambulance services charging fees.</p> <p>The proposal shows the differences between our current fees, the proposed fees, and the State average of fees charged.</p> <p>Discussion and questions are held among the trustees and the Chief.</p> <p>Chair Miller asks for a motion.</p> <p>Motion: Trustee Geddes moves to approve the fee increase as proposed by the Chief.</p> <p>Chair Miller asks for any public comment on the motion. None given.</p> <p>Trustee Zidack seconded the motion.</p> <p>Vote: Zidack-Yes; Beideman-Yes; Miller-Yes; Geddes-Yes. Unanimous approval.</p> <p><i>[See Proposal for Updated Ambulance Transport Fees - Attachment A]</i></p>
0:13:07	<p>Agenda Item 2 – Signing Interlocal Agreement with Fort Ellis Fire Service Area</p> <p>Chief Nickolay introduces guests Graham Geoff and Norbert Hackel, trustees from the Fort Ellis Fire Service. Trustee Geddes suggests walking through Trustee Jarrett’s questions presented in his e-mail. Trustee Geddes summarizes his thoughts on the questions. Trustee Beideman asks about a standards agreement on what we will and won’t do in performing our contract obligation.</p> <p>Chief Nickolay states we need to build two agencies that operate the same. If they try to operate differently this plan won’t work. One area may be the firefighting training. Hyalite’s standard is the State FF1 training standards. Fort Ellis does not have that standard but we would like to bring them up to that standard. Fort Ellis doesn’t have a residence program where we rely heavily on our residency program. Trustee Geddes feels trustee Jarrett’s concerns are at the operational level rather than the interlocal agreement level.</p> <p>Comments are made by Trustee Zidack. Operational planning has started with Chief Nickolay and basic informational gathering is occurring. Currently there is a mutual aid agreement so if there is a fire in either district both departments are responding.</p>

	<p>Comments are made by the Trustees from the Fort Ellis. They would like to have the help in training to the higher standards. They are looking for Chief services, training officer services, and Assistant Chief. There are two budgets and boards and the two will be separate. They are just looking to have some management services which they are lacking right now.</p> <p>Trustee Beideman asks questions regarding the operational sharing of resources between Fort Ellis and us. Trustee Geddes doesn't feel that the operational problem will ever reach the board level. Trustee Beideman is concerned about the time resources will need to spend on Fort Ellis. Trustee Geoff states that they are taking a risk as well for their constituents in that Fort Ellis is spending their money responsibly in receiving the services requested. Trustee Zidack makes comments regarding the use of the resources. Time will provide information and will allow us to evaluate what limitations we have in executive resources and how we can provide services to Fort Ellis.</p> <p>Chair Miller discusses more of Trustee Jarrett's concerns. Chief Nickolay expects Fort Ellis to continue their current maintenance practice and if more help is needed, he feels Colin can help out with the Fort Ellis maintenance. Discussion is held about the risks involved with sharing resources for both entities.</p> <p>Decision is to table the agenda item until the August meeting. Trustee Jarrett, Geddes and Chief Nickolay will meet once Trustee Jarrett has the opportunity to listen to the recording of the meeting on this topic.</p> <p>Chair Miller asks for any more public comment. Comments are made by the trustees. Chief Nickolay also asks the board to keep in mind that the City of Bozeman is growing by annexing land which will make Hyalite and Fort Ellis smaller in the future.</p> <p><i>[See Interlocal Agreement-Attachment B; Email Questions from Trustee Jarrett-Attachment C; Suggestions to Interlocal Agreement from Attorney Swimley-Attachment D]</i></p>
<p>1:06:00</p>	<p>Agenda Item 3 – Purchase of Used Utility Vehicle</p> <p>Chief Nickolay goes over the used vehicle needs. He would rather not purchase a new command vehicle for the new training officer. He has been looking at used options. The vehicle is a search and rescue truck used by the Gallatin County Sheriff's Office. The vehicle has low miles (43,000) and the asking price for this vehicle is \$8,000. This would also allow a place to put contaminated material with an enclosed utility body.</p> <p>Chair Miller asks about lights and a radio on it. Chief Nickolay says it would be approximately \$5,000 to outfit the vehicle. Questions asked by Trustee Zidack. The truck has been sitting since 2021. Discussion held between the trustees.</p> <p>Chair Miller asks for a motion not to exceed \$15,000.</p>

