



Hyalite Rural Fire District

Board Meeting Synopsis Approval Form

The written synopsis of the June 16, 2026 Hyalite Rural Fire District (HRFD) Board of Trustees Annual Board Meeting was approved by motion of the HRFD Board of Trustees on July 21, 2026.

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: JUNE 16, 2026

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
Pete Geddes
Ken Beideman-Via Phone
Bob Pailthorpe

STAFF IN ATTENDANCE:

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

PUBLIC IN ATTENDANCE:

Kade O'Brian, President, HVFA

0:00:03	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. 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 Pailthorpe seconded the motion. Vote: Pailthorpe-Yes; Geddes-Yes; Miller-Yes; Beideman-Yes Unanimous approval. [See May 19, 2026 Board Packet for Consent Agenda items Approved]
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	ANNUAL MEETING AGENDA
0:00:50	Agenda Item 1 – Volunteer Firefighters Association Report President Kade O'Brian updated the board on the Wildland Barbeque. They served around 400 plates which was similar to last year's event. The association will be having their annual meeting in July. The annual pancake breakfast is scheduled for September 19, 2026.
0:02:27	Agenda Item 5 – Discussion and Decision – Approval of DNRC Contracts Chief Nickolay discusses the process for the State and their approval for the contracts electronically. The employee rates were updated based on this year's budget. Mini Starlink units can be billed to the State if used on a wildfire event. Chief Nickolay was employed on a fire at the end of May and used the units and they worked great. Discussion is held among the board members. Motion: Trustee Geddes moves to approve the contracts as presented. Trustee Pailthorpe seconded the motion. Vote: Geddes-Yes; Pailthorpe-Yes; Beideman-Yes; Miller-Yes Unanimous approval. <i>[See Attachment B-DNRC Incident Rental Agreement; Attachment C-Chief's Certification]</i>
0:05:16	Agenda Item 2– Zoom Meeting – Doug Forsman Technology issues – Moved further down into the agenda.
0:07:40	Agenda Item 6 – Replacement of Rae Fire Station Chief Nickolay has recently met with the Lazy TH HOA home association. Part of the conversation was regarding the new station. They are the first group to provide support and understand the need for a new station at Rae.
0:10:08	Agenda Item 8 – Trustees' Activities None presented.
0:11:00	Agenda Item 7 – Fire Chief's Report Chief Nickolay starts discussing his fire chief's report. The month of May had 70 calls which was a large number for us. Six of our new candidates for captain are currently working on shadowing command shifts. Report paused for meeting with Doug Forsman.

0:13:37	Agenda Item 2 – Zoom Meeting – Doug Forsman Discussion is held with Doug Forsman regarding the Strategic Planning Services RFP. Trustee Geddes describes what the district is looking for in his services. Given the new request, Mr. Forsman states his firm is not a public relations firm. He would propose he would need a summary of the relevant service delivery elements that would help with the public engagement process; i.e. response times, training qualifications, etc. Having those talking points ready when engaging with the public will be necessary. He will be happy to put together a proposal for the services he can offer. Discussion is held among the board members.
0:28:10	Agenda Item 7 – Continuation of Fire Chief's Report The staff has been focused on command staffing and making the volunteer model successful. He is waiting to see how the next six potential captains end up through the Summer and Fall. Trustee Geddes would like to see a full accounting of staffing and shift detail. He would like to have a separate meeting for this topic. Trustee Pailthorpe asks about our current staffing. Discussion is held among the board members and Chief. Chief finishes up his report with the residency report. Spring Academy is moving along and the volunteers are close to being able to run on calls. <i>[See Attachment D-Fire Chief's Report]</i>
0:44:03	Agenda Item 3 – Zoom Meeting – Liz Loomis Synopsis taken from Meeting Notes: The meeting reviewed a communications proposal from Liz Loomis' firm to support district messaging and ballot work for a proposed station bond and broader branding needs. Loomis summarized the firm's experience, proposed three project phases (research/strategy, message/plan development, operational execution), a four-part outreach mix requiring paid media, and a governance model of monthly communications committee meetings with more frequent contacts near an election. Participants discussed timeline and contracting: Loomis typically works eight to 12 months or multi-year engagements, offered hourly work with a not-to-exceed option, and recommended a six- to eight-person communications group including the chief or designee, one board member, executive management, and a community leader for review and approvals. Legal compliance with state election law and internal staff communications before public release was emphasized.

