

MINUTES OF THE EMERGENCY RESPONSE MEETING

The Board of Trustees of the Town of Buffalo met at the Town of Buffalo Office at 5:00PM on August 13, 2024. Trustees present: Larry Blankenbaker, Sarah Sabo, Traci Routier, Elizabeth Henderson, Kelcee Vroman. Employees present: Jaylene Stirling.

Guests: Kathy Glines, John Helms, Randy Routier.

Kathy Glines, Harding County Auditor and Emergency Manager, along with John Helms, County Commissioner, met with the Board of Trustees to discuss the response to the Traverse Fire, Buffalo's Trustee involvement, and future planning for other incidents. Glines reported the State is aware of our fire danger situation and is monitoring it closely with her. There are many concerns about the fire danger this fall with hunting season approaching. Kathy is in contact with the state regarding this matter. Questions have been raised about why no firefighting planes were requested. Glines reported planes are beneficial for the initial attack, but it takes 4-5 hours to get a plane here, then need to go to Spearfish or further to fill up again. The cost is around \$4000 per dump.

Mitigation was discussed at length. The areas that are most worrisome in the Town of Buffalo are: the North and West corners and Sewer Creek. It was agreed that maintaining the fire line from the Traverse Fire throughout the fall and next spring would help protect Buffalo against fire during this drought. All residents in town can help protect themselves and neighbors by maintaining their properties: keeping the grass cut short, keeping trees cleared of branches 3-4 ft off the ground, and removing fuel sources like old structures and fences. Glines suggested having a workday and seeing if people would volunteer to help those who cannot clean up these areas in town. The Board of Trustees along with Glines and Helms discussed the main things in emergencies are to mitigate, stay calm in emergency situations, and communicate. It was decided to address these things at a regularly scheduled board meeting.

Blankenbaker adjourned the emergency review meeting at 5:50PM.