

Meeting Minutes for
Rico Fire Protection District
Regular Meeting: November 21st, 2022

The regular Rico Fire Protection District Meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. by Chair Gregg Anderson.

Roll Call: RFPD Board members Gregg Anderson, Sarah Eckles, Raegan Ellease, Tyler Lapp and Stacy Sheridan.

Guests Present: RVFD Fire Chief Todd Jones, RFPD Administrator David Kunz, Allyn Svoboda (via Zoom).

Approval of Agenda: Administrator Kunz requested that the New Business item regarding the FAMILI opt-out be removed from the agenda and that Region 9 Enterprise Zone application be added. Tyler Lapp moved to approve the agenda as amended; Sarah Eckles seconded the motion. Approval was unanimous.

Approval of Minutes: Stacy Sheridan moved to approve the minutes for the October 17th, 2022 regular meeting. Raegan Ellease seconded the motion. Approval was unanimous.

Public Comment: Allyn Svoboda commented on a new SMPA microgrid program which allocates State funding to build resiliency/ add backup power in rural communities. Svoboda explained several shipping-container sized unitized battery/control units could provide backup power to the Town. Svoboda suggested that RFPD property could be an appropriate location for one of the units, which require an underground power connection, transformer, and a concrete pad. The Board directed Kunz to meet with Svoboda to further qualify the plan.

Approval of Financial Report, Accounts Payable: Kunz added four bills for approval: Pinnacol Assurance (\$379.00 for Worker's Comp insurance); Western Group (\$100.00 for Director Bond); Sarah Eckles (\$134.11 for Thanksgiving Dinner reimbursement); Amazon (\$39.41 for batteries). Stacy Sheridan moved to approve payment for the bills as presented (plus additional 4) and to accept the financial report. Tyler Lapp seconded the motion. Approval was unanimous.

Administrative Report: Kunz spoke to Emily Nolan in re the Rico Center grant review process. The Board anticipates making a funding decision within the next 4-6 weeks. Kunz reiterated that the Department is still waiting for delivery of the bunker gear ordered under the CFSDPG grant. DOLA approved the pension grant payment. All other items on agenda.

Grants (awarded):

Colorado Fire Safety and Disease Prevention (CFSDPG) 2022: \$9,560.00 in funding for (4) sets of Structural Fire PPE. RFPD is authorized to spend funding. Closeout: 10/31/22. Kunz requested an extension to file for reimbursement.

Grants (pending): Rico Center 2023: application submitted. Operations request for \$66,226.00, including \$50k in funding for a rescue truck; Fourth of July request for \$2975.00.

Grants (potential):

El Pomar: 100% funding for wildland firefighting equipment

DOLA Tier 2 funding: see "New Property Improvement Plan" under old business.

Fire Chief Report (Fire Chief Todd Jones)

Runs: (7) calls: medical calls for abdominal pain, possible stroke and cardiac; a SAR on Stoner Mesa for an older hunter; 2 mutual aid calls and several smoke alarms.

Training: RVFD members participated in a fire tower exercise in Lewis.

Equipment: 927 has new starter batteries

RVFD held elections: Pat Fallon is Safety Officer; Sarah Eckles is Training Officer; Benn Vernadakis is Assistant Chief/SAR officer; David Kunz is Secretary/EMS officer.

Old Business:

New Property Improvement Plan: Continued until next month.

RFPD Development Review Standards/procedures: the RFPD board discussed whether to adopt or modify Telluride FPD's standards for access and turnarounds. Tyler Lapp will modify TFPD's standards for consideration at the January meeting. Outstanding question as to whether the Town will update their building codes to be more recent than the 2006 IFC.

Light Rescue Truck project: The project as proposed will cost \$160,000: Kunz plans to ask CDPHE's EMTS program for \$60,000 (Feb 2023); the Rico Center for \$50,000 (submitted);the Telluride Foundation for \$18,000 (Oct. 2023); Dolores County and San Miguel Power for \$5,000.00 each. RFPD's contribution to the project would likely be approximately \$21,000.

RFPD 2023 Budget Draft: the Board reviewed the draft budget. Kunz explained that the final valuation had come in slightly higher than anticipated. Board members agreed to raise anticipated expenditures for propane and electricity. Gregg Anderson requested that the anticipated Capital expenditure for the light rescue be removed from the budget so that the final balance was positive. Budget approval for 2023 will occur at the December Budget meeting (to be held on December 5th).

RFPD Host planning:2024 Tri State Firemans' Association (TSFA): Due to the large budget and the significant volunteer hours needed to put on this event, it will remain on the agenda.

New Business:

Region 9 Enterprise Zone application approval: Kunz explained that Region 9 has a multi-step approval process by which donators to RFPD can receive a 25% tax credit. Gregg Anderson moved to direct Kunz to begin the approval process; Stacy Sheridan seconded. Approval was unanimous.

Other Business:

Thanksgiving Community Dinner: The Department's Thanksgiving event is scheduled for November 19th at 4 PM.

Christmas Party: scheduled for December 17th at 6 PM. Anderson will return in a starring role.

RFPD Kitchen improvement: Board member Raegan Ellease is searching for a 3-basin commercial sink to replace the existing north wall cabinetry/sink of the kitchen area. The dimensions wall-to-wall are 81 inches. If a used sink cannot be located, a new unit would cost several thousand dollars. Ideally, the sink would be installed prior to July, 2023.

The next RFPD Board meeting will include the approval of the 2023 budget, and is scheduled for December 5th, 2022.

The regular January 2023 meeting is scheduled for the 16th.

A motion to adjourn was made by Tyler Lapp and seconded by Sarah Eckles at 8:25 PM. Approval was unanimous.

Chairman

Secretary