



MARCH 2024



Firelight Meadows Chalets and Condos

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Townhall Roofing Project Information Meeting

Tuesday, March 12th, 2024 at 6:00 PM

Big Sky Water & Sewer District Conference Room

561 Little Coyote Road

If you are unable to attend the meeting in person, please join with the link below.

<https://meet.goto.com/591643181>

You can also dial in using your phone.

Access Code: 591-643-181

United States: [+1 \(872\) 240-3212](tel:+18722403212)

Water Sewer District Creation

Who is advocating for the creation of the district?

After years of discussion in association meetings, this grass-roots effort is driven by a committee of concerned owners. The creation of a district is also supported by the Big Sky Water & Sewer District and the Gallatin River Task Force.

Why is the District needed?

The Firelight Meadows Campus was constructed after the creation of the Big Sky Water & Sewer District (BSWSD). The campus developer bypassed utilizing the BSWSD and created a standalone water and septic system.

Westfork Utilities, a private company, currently owns the infrastructure and the water rights that serve the Firelight Meadows campus.

The increased sewage smells and recent pressure surges are symptoms of a water system under stress and needing an upgrade because it has reached its maximum capacity. The current system is under extreme stress.

The Firelight Meadows Homeowners Association (HOA) neither owns the water, or the system, the HOA cannot negotiate a solution or search for alternative providers. Creating a District allows for a voice to take steps toward a more reliable water system. It will also provide financial options to avoid costly increases in water services.

What is a Water and Sewer District?

Water and Sewer Districts (WSD's) are units of government within the State of Montana that may supply water, provide wastewater treatment and disposal, or both.

Per state law, five voted-upon volunteer board members will guide the Firelight Meadows Water and Sewer District, not the HOA. Starting this District is a zero-cost way to begin finding solutions for our water system needs.

What are the costs to forming the District?

There are no costs associated to forming the district.

What are the benefits of a District?

The formation of this district will provide grant opportunities from State & Federal resources.

Currently, Private companies and HOA's are not eligible. The formation of a district will also provide access to lower cost interest rate loans if necessary. This would be quite sizable savings since interest rates are currently over 8%.

What happens if no action is taken?

If no action is taken, there is continued risk of costs (paid by owners) rising. A complete failure of the system has potential to be a substantial cost to owners. Additionally, the campus is at risk for increased sewage smells, boil notices, and water surges. Without an effective system, property values will continue to drop.

What are the Environmental Impacts?

An upgraded system will provide cleaner water for households. Additionally, advanced technology will allow for effective monitoring. The district formation has been endorsed by the *Big Sky Water & Sewer District* and the *Gallatin River Task Force*.

TAKE ACTION AND VOTE ON MAY 7! Firelight owners or residents registered to vote in Gallatin County don't need to do anything but VOTE on the ballot you receive by mail at the end of April.

Residents can register to vote at the Gallatin County Elections Office located at 311 West Main Street, Room 210 in Bozeman.

If you live in different voting district, you can still vote. Please send in a request for an absentee ballot that will be sent to your mailing address. Be sure your requests is in to Gallatin County Registration Office by **April 12**. Link below.

https://gallatincomt.virtualtownhall.net/sites/g/files/vyhliif606/f/uploads/water_and_sewer_ballot_request.pdf