	Substantive concern focused on a proposed 10,000 sq ft station estimated at roughly \$15 million versus a 2010 cost of \$2.9 million; Loomis warned that that scale of increase is a major voter support risk and recommended exploring reduced footprints, phased builds, renovation of existing space, or stepped financing. Financial options discussed included 20–25 year bond terms, mixes of bonds and levies, and testing lower bond amounts (e.g., \$7M, \$10M, \$15M). Messaging and voter education needs were highlighted: branding confusion (assumption that Bozeman Fire covers the district) and Montana’s recent shift from mills to cents per thousand increase the public education burden. Loomis recommended starting outreach early, coordinating with financial experts to translate tax impacts into voter-facing information, and producing public-facing materials (newsletters, capital facilities plans, annual reports) rather than relying on raw financial models. Outstanding issues and constraints include voter capacity for tax increases, feasibility of the \$15M station design under current political conditions, and required public education around the cents-per-thousand tax metric. Loomis offered to provide an intake, demographic/voter analysis, and an hourly contract for communications work and strategic review. Discussion is held among the trustees. <i>[See Attachment A-Loomis Public Affairs Handout]</i>
2:00:27	Announcements • Next Board Meeting – Tuesday, July 21, 2026
2:01:47	Adjournment of Annual Meeting



**Montana DNRC Local Government Fire Forces
Incident Rental Agreement**

Attachment B
Agreement #:
MT-6056-2026-27
UNOPERATED - Option 3

LOCAL GOVERNMENT FIRE FORCE

Contact

Hyalite Rural Fire District
4541 S. 3rd
Bozeman, MT, 59715

Email Address: admin@hyalitefire.org
Phone (Day): 4065863770
Phone (Night): (406) 451-4726
Fax Number:
FDID Number: 6056

Ordering Dispatch Center

MTBDC - Billings Dispatch Center

EFFECTIVE DATES OF AGREEMENT

Beginning

7/1/2026

Ending

6/30/2027

MONTANA DNRC LAND or UNIT OFFICE (Payment Office)

Contact

Montana Department of Natural
Resources and Conservation
Bozeman Unit
2273 Boot Hill Ct Ste 110
Bozeman, Montana 59715

Business Phone: 406-586-5243

GENERAL PROVISIONS

- a. Mobilization of resources is authorized through the Montana Master Cooperative Wildland Fire Management Agreement 23-FI-11015600-048 located at:
<https://dnrc.mt.gov/Forestry/Wildfire/agreements-plans-guides>.
- b. All equipment listed on the following pages of this agreement is subject to the terms of this agreement and must be owned and titled by the LGFF or County listed in Block 4 above. No leased vehicles are allowed unless the lease was initiated to fulfill the department's normal duties as established under the Montana Codes Annotated.
- c. The current year version of the Montana Incident Business Operating Guidelines for Firefighting Resources (MIBOG) is the guiding document for this agreement:
<https://dnrc.mt.gov/Forestry/Wildfire/forms-information>. The specifications, rules and guidelines of MIBOG are incorporated herein by reference in addition to the LGFF General Clauses to the IRA that are attached hereto and incorporated herein by reference. In the event of a disagreement between the LGFF General Clauses attached and the MIBOG, MIBOG for the year of the agreement will preside & supersede the attached general clauses (i.e. 2026 MIBOG & 2026 Agreement).
- d. The Unoperated version of this agreement is NOT valid outside the Northern Rockies Geographic Area. The only exception to this is Unoperated Option 3 which IS valid outside the Northern Rockies Geographic Area.
- e. The Fully Operated version of this agreement IS valid outside the Northern Rockies Geographic Area.
- f. Personnel and equipment are to remain in paid status during meal breaks.
- g. All ORIGINAL timekeeping documents (Emergency Firefighter Time Reports (OF-288), Crew Time Reports (SF-261), Emergency Equipment Use Invoices (OF-286), Emergency Equipment Shift Tickets (OF-297) or DNRC Combined Shift Ticket (DNRC297) shall be given to the resource at time of release from the incident. Only COPIES of the documentation shall remain with the incident Finance Section.