	<p>Motion: Trustee Zidack moves to approve purchase of used utility vehicle from search and rescue not to exceed \$8,000 for the purchase of the vehicle and the remaining costs associated with getting it into operations not to exceed \$15,000 total.</p> <p>Chair Miller asks for any public comment on the motion. None given.</p> <p>Trustee Beideman seconded the motion.</p> <p>Vote: Zidack-Yes; Beideman-Yes; Miller-Yes; Geddes-Yes. Unanimous approval.</p> <p><i>[See Utility Truck for Consideration - Attachment E]</i></p>
1:12:11	<p>Agenda Item 5 – Volunteer Firefighters Association Report – <i>Standing Agenda Item</i></p> <p>Volunteer Firefighter Association President Allie Kuntz gave a presentation to the Board of Trustees. They held the Wildland BBQ which was very successful. There was good participation from all of the volunteers. They fundraised approximately \$3,200 and made approximately \$1,000 profit.</p> <p>They are now moving to working on the Pancake Breakfast for this Fall. Firefighter French is also working on a peer support program. The recruits coming out of the academy are interested as well in being involved</p>
1:14:05	<p>Agenda Item 4 – Discussion – Replacement of Rae Fire Station - <i>Standing Agenda Item</i></p> <p>Chief Nickolay is doing some research on the residency quarters that are not going to be built as part of the new station. There are some decent modular options. He will start working on pricing information.</p> <p>Trustee Geddes asks questions. The design phase has been completed. The Chief is trying to meet with HOAs to advise of the project. The current bond expires in 2028. The Chief will try to get information ready for the Pancake Breakfast.</p>
1:16:58	<p>Agenda Item 6 – Fire Chief’s Report</p> <p>Chief Nickolay discusses the Chief’s report. We had 45 calls in May. June had 73 calls. We have 41 members on the roster.</p> <p>The Command situation is and will be getting better with the return of one Captain in the Fall. The Division Chiefs have stepped up in coverage as well.</p> <p>Resident program is looking good. We are down to one resident at Cottonwood. We have individuals in the academy interested in the resident program.</p> <p>Training has been ongoing. The new Training Captain FTE position is open and closes on July 21st.</p> <p>The EMS in the county reached out to the County Attorney to create a district that could share resources. The County Attorney suggested an interlocal agreement.</p>

	<p>There would be seven parties to the agreement. This would get billing under one umbrella. This would save money with billing, supplies, and training. Each party would have a seat on an administrative board and an operational board. We would need a trustee representative to sit on that board. The operational board would be the current Hyalite Fire Chief. The current challenge is educating the public on the ambulance needs and situation in the valley.</p> <p>Engine 6-4 is now in service. Engine 6-3 received minor damage during a call. Command 6-3 is waiting on a transmission.</p> <p><i>[See Fire Chief's Report-Attachment F; Gallatin County EMS Representation Email-Attachment G]</i></p>
1:26:19	<p>Trustees' Activities</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Trustees Miller and Jarrett met with the City Manager Chuck Winn. The meeting was informational to see what the plans are for the City of Bozeman to build a new fire station near our district. The land has been purchased next to the Billion detail facility. <p>Discussion is held between the Trustees and Chief.</p>
1:33:03	<p>Announcements</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Trustee Beideman asks about the interlocal agreement and how that would affect the administrative assistant position. Hyalite would need to find an administrative assistant once Sheryl leaves. This position would be under the direction of the Executive staff. Trustee Zidack explains that a portion of our accounting is out sourced. Next Board Meeting – Tuesday, August 19, 2025. A committee meeting will be held with Trustee Jarrett and Geddes and Chief Nickolay to further discuss the Fort Ellis Interlocal Agreement. This meeting will be scheduled once Trustee Jarrett has a chance to review the board meeting minutes.
1:46:13	Adjournment



Date: May 27, 2025

Subject: Proposed Revisions to Ambulance Transport Fee Schedule to Ensure Service Sustainability and Capital Investment

1. Introduction

This memorandum outlines proposed revisions to the Hyalite Fire District's Ambulance Transport Fee Schedule. These proposed changes are critical to addressing escalating operational costs, meeting essential capital replacement goals, and enhancing our Advanced Life Support (ALS) capabilities to better serve our community.

