

Meeting Minutes for
Rico Fire Protection District
Regular Meeting: September 18th, 2023

The regular Rico Fire Protection District Meeting was called to order at 7:06 p.m. by Acting Board Chair Paul Ruud.

Roll Call: RFPD Board members Sarah Eckles, Raegan Ellease, Tyler Lapp (remote), and Paul Ruud. Gregg Anderson was absent due to a medical procedure.

Guests Present: RVFD Fire Chief Todd Jones; RFPD Administrator David Kunz; Allyn Svoboda (remote).

Approval of Agenda: Paul Ruud commented that the dates on the agenda were incorrect. Kunz stated that it was his error and apologized. Tyler Lapp moved to approve the agenda items as written, with corrected dates; Raegan Ellease seconded the motion. Approval was unanimous.

Approval of Minutes: Raegan Ellease moved to approve the revised minutes for the August 21st regular meeting; Sarah Eckles seconded the motion. Approval was unanimous. Raegan Ellease moved to approve the minutes for the September 5th special meeting as written; Sarah Eckles seconded the motion. Approval was unanimous.

Public Comment: No public comment.

Approval of Financial Report and Accounts Payable, Pension Checks:

Tyler Lapp moved to approve payment for the bills as presented, to accept the financial report, and pay pension checks; Sarah Eckles seconded the motion. Approval was unanimous.

Administrative Report: Kunz has the forms for Ruud and Lapp to fill out so that new signature cards can be requested from CSAFE and Dolores State Bank. DSB requires a motion to be recorded in the minutes to issue the revised cards; the motion is under new business.

Kunz has been working with the Dolores County Clerk to prepare for the upcoming election. The ballot question has been written and approved, the TABOR notification is pending, along with the PRO/CON statements, if any are provided. Kunz noted that the District cannot spend taxpayer money to promote upcoming ballot issue 6A.

Grants (awarded):

Rico Center 2023: Operations request for \$66,226.00, including \$50k in funding for a rescue truck; Fourth of July request for \$2,975.00. All operations items have been invoiced, although the air bags (ordered in March) are still stuck in the supply chain. Kunz will check to see if the Rico Center wants the approximately \$50,000 in RC funds reverted, or if RFPD can hold onto the funds. RC has a new online process for reporting. Modified closeout date: 9/30/2023.

CFSDPG 2023: Firefighter life and safety equipment; no match. Awarded \$11,796 in funding for (4) new sets of structural fire bunker gear. Firefighters Jones and Roberts as well as firefighters Bulk and Guertin (who are taking the TFPD FF1 class) have been fitted for the gear by LN Curtis. Closeout: October 31st.

CDPHE EMTS grant: Request of \$60,000 towards the light rescue truck. Awarded \$44,618.75. Kunz received the Statement of Work on September 13th. Anderson will sign, and after receipt of the approved purchase order, RFPD will be able to spend EMTS funds. Kunz noted that the EMTS manager has recently changed which may explain the 3-month delay in getting authorization to proceed. Closeout: June 30th, 2024.

Grants (potential):

USDA RD Community Facilities grant: Kunz will apply for additional funds for the Light Rescue, due to the increase in truck price and the reduced award from EMTS. As USDA is a Federal agency, there are reporting requirements prior to application. Rolling deadline.

Rico Center 2024: Potential requests for kitchen remodel funds; TSFA equipment; training funds. Modified deadline: October 31.

El Pomar 2023: Equipment for Wildland Fire, no match. Department members will come up with a list of equipment to outfit the new tanker truck; Training officer Eckles also requested wildland fire boots for volunteers with IQS qualifications. Deadline: September 30.

Fire Chief Report:

Runs: (4) calls: (3) SAR calls (all resolved without search); one call to the Rico Hotel/Argentine as a welfare check on an apparently intoxicated person who was demanding entrance.

Training: Ignacio Fire Academy: Pat Fallon will take the rookie track, FF1 Sarah Eckles and Benn Vernadakis will take the smoke reading class at the end of September. Jones requested District funding for firefighter academy tuition, as well as Pat Fallon's lodging. Kunz explained that there was some money remaining in the Rico Center 2023 training budget, as well as the General Fund Training and Travel line item. Tyler Lapp moved to approve the funding for the Fire Academy; Raegan Ellease seconded. Approval was unanimous.

Equipment: The BLM tanker has been donated and is now on the District's insurance policy. As mentioned above, Kunz will apply to El Pomar for funds to outfit the tanker. The tanker has some significant electrical issues: while the truck runs and the pump works, the main electrical control panel does not function. Firefighters Fallon, Robertson and others are troubleshooting the electrical system and figuring out costs to repair or bypass the electronics.

Old Business:

Light Rescue Truck project: The projected cost of the vehicle is approximately \$190,000. Currently, the Rico Center has funded <\$50,000 and Dolores County has funded \$5,000. The EMTS program will fund \$44,618.75 (pending executed SOW). Additional funding sources could include: San Miguel Power (\$10,000), and the USDA Rural Development funds Community Development grant.

RFPD Host planning:2024 Tri State Firemans' Association (TSFA): The event will be held August 1-3 of 2024. Chief Jones believes that RFPD will need to rent a larger tent, along with chairs and tables for the outside seating. Chief Jones told the Board that he would like to price out a "drive-thru" storage container to store snow machines as well as Tri State fixtures. Kunz will call Dick Kearney in Norwood for prices. Jones also mentioned installing a metal grate deck off the south doorway of the firehouse addition. Jones will locate the Firehouse's septic tank so that Le Pew can pump it. Risers may be required. Other building maintenance issues include: Overhead Door (Farmington) to perform general maintenance on tracks and power units for the (2) 12', (1) 10', and (1) 8' rollup doors on the firehouse, as well as replace the missing lite in the 921 door; Mike Contillo/Rico Plumbing to install pressure reducer, backflow preventer (RFPD has) as well as a sediment filter cartridge unit which Contillo will supply; RVFD (or others) to replace fan blower in middle reverberay heating unit and either replace vent roof terminations or reroute them through the north wall.

Rico Center Grant 2024: The request will include funds for a kitchen upgrade (as prepared by Ellease); training funds (request to be increased due to large roster with many qualifications/certifications); TSFA tent/chair request; chainsaw and accessories for 928 (new tanker).

New Business:

USDA Rural Development Facilities Grant Application: Kunz stated that the USDA requires a record that the person submitting the grant is authorized to do so. Raegan Ellease moved to recognize Kunz as an authorized representative of RFPD for the purposes of the USDA RD grant; seconded by Sarah Eckles. Approval was unanimous.

Bank Signature Card Update (motion): As the RFPD board has 2 new members, the signature cards are in the process of being updated. Dolores State Bank requires minutes of the meeting to show the Board requested the cards be updated. Tyler Lapp moved to approve the request for new signature cards at DSB and CSAFE; Sarah Eckles seconded the motion. Approval was unanimous.

2024 Budget Preview: As per the Department of Local Affairs (DOLA), a draft budget is to be presented to the Board in October. Kunz stated that he would prepare the draft using best estimates from the 2023 budget and the 2023 year-to-date financials. Eckles commented that the training budget should be raised due to the number of volunteers and the certifications they must keep up; Ruud commented that the propane budget should be adjusted

upwards as well due to market prices.

The next regular meeting is scheduled for October 19th, 2023.

A motion to adjourn was made by Sarah Eckles and seconded by Raegan Ellease at 7:55 PM. Approval was unanimous.

Chairman

Secretary