Fire Chief or Authorized Agent Signature:	Date:	DNRC Representative Signature:	Date:
Type Name and Title:		Type Name and Title:	
		Phone Number:	Email:

RESOURCES

The equipment listed herein is owned and titled by the Local Government Fire Force: 6056

Equipment work rates listed below are based on all operating supplies be supplied by the Government (Dry).

Kind	Type	Description	VIN	License Plate	Make	Model	Rate	No. of Operators Per Shift (min)
Off-Road Vehicle for Line Personnel	OFF ROAD 4x4 SUV/Pickup UNOP	Command 6	1GNWK5EGXBR211042	6-13516C	Chevrolet	Suburban	\$140.00 /Day	0/0
Off-Road Vehicle for Line Personnel	OFF ROAD 4x4 SUV/Pickup UNOP	Command 6-1	3C6UR5CJ9MG679977	6-76216C	Dodge	Ram 2500	\$140.00 /Day	0/0
Off-Road Vehicle for Line Personnel	OFF ROAD 4x4 SUV/Pickup UNOP	Command 6-2	1C6RFMT4MN788108	6-76215C	Dodge	Ram 1500	\$140.00 /Day	0/0
Off-Road Vehicle for Line Personnel	OFF ROAD 4x4 SUV/Pickup UNOP	Command 6-3	3C6UR5CJ8JG336170	6-09359C	Dodge	Ram 2500	\$140.00 /Day	0/0
Off-Road Vehicle for Line Personnel	OFF ROAD 4x4 SUV/Pickup UNOP	Command 6-4	1C6RR7ST5RS183708	6-56638D	Dodge	Ram 1500	\$140.00 /Day	0/0
Off-Road Vehicle for Line Personnel	OFF ROAD 4x4 SUV/Pickup UNOP	Command 6-5	3C6RR7KT3PG534376	6-22784D	Dodge	Ram 1500	\$140.00 /Day	0/0
Off-Road Vehicle for Line Personnel	OFF ROAD 4x4 SUV/Pickup UNOP	Command 6-6	1C6RR7XTXPS553914	6-22783D	Dodge	Ram 1500	\$140.00 /Day	0/0
Off-Road Vehicle for Line Personnel	OFF ROAD 4x4 SUV/Pickup UNOP	Command 6-7	1GCPKBK5TZ130001	6-AB5374	Chevrolet	Silverado 1500	\$140.00 /Day	0/0
ATV	VUTV2 UNOP 4 or More Seats NO Pump	UTV 6-1	4XAVXE903GB339617	EGA781	Polaris	Razor	\$250.00 /Day	0/0
Trailer	TRLR2 Flatbed Snowmobile Trailer UNOP	S-6-1	1A9UA1210N1374205	DAB560	Adams	612.UAW	\$30.00 /Day	0/0
Engine	ENG5 UNOP Type 5	Brush 6-1	1FD0X5HN1PEC06851	6-22773D	Ford	F550 Super	\$53.60 /Hour	2/3
Engine	ENG1 UNOP Type 1	Engine 6-1	4P1BAAFF8KA020136	6-24067C	Pierce	Enforcer	\$214.00 /Hour	4/5
Engine	ENG1 UNOP Type 1	Engine 6-2	4P1BAAFFXSA027816	6-60421D	Pierce	Enforcer	\$214.00 /Hour	4/5
Engine	ENG1 UNOP Type 1	Engine 6-3	4P1BAAFF1SA027817	6-60420D	Pierce	Enforcer	\$214.00 /Hour	4/5
Engine	ENG1 UNOP Type 1	Engine 6-4	4P1CS01A9EA014504	6-AA4655	Pierce	Saber Rescue	\$214.00 /Hour	4/5
Water Tender - Tactical	WTT2 UNOP Type 2	Water Tender 6	1HTGSSJT8DJ300319	6-13527C	International	Workstar 7600	\$138.00 /Hour	2/2
Water Tender - Tactical	WTT1 UNOP Type 1	Water Tender 6-1	2NKHLJ9X1GM490959	6-13530C	Kenworth	Construction T370	\$148.00 /Hour	2/2
Water Tender - Tactical	WTT1 UNOP Type 1	Water Tender 6-2	1M2H145CXFM001163	6-13529C	Pierce	TK	\$148.00 /Hour	2/2
Ambulance	BLS UNOP	Ambulance 6	1FDXF47F7YEA28435	6-13532C	Ford	F450 (AM)	\$60.00 /Hour	2/3
Ambulance	BLS UNOP	Ambulance 6-1	1FDBR2CG6MKA52466	6-83917C	Ford	Transit	\$60.00 /Hour	2/3
Ambulance	BLS UNOP	Ambulance 6-2	1FDXF47P15EC65944	6-09484D	Ford	F450 (AM)	\$60.00 /Hour	2/3
Other Equipment	SSTS Starlink Satellite Kit UNOP	Starlink 1	KIT4N02298172N5N		Starlink	Mini	\$100.00 /Day	0/0
Other Equipment	SSTS Starlink Satellite Kit UNOP	Starlink 2	KIT4N02298170HMS		Starlink	Mini	\$100.00 /Day	0/0