2. Current Fee Schedule

For reference, our current ambulance transport fee schedule is as follows:

- **Ambulance Mileage (Per loaded mile):** \$5.00
- **Transport BLS in-district:** \$450.00
- **Transport BLS out-of-district:** \$450.00
- **Transport ALS in-district:** \$450.00
- **Transport ALS out-of-district:** \$450.00
- *Note: We currently do not charge for routine ALS supplies or IV supplies.*

3. Justification for Proposed Changes

The current fee schedule no longer adequately covers the comprehensive costs associated with providing high-quality ambulance transport services. Several critical factors necessitate these adjustments:

- **Significant Increase in Operational Costs:** Since our current fee schedule was established, we have experienced a substantial increase in supply, equipment, and apparatus pricing, ranging from 33% to 50%. This directly impacts the cost of every transport.
- **Failure to Meet Capital Replacement Goals:** While the District is currently operating with revenues exceeding expenditures, we are not accumulating sufficient funds to meet our critical capital replacement goals. Our current ambulance, power-load cot, and heart monitor were purchased in November 2021 with a target replacement year of 2031.

Without increased revenue, we risk being unable to replace this vital equipment in a timely manner, compromising patient care and responder safety.

- **Increased Demand for ALS Care:** In the current fiscal year, we have observed a significant 25% increase in the provision of Advanced Life Support (ALS) care. This growing demand requires more advanced medical supplies.
- **Enhancement of Patient Care with New Medications:** With the proposed fee increase, we will be able to incorporate new medications into our protocols, specifically for pain management using both NSAIDs and Narcotics. This will significantly improve our ability to provide effective and compassionate care for patients experiencing acute pain.

4. Proposed Fee Schedule Revisions

Based on our analysis of increased operational costs, the need for capital investment, and a review of average pricing for fire-based EMS transport across the state, we propose the following revised fee schedule:

- **Ambulance Mileage (Per loaded mile):** \$18.00
- **Transport BLS in-district:** \$750.00
- **Transport BLS out-of-district:** \$1000.00
- **Transport ALS in-district:** \$1050.00
- **Transport ALS out-of-district:** \$1500.00
- **ALS Routine Supplies:** \$100.00 (New Charge)
- **IV Supplies:** \$60.00 (New Charge)

5. Comparative Analysis with State Averages

To provide context for our proposed fees and demonstrate a responsible approach to cost recovery, we have compiled the current average pricing for fire-based EMS transport across the state:

- **Ambulance Mileage (Per loaded mile):** \$23.49
- **Transport BLS in-district:** \$1100.00
- **Transport BLS out-of-district:** \$1100.00
- **Transport ALS in-district:** \$1325.00
- **Transport ALS out-of-district:** \$1325.00
- **ALS Routine Supplies:** \$148.18
- **IV Supplies:** \$79.89

Even with the proposed increases, the Hyalite Fire District's fees for several services will remain below the state average. The introduction of separate charges for ALS Routine Supplies and IV Supplies aligns with common practice in EMS billing and better reflects the actual costs associated with these critical medical components. Attachment A

6. Conclusion

The proposed changes to the ambulance transport fee schedule are absolutely essential for the long-term operational viability, continued excellence, and strategic advancement of the Hyalite Fire District's EMS services. These adjustments are a direct and necessary response to rising operational costs, the imperative to meet vital capital replacement goals, the increasing demand for advanced care, and our commitment to enhancing patient comfort through new medication options.

We are confident that these revisions will allow us to maintain our high standards of emergency medical care, ensure the availability of modern, safe equipment, and continue to serve our community effectively. We welcome discussion and feedback on these proposed revisions.

