

**PAINTED ROCKS FIRE DISTRICT BOARD
MARCH 17, 2026 MEETING OUTCOMES**

AGENDA ITEM	Present: Barb Axel, Ross Buchanan, Steve Goss, Bob Risk Fire Chief Shane Jessop, Battalion Chief Lisa Axel Public: Ben and Cindy Perpich
REVIEW, MODIFY, APPROVE AGENDA REVIEW, MODIFY, APPROVE OUTCOMES OF LAST MEETING CHECK UP ON BLUE ITEMS FROM LAST	Ross called the meeting to order at 5:33pm. Ross moved, Bob seconded to approve tonight's agenda. UA Ross moved, Bob seconded to approve the February 9 outcomes. UA Blue items: Shane is planning on a different door lock system that will record when the door is opened. Barb will get new passwords to Pat. The other blue items were completed
TREASURER'S REPORT	Account balances: County – \$49,672.06 and Farmers Bank - \$10, 992.37. Ross moved, Barb seconded to apply for a credit card with Farmers Bank for the Fire District. UA They require a hard copy of these minutes signed by two Board members. Ross will take care of getting the signed minutes to Farmers Bank. Our Bitterroot Credit Union account is now completely closed. Our VFIS insurance payment is due May 11. Shane will contact Chris H to tell him about the new truck, which needs coverage, and the two trucks we are replacing, which can be removed from coverage. He will also see if we need to report our new members.
CHIEF'S REPORT	Shane reported that we have had no calls since the last meeting. Lisa has passed her Paramedic exam and all requirements, so our ambulance is considered ALS. Our three new EMT's are getting medication, airway and IV endorsements endorsements at a class in April. We found out that if Lisa answers a call, even for West Fork, as a paramedic she must stay with that patient until they get to the hospital.
CRITICAL DATE ISSUES <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Review Critical Dates List ● Board members review last year's budget ● Keep SAM account current; need EIN numbers for grants 	We reviewed the Critical Dates list and made a few modifications. Barb will revise and send copies to the Board. In our ongoing budget discussions, we reiterated that we will be using this coming budget year (July 2026-June 202) as a benchmark for what it really costs to run our Fire District. We will have increased costs for the new fire truck, for our increased medical capabilities, and for having a bookkeeper handle our accounts. We want to start communicating to our community that we can't keep operating a budget running a deficit and relying on donations. Barb will work on a history of the levy for the Fire District to show how we have gone from a 100% levy to our current 30%. Shane has taken care of the SAM account.

<p>OLD BUSINESS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Purchase agreement to buy new fire truck ● Update on fraud loss ● Review banking relationships ● Work on budget priorities for next fiscal year ● Review Strategic Plan: Intro through Plan Assumptions 	<p>Steve moved, Barb seconded to sign the Purchase Agreement with Saint Alta LLC to pay off the loan for the new fire truck. UA Shane will contact the DMV to see what the requirements are for licensing the new truck. Shane will set up a means to transfer money at Farmers between the Company and District accounts. No new info about the fraud loss. We already know that none of the agencies we contacted will be pursuing any actions to retrieve the money lost. Naomi Cheeny is still trying to contact a litigator about a possible civil action. Ross has put the draft of the Strategic Plan on a shared Google doc. Before our next meeting, all of the Board members should review the first three sections of the Strategic Plan and make any editing comments on the shared document.</p>
<p>NEW BUSINESS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Discuss fuels reduction/mitigation before fire season Update triage and assessment documents ● Fiber optic decision for Blackfoot ● Subcontractor fire truck lease 	<p>We want to be sure our community has information about fuels reduction and fire mitigation on their property before the fire season arrives. Ross will send an email from the district informing them about the excellent information on the Fire in the Root website. They have monthly meetings in Victor and are active in fire prevention. We will also include information in our newsletter that goes out in June. The Forest Service will be doing prescribed burning near Thunder Mountain and Hughes Creek and Shane helped contact property owners who will be adjacent to the prescribed burn. Once the burning starts, the Forest Service will send daily updates to those property owners. Shane will ask that our Fire District email be added to that list for updates. Shane laid out the options for fiber optic service at the fire station. Barb moved, Ross seconded to approve fiber optic service under their business plan for \$70/month if we agree to a five-year contract. UA Shane has been contacted about a subcontractor fire truck lease, but it does not look like a good option for our Fire Company.</p>
<p>BOARD COMMENTS</p>	<p>None</p>
<p>PUBLIC COMMENTS</p>	<p>Ben offered as a business owner himself that one can't run a business at a deficit for any length of time, and he offered some helpful suggestions about public relations.</p>
<p>ASSIGN DATE FOR NEXT MEETING</p>	<p>Monday, April 20, 2026 at 5:30pm</p>
<p>ADJOURN</p>	<p>Ross moved, Bob seconded to adjourn at 7:58pm. UA</p>

Only agenda items will be discussed and voted on at the Board meeting. The public may bring up any topics during the "Public Comments" segment, but the Board can only vote on items that appear on the current agenda. Items can be added to the agenda by emailing Barb Axel at baaxel@aol.com two days in advance of the meeting.