**CHIEF'S CERTIFICATION FOR LOCAL GOVERNMENT FIRE FORCES
EQUIPMENT AND OPERATORS**

A: The equipment listed herein meets all the minimum legal requirements for use and operation of the equipment type identified.

EQUIPMENT TYPE	ENGINE/TRUCK NO.	LICENSE NO.	SERIAL NO.
ATV, VUTV2 UNOP 4 or More Seats NO Pump	UTV 6-1	EGA781	4XAVXE903GB339617
Ambulance, BLS UNOP	Ambulance 6	6-13532C	1FDXF47F7YEA28435
Ambulance, BLS UNOP	Ambulance 6-1	6-83917C	1FDBR2CG6MKA52466
Ambulance, BLS UNOP	Ambulance 6-2	6-09484D	1FDXF47P15EC65944
Engine, ENG1 UNOP Type 1	Engine 6-1	6-24067C	4P1BAAFF8KA020136
Engine, ENG1 UNOP Type 1	Engine 6-2	6-60421D	4P1BAAFFXSA027816
Engine, ENG1 UNOP Type 1	Engine 6-3	6-60420D	4P1BAAFF1SA027817
Engine, ENG1 UNOP Type 1	Engine 6-4	6-AA4655	4P1CS01A9EA014504
Engine, ENG5 UNOP Type 5	Brush 6-1	6-22773D	1FD0X5HN1PEC06851

B: The individuals listed on the attached roster (see attachment) meet all the legal qualification requirements for the position(s) listed, in accordance with Northern Rockies Coordinating Group (NRCG) Mobilization of Local Government Firefighting Resources, and operators possess either a commercial driver's license (CDL) **or** have the knowledge, skills and abilities to operate the type and class of equipment listed above, as referenced in the NRCG Mobilization of Local Government Firefighting Resources. All personnel shall be rostered members of a fire department in which the signing chief can attest to their qualifications.

If equipment is to be hired, a copy of the DNRC Incident Rental Agreement (IRA), along with this certification, shall be provided to the Finance/Administration Section Chief or his or her designated representative immediately upon arrival at an incident.

Failure to provide the equipment type as described above, shall result in a down grade of typing and a reduction in rate to the type level the equipment meets as set forth in the NRCG Mobilization of Local Government Firefighting Resources. Failure of the equipment described above to meet a typing configuration, or to provide the personnel described above, shall be considered a withdrawal of the equipment. Withdrawal shall be handled as set forth in the General Clauses to the Incident Rental Agreement (IRA), Clause 7(b).