Chris Dahlhauser Assistant Chief

INTERLOCAL AGREEMENT

FIRE CHIEF SERVICES

FORT ELLIS FIRE SERVICE AREA AND HYALITE RURAL FIRE DISTRICT

This Interlocal Agreement (Agreement) is made pursuant to Title 7, Chapter 11, Part 1, Montana Code Annotated on the 1st day of October 2025 (“Effective Date”) between FORT ELLIS FIRE SERVICE AREA, Gallatin County, Montana (“Fort Ellis”) and HYALITE RURAL FIRE DISTRICT, Gallatin County, Montana (“Hyalite”) (collectively the “Parties”).

ARTICLE I PURPOSE

The purpose of this Agreement is to enumerate the specific authorities, duties and funding for the joint and cooperative undertaking where Hyalite provides the services of a Fire Chief (as defined in Sec.7-33-2001, Montana Code Annotated) for Fort Ellis.

ARTICLE II DURATION and TERMINATION

The term of this Agreement will commence on the Effective Date and shall terminate on June 30, 2029. Either party may give 90 days written notice that it will no longer participate in the joint and cooperative undertaking at which time this Agreement shall terminate. Either party may give written notice that a material provision of this Agreement has been breached. Material provisions are payment by Fort Ellis and performance as fire chief pursuant to Section 7-33-2001, MCA by Hyalite.

ARTICLE III CREATION OF LEGAL ENTITIES

This Agreement does not create any new legal entity. All of the obligations and duties of Fort Ellis and Hyalite are not affected by this Agreement.

ARTICLE IV SCOPE, ADMINISTRATION, GOVERNANCE and DUTIES

Hyalite designates its Fire Chief as the individual to act as the Fire Chief for Fort Ellis. The Hyalite designated Fire Chief shall perform the duties and has the obligations set forth in Sec.7-33-2001, MCA for Fort Ellis. Fort Ellis shall accept the designated Fire chief by Resolution. Hyalite’s scope of work is to provide all services necessary for its Fire Chief to perform the duties and obligations necessary in Section 7-33-2001, MCA for Fort Ellis.

The Hyalite Fire Chief will use all appropriate resources of Hyalite to perform under this Agreement, subject to the Fort Ellis annual approved budget, including equipment, supplies and personnel such as the Hyalite training chief, maintenance chief, recruit and retention captain, and

administrative assistant. Hyalite acknowledges that the Fire Chief duties include the duty to maintain the proper training of Fort Ellis personnel including supplies and travel. As part of Fort Ellis's costs and expenses under this Agreement, Hyalite will provide Basic Life Support (BLS) ambulance service as part of its scope of work under this Agreement.

The Fire Chief is subject the direction of the Fort Ellis Sec. 7-33-2001(3), MCA for the performance of the duties and obligations for only the Fort Ellis Fire Service Area and its operations.

The Boards of Trustees of Fort Ellis and Hyalite shall each designate one individual, along with the Fire Chief, to meet no less than once every three months during the term of this Agreement for the purpose of obtaining status reports and to communicate on the issues affecting the joint and cooperative undertaking.

ARTICLE V FINANCING, PERSONNEL COSTS, COSTS AND BUDGET PROPERTY OWNERSHIP and DISPOSITION

Fort Ellis shall pay Hyalite no more than \$225,000 on an annual basis to fulfil the scope of this Agreement. Payments shall be made every month in the amount of \$18,750, with the first payment due to Hyalite on October 1, 2025. If this Agreement is terminated payment shall be made up to the effective day of termination on a pro-rata basis.

No later than the last day of February 2026 and every year thereafter, either party to this Agreement may request adjustment to the payment terms for the upcoming fiscal year beginning on July 1.

Any property purchased during this Agreement to provide service to Fort Ellis shall be made in the name of Fort Ellis and shall not be transferred to Hyalite. Each party shall be responsible for retirement contributions for its own employees only.

ARTICLE VI OTHER NECESSARY AND PROPER MATTERS

1. DISPUTE RESOLUTION

Should a dispute arise as to the meaning of any provision of this Agreement or the Parties' respective rights and obligations under this Agreement that cannot be resolved, the dispute shall be submitted to mediation. A request to mediate shall be submitted in writing by the party desiring mediation and shall specify the dispute for mediation. Within ten (10) working days after receipt of a request for mediation, the party receiving the request shall submit a written response stating its position on the dispute.

