

Meeting Minutes for
Rico Fire Protection District
Regular Meeting: July 15th, 2024

The regular Rico Fire Protection District Meeting was called to order at 7:11 p.m. by Board Chair Tyler Lapp.

Roll Call: RFPD Board members Gregg Anderson, Sarah Eckles and Tyler Lapp. Paul Ruud and Maria Casanova were absent.

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

Approval of Agenda: Sarah Eckles moved to approve the agenda; Gregg Anderson seconded the motion. Approval was unanimous.

Approval of Minutes: Gregg Anderson made two corrections/amendments to the June 24th, 2024 minutes: clarification that Paul Ruud had approved the revised letter for the Carter Alley access plan; and that Sarah Eckles had adjourned both the Quarterly Pension meeting and the regular June board meeting. Sarah Eckles moved to approve the corrected minutes for the June 24th meeting; Tyler Lapp seconded the motion. Approval was unanimous.

Public Comment: No public comment. There was an ambulance call at this time. Chief Jones, Administrator Kunz, and Board member Eckles responded to the call and the meeting was paused.

Approval of Financial Report and Accounts Payable: Gregg Anderson moved to approve payment for the bills as presented and to accept the financial report; Sarah Eckles seconded the motion. Approval was unanimous.

Administrative Report: Kunz reported that the State has taken over the ambulance licensing process from the County, and that the Rico Ambulance has received a new license from the State. The ricofire.org website ADA accessibility issues have a 1 year window for compliance.

Grants (awarded):

Rico Center 2024: (4) requests: \$2,980.00 for food and other expenses for the 2024 Fourth of July (awarded \$1490); \$21,785.75 for Operations (full award): kitchen remodel funds, equipment, fire hose and fittings, EMS training dummies, training funds; \$19,982.75 for TSFA expenses (awarded \$12,356.25); \$50,000 for Light Rescue (full award). Grant agreement has been received. Fulfillment has started. Reimbursement will occur upon request. Closeout September 30, 2024/ (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. 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. Kunz has been in touch with LN Curtis with the names of the firefighters who will need to be fitted. Closeout: October 31, 2024.

Fire Chief Report (Fire Chief Todd Jones):

Runs: RVFD responded to (2) calls for service to an unresponsive 1 year old in Silver Gance. No transport.

Training: Prep for TSFA.

Equipment: Brush truck/928 is on-line and the electrical system is mostly functional. The truck will need to be loaded with hose, chainsaw needs to be purchased (RC 2024), and the foam system needs to be dialed in. Jones would like to letter the vehicle.

Old Business:

RFPD Host planning for 2024 Tri State Firemans' Association (TSFA): The event will be held August 1-3 of 2024. Will Nolan is working out the majority of the meal planning, while RFPD will provide the prep labor. Pat Fallon and Dylan Robertson are fabricating the trophies, which are labor-intensive but look awesome. Despite looking for another sanitary provider, RFPD will be using Le Pew's expensive services. Waste Management will donate the trash service. Viking will provide the 40' x 60' tent, chairs and tables. Southwest Memorial has been asked to provide medical support.

Review of Alley Standards for Emergency Access:

Gregg Anderson presented his exhibit showing an alternative access proposal to IFC 2006. The Board discussed the merits of a 26' versus a 19' for the turning radius. Comment was made that the turnaround area should not be utilized to fulfill off-street parking required by the Town. Anderson will add additional notes specifying that turnaround proposal would be an alternative for properties with greater than 150' of alley to access their driveway. Anderson will revise the proposal and this item will be continued.

New Business:

Fourth of July debrief/Financials: Kunz presented a summary of Fourth profits from every year dating back to 2013, when the District lost nearly \$2000 on the event. Income has varied from several hundred to several thousand dollars for the Fourth since then, with the District showing \$6700 in profit in 2022 and over \$9000 in 2023. 2024 profit was \$1478. Although Duck ticket sales were up, (the event has no expenses except volunteer time) and tee shirt/merchandise sales were successful, the per-shirt margin was lower due to increased costs. Other factors for the decline in net revenue: the District approved \$1000 more in fireworks expenses for 2024; the Rico Center reduced their funding for the event by half. Kunz suggested that additional evening fundraising prior to the fireworks would be helpful if the personnel can be spared, and that pre-event fireworks donations could be solicited in future years.

The OT/Community picnic was attended by only about 100 people. Some folks had already left town by Friday, there were competing events in Town, and some said that the event was not sufficiently publicized. Some past attendees are less interested in attending an event in Town Park versus the racetrack/ballfield (which is no longer available due to a change in land ownership). Given the amount of work for an event with low attendance, Chief Jones stated that he was considering discontinuing the event, but it could be reconsidered during 2025 budget discussions.

Letter of intent to Dolores County for November, 2024 election:

Kunz presented a letter stating that the District wished to participate in the combined election and place a non-Tabor question to the voters regarding the disposition of the property underlying the 1996 firehouse structure (currently owned by the Town).

Sarah Eckles moved to approve and sign the letter to the Dolores County Clerk; Gregg Anderson seconded the motion. Approval was unanimous.

The next regular RFPD meeting is scheduled for August 19th 2024.

A motion to adjourn was made by Gregg Anderson at 8:37; seconded by Sarah Eckles. Approval was unanimous.

Chairman

Secretary