I certify that the above listed equipment meets the minimum resource typing standards under the NRCG Mobilization of Local Government Firefighting Resources, that personnel listed meet the requirements of National Incident Management System: Wildland Fire Qualification System Guide PMS 310-1 or have the knowledge, skills, and ability requirements to perform the position(s) listed, and that operators possess a commercial driver's license (CDL) **or** have the knowledge, skills and abilities to operate the type and class of equipment listed above, as referenced in the NRCG Mobilization of Local Government Firefighting Resources. I also certify that all personnel are rostered members of a department. I also agree that the hiring entity may inspect the listed equipment and the appropriate training records. I hereby certify that I am authorized to sign this Chief's Certification for Local Government Fire Forces Equipment and Operators.


Signed by Sheryl Wyman

Witness Signature:

Name and Title (Printed):

Fire Chief Signature:

Brian Nickolay - Fire Chief

Fire Chief Name (Printed):

Address: Bozeman Unit, 2273 Boot Hill Ct Ste
110, Bozeman, Montana 59715

Phone No.: 406-586-5243

Date:

LGFF Name: Hyalite Rural Fire District

Address: 4541 S. 3rd Bozeman, MT 59715

Phone No.: 4065863770

FDID No.: 6056

Date: 06/10/2026 11:18:51 MDT

NOTE: This is not valid unless attached to DNRC Chief's Certification for LGFF Form and is applicable for the following positions only: ENOP, ENGB, FFT1, FFT2 and WTOP.

The following individuals listed meet all of the legal qualification requirements for the position(s) listed, in accordance with Northern Rockies Coordinating Group (NRCG) Mobilization of Local Government Firefighting Resources, and operators possess either a commercial driver's license (CDL) or have the knowledge, skills and abilities to operate the type and class of equipment listed above, as referenced in the NRCG Mobilization of Local Government Firefighting Resources. All personnel shall be rostered members of a fire department in which the signing chief can attest to their qualifications.

Rostered Personnel (Last Name/First Name)		Equipment Qualified to Operate	Fireline Qualifications
Nickolay	Brian	All	ENGB, FFT1, FFT2
Dahlhauser	Chris	All	ENGB, FFT1, FFT2
Malone	Malcolm	All	ENGB, FFT1, FFT2
Prato	Colin	All	ENGB, FFT1, FFT2
Trautmann	Metta	All	FFT2
Kuntz	Allie	All	FFT2
Leeper	Chris	All	FFT2
Archibald	Scott	All	FFT2
Battles	Sam	All	FFT2
Blommel	Nicholas	All	FFT2
Brown	Myles	All	FFT2
Brownell	Kate	All	FFT2
Cornelius	Ashton	All	FFT2
Culbertson	John	All	FFT2
Darby	Clay	All	FFT2
Davis	Henry	All	FFT2
Deras	Jared	All	FFT2
Fredach	Zach	All	FFT2
French	Anna	All	FFT2
Genter	Miriam	All	FFT2

I certify that I have examined the identity and employment authorization documents presented by the above-named rostered personnel. The presented documents appear to be genuine and to relate to the personnel named, and to the best of my knowledge the personnel are authorized to work in the United States.


Signed by Sheryl Wyman

Witness Signature:

Fire Chief Signature:

Brian Nickolay - Fire Chief

Name and Title (Printed):

Fire Chief Name (Printed):

Address: Bozeman Unit,
2273 Boot Hill Ct Ste 110,
Bozeman, Montana 59715

Phone No.:

Date:

LGFF Name: Hyalite Rural Fire District

Address:

4541 S. 3rd Bozeman, MT 59715

Phone No.:

FDID No.: 6056

Date: 06/10/2026 11:18:51 MDT

ADDITIONAL PERSONNEL ROSTER for CHIEF'S CERTIFICATION

NOTE: This is not valid unless attached to DNRC Chief's Certification for LGFF Form and is applicable for the following positions only: ENOP, ENGB, FFT1, FFT2 and WTOP.

The following individuals listed meet all of the legal qualification requirements for the position(s) listed, in accordance with Northern Rockies Coordinating Group (NRCG) Mobilization of Local Government Firefighting Resources, and operators possess either a commercial driver's license (CDL) **or** have the knowledge, skills and abilities to operate the type and class of equipment listed above, as referenced. All personnel shall be rostered members of a fire department in which the signing chief can attest to their qualifications.