If no agreement or resolution is reached within ten (10) working days after receipt of the response by the requesting party, the requesting Party shall provide a list of three (3) names of mediators to the other party, who shall strike one name from the list. The party requesting mediation shall then strike a name.

Each party shall be equally responsible for the costs of the mediation.

If the Parties are unable to resolve the dispute through mediation, then such dispute shall be resolved in a court of competent jurisdiction in compliance with the applicable law.

2. INDEMNIFICATION

Fort Ellis and Hyalite agree that this Agreement creates a joint and cooperative undertaking where Hyalite is performing its scope of work for the benefit of Fort Ellis in exchange for payment. Fort Ellis will hold harmless, defend and indemnify Hyalite its agents and employees from any claim or cause of action resulting from Hyalite's performance of the scope of work of work under this Agreement unless the acts of Hyalite its agents and employees while performing the scope of work under this Agreement are negligent, intentional or willful. Hyalite will hold harmless, defend and indemnify Fort Ellis its agents and employees from any claim or cause of action for acts of Hyalite while it is providing firefighting and emergency response to its own rural fire district.

ARTICLE VII GENERAL PROVISIONS

1. ASSIGNMENT and AUTHORITY

No party shall assign, transfer, or convey any right or obligation set forth in this Agreement without the prior written consent of the other party. The undersigned represent that they have authority to enter this Agreement.

2. COMPLETE AGREEMENT

This Agreement constitutes the sole and entire agreement between the Parties with regard to the subject matter hereof. No other terms or conditions shall be binding upon either party unless accepted in writing. This Agreement supersedes any previous oral or written agreements between the Parties with regard to the subject matter hereof.

3. APPLICABLE LAW, VENUE and ATTORNEYS FEES

This Agreement shall be governed by the laws of the State of Montana and any action to enforce any right or obligation shall be brought in the Eighteenth District Court, Gallatin County, Montana. The prevailing party in any action to enforce this Agreement shall be entitled to attorney's fees including those of in-house counsel.

4. SURVIVAL

The obligations of Article V and Article VI, Section 2 shall survive termination of the Agreement.

5. COMPLIANCE WITH LAW

The Parties shall comply with all applicable federal, state, and local law in performing under this Agreement.

6. AMENDMENT

No modification or amendment of this Agreement shall be valid or effective unless evidenced by an agreement in writing signed by authorized representatives of both Parties.

7. WAIVER

No waiver of any default shall constitute a waiver of any other default nor shall such waiver constitute a continuing waiver. No waiver of any term or condition of this Agreement shall constitute a waiver of any other term or condition, whether or not similar, nor shall such waiver constitute a continuing waiver.

8. SEVERABILITY

The provisions of this Agreement shall be deemed independent and severable, and the invalidity, partial invalidity, or unenforceability of any one provision or portion thereof shall not affect the validity or enforceability of any other provision of this Agreement.

9. NOTICES

Required notices, except legal notices, shall be given in writing and sent by mail or email to:

To Fort Ellis: Chairperson, 3041 Bozeman Trail Road, Bozeman, MT 59715

To Hyalite: Chairperson, 4541 South 3rd Road, Bozeman MT 59715.

10. RECORDING

Fort Ellis will be responsible for filing an executed copy of this Agreement with the Gallatin County Clerk and Recorder and the Secretary of State pursuant to 7-11-107, MCA, and will provide a copy of the recorded document to Hyalite. Cost of filing will be paid by Fort Ellis.

11. INTERLOCAL AGREEMENT

This Agreement is an interlocal agreement under Section 7-11-104, M.C.A. To that end, this Agreement shall remain in effect at least through the date stated in Article II above, unless earlier terminated under the provisions hereof or by the agreement of the Parties. As an agreement

amongst recognized government entities and political subdivisions no partnership or joint venture is intended nor exists nor shall be deemed to exist between the Parties.

12. SUPERSESSION AND RATIFICATION

This Agreement shall supersede and replace any previous agreements amongst the Parties related to the purpose and subject matter of this Agreement prior to the Effective Date.

