

Meeting Minutes for
Rico Fire Protection District
Regular Meeting: October 21st, 2024

The regular Rico Fire Protection District Meeting was called to order at 7:02 p.m. by Board Chair Tyler Lapp.

Roll Call: RFPD Board members Maria Casanova, Sarah Eckles, Tyler Lapp, Paul Ruud. Gregg Anderson was absent due to a work commitment.

Guests Present: RVFD Fire Chief Todd Jones, RFPD Administrator David Kunz.

Approval of Agenda: Paul Ruud moved to approve the agenda; Maria Casanova seconded the motion. Approval was unanimous.

Approval of Minutes: Maria Casanova moved to approve the minutes for the September 16th meeting; Paul Ruud seconded the motion. Approval was unanimous.

Public Comment: No public comment.

Approval of Financial Report and Accounts Payable: Kunz presented 3 more checks for payment: \$13,126.87 to LN Curtis for (4) sets of structural bunker gear, to be reimbursed by the CFSDPG grant; \$2325.00 to CPR World for (4) RVFD members to take the WFR class, (reissued check due to firefighter Crowe having to drop the class); \$11,000 transfer from the DSB General Fund to CSAFE Capital Gains (the \$11k was transferred from DSB Debit (\$4k) and DSB Hose Co. (\$7k)). Sarah Eckles moved to approve the financial report and bills plus the (3) additional checks. Maria Casanova seconded the motion. Approval was unanimous.

Administrative Report: All (4) 2024 Rico Center grants were closed out. All items were fulfilled except for a part of the training budget, which will be closed out under extension at the end of 2024.

The 2025 Rico Center grant is due on October 31st. Kunz proposed requesting funding from the Rico Center for the Light Rescue project. Assuming a \$230k budget (definitely generous) Kunz suggested that the Rico Center could fund \$80k, RFPD could fund \$80k, the CDPHE EMTS grant could fund \$45k, and the Telluride Foundation could fund \$20k. RFPD has \$4k from SMPA in-hand, and will request \$5k from Dolores County in their 2025 budget. Chairman Lapp signed the \$5k request from DOCO county commissioners for the rescue, as well as the request for \$2k for the ambulance subsidy.

Kunz mentioned that Heidi Trainor of Trainor CPA has retired, and the District will need to find a CPA who can perform the 2024 application for exemption from audit in 2025.

Grants (awarded):

Rico Center 2024: All (4) components closed out. Operations component has money remaining in the training budget (December 31, with extension).

El Pomar: \$11,973.00 requested from the El Pomar Fire fund to pay for hand tools for the new tanker and wildland fire boots for RVFD personnel. Funding for \$12,000 has been received. All members have picked up boots, all tools and fittings have been ordered, invoiced, received and paid (last invoice from Cascade Fire paid this month) Closeout: January 31, 2025.

SMPA Community Focus Grant: Request for \$20,000 for the light rescue truck; awarded \$2,000; an additional \$2,000 was received from Basin Electric. Kunz has notified SMPA contact MartyJo Davis that the Light Rescue may not be fulfilled until 2025.

Colorado Fire Safety and Disease Prevention Grant (CFSDPG) 2024: Request for \$13,088 for (4) new sets of structural fire bunkers. Firefighters Kunz, Hackett, and Juarez have been sized for bunkers. One pair of bunkers will be a standard size. No match, reimbursement required. Closeout: October 31, 2024.

CFSDPG Direct Distribution Grant: Kunz applied for (4) wildland fire packs and (4) fire shelters. This is a 100% funded grant, no match.

Fire Chief Report (Fire Chief Todd Jones):

Runs: (5) calls: a forgotten iphone reported a crash event on Bolam Pass; shoulder injury on Bolam Pass; Tib/fib fracture on the Circle Trail (reported as a Main St. address); a woman passing through town reported a miscarriage.

Training: Firefighters Casanova, Hackett, and Roberts will take a Wilderness First Responder class; DOCO SAR will pay for several RVFD members to attend SARCON in Breckenridge.

Equipment: Snow mobiles will go to Dolores for off-season maintenance. The lock-out kit has not yet been ordered.

Old Business:

Review of Alley Standards for Emergency Access: Gregg Anderson's revised/corrected alternative access proposal to Appendix D of the 2008 International Fire Code was presented. The intent is to provide a standardized access alternative for developers of properties that have only alley access and lie 150' or more from a street intersection. Sarah Eckles moved to approve the revised exhibit; Paul Ruud seconded. Approval was unanimous.

Debrief/Financials: 2024 Tri State Firemen's Association (TSFA): Kunz will close out the remaining bill and file all paperwork with the TSFA organization before November 3rd. \$720 remains to be paid to the TSFA organization for dues. Income from the event was \$38,625; expense was \$34,795.48. Kunz noted that government (Dolores County and the Town of Rico) had contributed \$6,000 toward the event (included in the income) and that Rico Center 2024 funding was expected to defray \$10,995.02 of the expense for the sanitary facilities and canopy.

New Business:

2025 Budget Draft: As per State budget requirements, Kunz had emailed the first draft of the RFPD 2025 budget to the Board on 10/15 for review. The draft budget used projected mill levy revenue from the preliminary Certificate of Valuation. At this time, Board members agreed to review the draft, and had no revisions at this time. The draft will be reviewed at the regular November meeting, and then adopted at the December Budget meeting, scheduled for December 9, 2024.

The next regular RFPD meeting is scheduled for November 18th; 2024.

A motion to adjourn was made by Sarah Eckles at 7:57; seconded by Maria Casanova. Approval was unanimous.

Chairman

Secretary