Rostered Personnel (Last Name/First Name)		Equipment Qualified to Operate	Fireline Qualifications
Harper	Alan	All	FFT2
Jones	Evan	All	FFT2
Krieger	Jake	All	FFT2
Kristiseter	Ella	All	FFT2
Lewis	Edward	All	FFT2
Morton	David	All	FFT2
Ness	Alexi	All	FFT2
Nordwick	Zane	All	FFT2
O'Brian	Kade	All	FFT2
O'Tool	Garrett	All	FFT2
Overstreet	Chase	All	FFT2
Palmer	Tyler	All	FFT2
Pelton	Brandon	All	FFT2
Rue-Zindell	Colton	All	FFT2
Schaub	Garrett	All	FFT2
Shenk	Sarah	All	FFT2
Smith	Sawyer	All	FFT2
TeSelle	Jake	All	FFT2
Toresdahl	Keegan	All	FFT2
Tuma	Ben	All	FFT2
Vincent	Jack	All	FFT2
Weinberg	Ruby	All	FFT2
Welch	Noah	All	FFT2
Witmer	Owen	All	FFT2

I certify that I have examined the identity and employment authorization documents presented by the above-named rostered personnel. The presented documents appear to be genuine and to relate to the personnel named, and to the best of my knowledge the personnel are authorized to work in the United States.


Signed by Sheryl Wyman

Witness Signature:

Name and Title (Printed):

Date:

Fire Chief Signature:

Brian Nickolay - Fire Chief

Fire Chief Name (Printed):

Date:

06/10/2026 11:18:51 MDT

FDID No. 6056



Hyalite Rural Fire District

Fire Chief's Report

June 2026

Prepared by: Fire Chief, Brian Nickolay

1. The Hyalite Fire District responded to a total of 70 incidents in May 2026. Our total call volume for 2026 as of June 1st is 302.
 - Total calls May 2025 - 45
 - Total calls May 2024 - 55
 - Total calls May 2023 - 54
 - Total calls May 2022 - 40
 - Total calls May 2021 - 37
2. Our current roster is at 46 members (effective 6/1/2026).
 - 1 Career Fire Chief
 - 1 Career Assistant Fire Chief
 - 2 Career Division Chiefs
 - 3 Career Captains
 - 0 Volunteer Captains
 - 1 Volunteer Reserve Captains
 - 11 Volunteer Lieutenants
 - 4 Volunteer Firefighters
 - 10 Volunteers Apprentice Firefighters
 - 1 Volunteer Reserve Firefighters
 - 9 Volunteer Recruit Firefighters
 - 2 Volunteer Recruit EMTs
3. We are continuing to work on our overnight command coverage shortages.
 - We currently have zero (0) of our needed five (5) volunteer captains.
 - We have six (6) of our new candidates for captain working on shadowing command shifts currently.
 - Our Shift Captain continues to work two nights a week. This has reduced the needed number of volunteer captains from seven (7) to five (5).
 - Our Training Captain and Recruitment and Retention Captain continue to work the modified schedule and cover a night of command each per week.
 - Myself, Assistant Chief Dahlhauser, Division Chief Malone and Division Chief Prato are working with our new candidates on shadowing. We still will provide coverage at night where we lack availability.