This Agreement entered on the Effective Date by:

FORT ELLIS FIRE SERVICE AREA

HYALITE RURAL FIRE DISTRICT

Chair

Chair

Apologies if I missed something and if I am barking up the wrong tree as I just got to read the draft this afternoon. I have a couple comments for consideration if you would indulge me please.

1. If Susan and Chris's comments were separate and not included in the interlocal I could not see them
2. I believe our intent has always been to be a good neighbor and help out as much as we can.
3. I also believe that the language giving Brian the statutory responsibilities of the Fire Chief including "(e) providing and managing emergency services that are established by the agency and that are consistent with national standards." may be a little bigger bite than I had indicated might be acceptable to me, at least initially in this relationship. (Large risk in the interface and on the interstate, staffing, response times....)

I would propose we table signing the agreement for a relatively short time to answer some questions:

- a) can we make the language a little stronger to say Ft Ellis has defined the kinds, types and levels of service it provides and those are different than at Hyalite and what our residents have been funding for many years. That the Ft Ellis Board explicitly remains responsible for their service delivery?
- b) Can we ease in a little better by first contracting staff time to assist Ft Ellis in defining what their kinds, types and levels are, where they want to be and assist in building a plan to get there.
- c) Determining what standards the Ft Ellis Board is interested in meeting and if there is a feasible plan to meet that goal.

Sorry to be a buzz kill but seeing it in writing compared with what I believe the board's intent was doesn't match up all the way in my view. Work finds me in Eastern MT or else i would love to be there to make something work out. JJ



Hyalite Admin <bookkeeper@hyalitefire.org>

Re: Interlocal Agreement with Fort Ellis

1 message

Brian Nickolay <bnickolay@hyalitefire.org>

Tue, Jul 15, 2025 at 12:06 PM

To: Walt Zidack <wzidack@hyalitefire.org>

Cc: Jason Jarrett <jjarrett@hyalitefire.org>, Hyalite Admin <admin@hyalitefire.org>, Pete Geddes <pgeddes@hyalitefire.org>, Ken Beideman <kbeideman@hyalitefire.org>, Justin Miller <JMiller@hyalitefire.org>

Hello Trustees,

Susan's comments on the Interlocal Agreement are embedded in the draft agreement. It is not possible to show this on a PDF. It has to be downloaded and viewed in Adobe. I tried my best to copy Susan's comments below. If you remember we discussed this at an earlier meeting. I have not seen anything that had comments from Chris.

1. Fort Ellis shall accept the designated Fire chief by Resolution. Hyalite's scope of work is to provide all services necessary for its Fire Chief to perform the duties and obligations necessary in Section 7-33-2001, MCA for Fort Ellis. (Susan recommended Fort Ellis accept the Fire Chief from Hyalite through resolution)

Susan Swimley

Apr 22

Fort Ellis shall accept the designated Fire Chief by resolution.

2. The Hyalite Fire Chief will use all appropriate resources of Hyalite to perform under this Agreement, subject to the Fort Ellis annual approved budget, including equipment, supplies and personnel such as the Hyalite training chief, maintenance chief, recruit and retention captain, and administrative assistant. (Susan recommended adding Fort Ellis approve this in their budget annually)

Susan Swimley

Apr 22

, subject to the Fort Ellis annual approved budget,

3. Hyalite will provide Basic Life Support (BLS) ambulance service as part of its scope of work under this Agreement. (This said in the draft ambulance service. Susan added the BLS ambulance.)

Susan Swimley

Apr 22

Basic Life Support (BSL)

4. Hyalite acknowledges that the Fire Chief duties include the duty to maintain the proper training of Fort Ellis personnel including supplies and travel. As part of Fort Ellis's costs and expenses under this Agreement. (Susan added these cost will be part of Fort Ellis's expenses)

, at Fort Ellis' cost and expense

On Mon, Jul 14, 2025 at 10:58 PM Walt Zidack <wzidack@hyalitefire.org> wrote:

Following up on JJ's comments.... Would it be possible to see the responses from Chris and Susan? More specifically, it would be interesting to see how any of Susan's comments influenced the language of the current draft, and did her comments relate to any of JJ's points of concern?

