

**HYALITE RURAL FIRE DISTRICT
BOARD OF TRUSTEES POLICY SUBCOMMITTEE PUBLIC MEETING
SYNOPSIS**

DATE: APRIL 10, 2019 TIME: 7:45 a.m.

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

BY: Hyalite Rural Fire District Board of Trustees Policy Subcommittee

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:

Pete Geddes, Chair
Nick Shrauger, Trustee

STAFF IN ATTENDANCE:

PUBLIC IN ATTENDANCE:

Steve White
Betty McCoy

0:00:00	
0:00:00	CALL TO ORDER OF HYALITE RURAL FIRE DISTRICT Trustee Geddes called the meeting to order and reminded the public that the meeting was being recorded.
0:00:22	PUBLIC COMMENT ON MATTERS NOT INCLUDED IN THE AGENDA Chair Geddes asked for public comment on non-agenda items. There was no comment.
	AGENDA
0:00:30	Review, Discuss, and Make Recommendations for the revisions to the HRFD Governance Policy Trustee Shrauger stated as he began to review the policy because he didn't know the purpose of the policy. It seems like it was written to address some previous Board relationship issues, so it may no longer apply. Trustee Geddes stated the Governance Policy was originally written by the Sourdough fire district, about 14 years ago. Trustee Shrauger stated he believes the Board is currently serving as a fulcrum balancing the needs/wants of the district members and the needs/wants of the fire

	<p>department operations. He believes the Governance Policy is redundant with state law, HRFD Bylaws, and other HRFD policies. If some part of the Governance Policy is not addressed in other policies, then we should create a policy to address that and eliminate the Governance Policy.</p>
0:06:29	<p>Trustee Geddes said the question to put before the Board and the public is “Is it necessary?” The purpose of this policy was to focus on how the Board operates.</p> <p>Trustee Shrauger agreed, and indicated the current Governance Policy is too broad and doesn’t focus on how the Board operates.</p> <p>Trustee Geddes suggested a mission statement and goals would be appropriate. Trustee Shrauger agreed and indicated the Board should continue to try to set the culture of the Board through its policies, and stated the May annual meeting would be a good opportunity to seek the public’s input.</p>
0:14:13	<p>Trustee Geddes called for public comment.</p> <p>Steve White reflected on the Gallatin County Commission and the fact that most of the public does not know the County Commissioners have a Mission statement and Goals. He suggests there be a document that has a Mission Statement and Long-term and Short-term Goals. It was revisited and updated each year. He believes the Executive Limitations in the current Governance Policy be struck. He likes the Board Process and Staff Relationship portions – they could be tightened up, making the document a maximum of two pages. He agreed that the Governance Policy would need to be in agreement with other policies.</p>
0:18:44	<p>Betty McCoy asked if the mission statement outlined in the Governance Policy is the same as the mission statement in the Bylaws and other documents. She believes if written appropriately, directed at the Board’s function, it would be helpful in setting the culture of the Board.</p>
0:20:15	<p>Steve White stated the mission statement of the Board is clear: an elected Board that is the interface between the public and the Fire District.</p>
0:22:40	<p>Trustee Geddes stated he likes the idea of the mission statement as clearly stating the fundamental purpose of the Board of Trustees.</p> <p>Action Item: Place this on the May meeting agenda.</p>
0:27:12	ADJOURNMENT