4. We currently have eight (8) resident firefighters living at the Sourdough Fire Station.
 - Current Sourdough Residents -
 - Kade O'Brian, Evan Jones, Ruby Weinburg, Zach Fredach, Garrett O'Tool, Logan Gillespie, Sarah Shenk, and Henry Davis.
 - Sourdough resident firefighters continue to fill weekend shifts Friday 7pm – Monday 7am.
5. We currently have three (3) resident firefighters living at the Cottonwood Fire Station.
 - Current Cottonwood Residents –
 - Jack Vincent, Keegan Torsdahl, and Ashton Cornelius.
 - Cottonwood resident firefighters continue to fill weekday night shifts Monday – Thursday 7pm – 7am.
6. We currently have three (4) residents at the Rae house.
 - Current Rae Residents -
 - Kate Brownell, Tyler Palmer, Colton Rue and Brandon Pelton.
7. Non-resident volunteer firefighters continue to cover six hour shifts at the Sourdough Fire Station on Monday - Friday 7am – 7pm. With our current level of staffing we are able to cover 3 of our 10 day shifts with at least 2 volunteers.
8. We continue our regular multi company fire and EMS training every Wednesday night and command training twice a month. Our training through the month of May has focused on utilizing piercing nozzles for structure fires.
9. Our spring firefighter recruit academy is continuing to work through their training process. Captains Trautmann and Leeper have recently completed testing with the recruits and the MSU - Fire Services Training School on enter, isolate and search as well as firefighter down. The academy is still on track to be completed around the end of June. Our new firefighters have begun responding to calls.
10. I met with the HOA of the Lazy TH subdivision in June. It was a productive meeting as we discussed their fire fill site as well as the new Rae Fire Station project.
11. The fire district continues to be involved with the EMS Steering Group in Gallatin County. I am still one of the steering committee members.
12. I am still on the Board of Directors with Montana State Fire Chiefs Association as a combination section director.
13. I am still on the Montana State Fire Chiefs Wildland Fire Committee.
14. I am still on the Montana Intrastate Mutual Aid Committee through the Montana Disaster and Emergency Services.
15. I am still on the operational committee for the Northern Rockies Coordination Group.

16. 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.
17. Assistant Chief Dahlhauser continues to chair the SOP committees with the Gallatin County Fire Council.
18. I am still a Gallatin County Deputy Fire Warden.
19. We had no firefighter injuries in the month of May.
20. All apparatus are in service.



Attachment A

COMMUNICATING TO WIN BALLOT MEASURES

Hyalite Fire District
June 16, 2026

Who We Are

Attachment A



Liz Loomis, CEO and Founder

- Project strategy and key messages
- Former elected official at the city and state levels
- State and national conference presenter on improving communication with taxpayers

Susanne Stefani, Communications Director

- Project director, communications plan, manages content development
- Former K-12 educator, administrator, and community leader
- Guided public schools through COVID, distance learning, and crisis communication

Contract Staff

- Operations Manager
- Content Writer
- Graphic Designer

Who We Are

Attachment A

LIZ LOOMIS
PUBLIC AFFAIRS

- 50+ years combined **experience**
- **Ballot measures and strategic communications** for local governments
- Knowledge of **state election laws** to maintain integrity with voters
- **93% win record**



What We Do

Attachment A

LIZ LOOMIS
PUBLIC AFFAIRS

Supporting local governments:



- Fire/EMS
- Cities
- Public hospitals
- Schools
- Parks and recreation
- Cemeteries
- Vector control districts

What We Do

Attachment A

LIZ LOOMIS
PUBLIC AFFAIRS



BALLOT
MEASURES



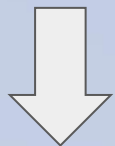
GENERAL
COMMUNICATION
SERVICES



PUBLIC
RELATIONS



CRISIS
COMMUNICATION



Tax increases (sales tax, levies and bonds), mergers, annexations,
forming/funding special districts

How We Do It: Project Scope

Attachment A

PHASE 1

Research and Strategy

- Project assessment
- Identify and/or develop communication assets
- Develop systems between agency and LLPA

PHASE 2

Create Foundation

- Develop key messages and communications plan
- Identify and train spokespeople
- Coalition building

PHASE 3

Implement Plan

- Strategies and tactics for message delivery
- Public relations assistance

How We Do It: Message Delivery

Attachment A

- **PAID MEDIA:** Projects the client pays to produce
 - Newsletters, direct mail, advertising
- **EARNED MEDIA:** Relying on a third party for coverage
 - Press releases, letters to the editor, editorial board visits
- **SHARED MEDIA:** Messaging shared by the agency and others
 - PUBLIC OUTREACH: Board hearings, open houses, community meetings
 - SOCIAL MEDIA: Facebook, Instagram, etc.
- **OWNED MEDIA:** Client-owned and controlled
 - Website, signage, internal briefings/updates

How We Do It: Logistics

Attachment A



Facilitate
project through
regular
meetings



Develop,
design, and
secure approval
for content



Coordinate
production and
dissemination
of materials



24-hour public
relations
assistance for
issues beyond
ballot measure

QUESTIONS?

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