On Mon, Jul 14, 2025, 9:36 PM Jason Jarrett <jjarrett@hyalitefire.org> wrote:

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On Mon, Jul 14, 2025 at 4:11 PM Brian Nickolay <bnickolay@hyalitefire.org> wrote:
All,

Attached is the final draft of the Interlocal Agreement with the Fort Ellis Fire Service Area for consideration. ~~HRPD July 15, 2025 Regular Meeting Symposium~~ Both Chris Gray and Susan Swimley have reviewed it and made recommendations that are included.



Hyalite Admin <bookkeeper@hyalitefire.org>

Utility truck for consideration

Brian Nickolay <bnickolay@hyalitefire.org>

Mon, Jul 14, 2025 at 4:17 PM

To: Hyalite Admin <admin@hyalitefire.org>, Jason Jarrett <jjarrett@hyalitefire.org>, Ken Beideman <kbeideman@hyalitefire.org>, Pete Geddes <pete@americanprairie.org>, Walt Zidack <wzidack@hyalitefire.org>, Justin Miller <JMiller@hyalitefire.org>

All,

Below is the information for the utility truck for consideration tomorrow night

2003 Ford F-250 Crew Cab with utility body.
V10 gas motor with automatic transmission and 4x4.
Mileage = 42,937
Owned by Gallatin County
Asking \$8,000.00

I will provide more information tomorrow night.

Brian Nickolay

Fire Chief

Hyalite Fire District

4541 S. 3rd Ave

Bozeman, MT 59715

(406) 586 - 3770

bnickolay@hyalitefire.org

www.hyalitefire.org



2 attachments



IMG_5001.jpeg
3211K



IMG_4999.jpeg
3551K



Hyalite Rural Fire District

Fire Chief's Report

July 2025

Prepared by: Fire Chief, Brian Nickolay

1. The Hyalite Fire District responded to a total of 45 incidents in May 2025.

- Total May 2024 - 55
- Total May 2023 - 54
- Total May 2022 - 40
- Total May 2021 - 37
- Total May 2020 - 42

2. The Hyalite Fire District responded to a total of 73 incidents in June 2025. Our year total for incidents to date is 331

- Total June 2024 - 66
- Total June 2023 - 51
- Total June 2022 - 60
- Total June 2021 - 60
- Total June 2020 - 60

3. Our current roster is at 41 members (effective 7/1/2025).

- 1 Career Fire Chief
- 1 Career Assistant Fire Chief
- 2 Division Chiefs
- 1 Career Captains
- 2 Volunteer Captains
- 1 Volunteer Reserve Captains
- 5 Volunteer Lieutenants
- 12 Volunteer Firefighters
- 13 Volunteers Apprentice Firefighters
- 1 Volunteer Driver/Operators
- 2 Volunteer Reserve Firefighters

4. We are continuing to work on our overnight command coverage shortages. We are at 2 of our needed 7 volunteer captains. We have 2 of our new captains working on shadowing command shifts currently. We hope to start 2 new captains in training this summer. Myself, Assistant Chief Dahlhauser, Division Chief Malone and Division Chief Prato are continuing to work extra to provide coverage at night where we lack availability.

5. We currently have 8 resident firefighters living at the Sourdough Fire Station.
 - Current Sourdough Residents -
 - Allie Kuntz, Nick Blommel, Kade O'Brian, Evan Jones, Ruby Weinburg, Zach Fredach, Paige Maunu, and Zane Nordwick.
 - Sourdough resident firefighters continue to fill weekend shifts Friday 7pm – Monday 7am.
6. We currently have 3 resident firefighters living at the Cottonwood Fire Station.
 - Current Cottonwood Residents –
 - Zakkar Tusken, Jack Vincent and Colton Rue-Zindell
 - Cottonwood resident firefighters continue to fill weekday night shifts Monday – Thursday 7pm – 7am.
Non-resident firefighters have stepped up to help fill the Cottonwood overnight shifts.
7. We currently have 4 residents at the Rae house.
 - Current Rae Residents -
 - Kate Brownell, Tyler Palmer, Ted Yewer and Sophie Smith.
8. Non-resident volunteer firefighters continue to cover 6 hour shifts at the Sourdough Fire Station on Monday - Friday 7am – 7pm. With our current level of staffing we are able to cover 4 of our 10 day shifts with at least 2 volunteers.
9. We continue our regular multi company fire and EMS training every Wednesday night and command training twice a month. Our regular training through the month of July focused on wildland fire training.
10. We have begun the hiring process of our Training Captain position. The position is currently open until July 21st. Once closed, staff will perform interviews of candidates. We hope to have the new employee on-boarded in September.
11. The fire district is continuing to be involved with EMS discussion going on in Gallatin County. The current work of the steering committee is to get legal review of creating an EMS district in Gallatin County. This would allow EMS transporting agencies to pool resources on supply ordering, EMS billing and training. The creation of the district would not have taxing authority until it went before the voters. I am still one of the steering committee members.
12. Staff is continuing to work with the members of the Fort Ellis Fire Service Area on the interlocal agreement. I met with the firefighters from Fort Ellis on June 3rd and discussed the partnership between the two agencies. It was well received and a majority of the firefighters are in favor of the agreement.
13. I am still on the Board of Directors with Montana State Fire Chiefs Association as a combination section director.

14. I am still on the Montana State Fire Chiefs Wildland Fire Committee.
15. I continue to sit on the board of the Gallatin County Fire Council as Vice President. I also continue to chair the Gallatin County Fire Council communications committee.
16. Assistant Chief Dahlhauser continues to chair the training and SOP committee with the Gallatin County Fire Council.
17. I am still a Gallatin County Deputy Fire Warden.
18. We had no firefighter injuries in the month of May or June.
19. Engine 6-4 is now in service.
20. Engine 6-3 unfortunately received damage from an accident with a guard rail. Thankfully the rub rails of the truck did their job and took most of the damage. Colin has replacement parts ordered. Damage to the guard rail was minimal and did not require repair. The engine only needed to be out of service for 3 days for paint repair.
21. All apparatus are in service.



Hyalite Admin <bookkeeper@hyalitefire.org>

Gallatin County EMS representation

1 message

Brian Nickolay <bnickolay@hyalitefire.org>

Tue, Jul 15, 2025 at 11:17 AM

To: Hyalite Admin <admin@hyalitefire.org>, Pete Geddes <pgeddes@hyalitefire.org>, Jason Jarrett <jjarrett@hyalitefire.org>, Ken Beideman <kbeideman@hyalitefire.org>, Justin Miller <JMiller@hyalitefire.org>, Walt Zidack <wzidack@hyalitefire.org>, Chris Dahlhauser <cdahlhauser@hyalitefire.org>

Hello Trustees,

I wanted to give you all a primer for tonight to think about. No need to respond. I just received this information yesterday so I haven't had a chance to get you all anything yet. As you know, I have been sitting on a steering committee for the county to address EMS ambulance services. The committee has requested guidance from the county attorney on the establishment of a district to begin to pool the resources of the public agencies currently providing ambulance services. The county attorney came back with the recommendation of the establishment of an interlocal agreement between all the cooperating agencies. The steering committee feels it would be best to establish two boards to oversee this agreement. One being an administrative board and one being an operational board. As one of the cooperating agencies, we have been asked to bring one elected member to sit on the administrative board. This would be one of our trustees. I or the current Fire Chief of Hyalite will sit on the operational board. Other cooperators are The City of Bozeman, Central Valley Fire District, Three Forks Area, Gallatin County, Jefferson County, Broadwater County and Bozeman Health Hospital. Though Bozeman Health is private, we found out yesterday that Bozeman Health will be standing up an interfacility transport ambulance this fall and it is felt they will be in this community well into the future. The counties will be active as they will hold the agreement and we will need their support as the work goes forward. The Big Sky Fire District decided to opt out of participating. Mainly because they get so much funding through resort tax.

The main goal for the interlocal agreement right now is to find savings in supply ordering, EMS billing, and EMS training. More will come as we look at establishing ambulance coverage more county wide. We can discuss more tonight. Just wanted it on everyone's radar.

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