

Meeting Minutes for
Rico Fire Protection District
Regular Meeting: May 15^h, 2023

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

Roll Call: RFPD Board members Gregg Anderson, Raegan Ellease and Tyler Lapp. Sarah Eckles was absent due to a travel delay; Paul Ruud present as a pending Board member.

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

Approval of Agenda: Raegan Ellease proposed to add two items, Review of Bedrock Lot 6 Subdivision and Consideration of Adoption of Appendix D of the 2006 NFPA Fire Code, to New Business, as well as to move the agenda item "RFPD proposed mill levy increase" to be first on Old Business.; Tyler Lapp seconded the motion. Approval was unanimous.

Oath of Office: New member Paul Ruud and returning member Tyler Lapp each took the Oath of Office. Sarah Eckles will also renew her seat on the Board, and will take the oath once she returns.

Appointment of Officers: After discussion, Gregg Anderson moved to appoint Tyler Lapp as RFPD Board President, Sarah Eckles as secretary, and Paul Ruud as Treasurer; seconded by Raegan Ellease. Approval was unanimous.

Approval of Minutes: Gregg Anderson noted a typo in the April 17th minutes which will be corrected; Paul Ruud seconded the motion to approve the corrected minutes. Approval was unanimous.

Public Comment: No public comment.

Approval of Financial Report and Accounts Payable:

There were no additional bills. Fraley Propane has provided their evenpay schedule for June 2023 through April 2024 @ \$455/month, an increase over the previous amount of \$345/month.

Gregg Anderson proposed to transfer \$50,000 from the DSB General account to the CSAFE Capital Improvement account in order to take advantage of the interest (currently 4.93%/month). Tyler Lapp moved to authorize the transfer; Gregg Anderson seconded the motion. Approval was unanimous.

Gregg Anderson moved to approve payment for the bills as presented and to accept the financial report; Paul Ruud seconded the motion. Approval was unanimous.

Administrative Report:

Kunz reported that he defended the EMTS grant application at the SWRETAC and State levels. Each of the reviews is 50% of the final grant score. EMTS funding decisions are announced in June. If the District's application is successful, Kunz will apply for other grant sources for additional funding.

Kunz also presented RFPD's Economic Zone application to Region 9, which was approved. EZ zone designation may help the District attract donors to the building project, as it will net them a 25% tax credit on their State returns. This application will also get a review at the State level.

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. Payment has been received, and fulfillment has started. Closeout: 9/1/2023.

CFSDPG 2023: Firefighter life and safety equipment; no match. Awarded \$11,796 in funding for (4) new sets of structural fire bunker gear. Kunz has contacted LN Curtis (vendor) and returned the grant acceptance paperwork. Closeout: October 31st.

Grants (submitted):

CDPHE EMTS grant: \$60,000 towards the light rescue truck. Award notifications occur in June.

Fire Chief Report (Fire Chief Todd Jones):

Runs: 3 calls: a fire in the West Fork (stood down); an avalanche across the highway that was suspected of burying car (it didn't); and a welfare check on an older resident who was DOA.

Training: Firefighters Matt Guertin and Thomas Bulk are taking the Firefighter 1 course in Telluride at TFPD. RFPD may need to pay for books and testing. Tri-State Firemen's Association for 2023 will be held August 4-6 in Grants, NM. Other training in-house.

Equipment: "Running steady."

Old Business:

RFPD proposed Mill Levy Increase: The Board and TOR Mayor Nicole Pieterse discussed the timing and impact of RFPD requesting a mill levy increase, in light of the increased property valuations and the Town's budget needs. Pieterse stated that the Town would not request additional taxes until 2024. Comment was made that RFPD's proposed increase would not be enough to cover debt service on the new building, but that it would build revenue as well as show granting agencies and donors that the District is serious about the project. Ruud stated that he believed it better to ask for a mill levy increase sooner rather than later.

In regards to the sales tax alternative, Kunz's research indicated that the District cannot directly levy a sales tax, but could possibly receive sales tax revenue through an agreement with the Town. Under the Town's home-rule charter, it does not have to follow the 8% limit that Colorado municipalities are subject to. Current sales tax rates in Rico are 8.15%, of which 5% goes to the Town and 2.9% to the State. Currently, the highest sales tax in the State is 11.2% (Winter Park). Ruud commented that sales taxes were regressive and consequently should be the least preferable.

If the Board wanted to go the mill levy route, Kunz said that the Board would need to determine the amount of the increase "probably by next month". The Board directed Kunz to contact the County to start the combined election process, as well as line up a lawyer to review the mill levy language.

Light Rescue Truck project: The project as proposed will cost \$190,000: Kunz has applied for \$60,000.00 from the CDPHE's EMTS program. The Rico Center has awarded \$50,000; Kunz will apply to the Telluride Foundation for < \$20,000.00 (Oct. 2023) and San Miguel Power for \$5,000.00. Dolores County has approved \$5,000.00 in their budget for the project. RFPD's contribution to the project would likely be at least \$21,000.00. Fourth of July fundraising surplus will go towards this project.

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.

2023 Fourth of July event:

Tentative Schedule: Firefighter Appreciation Dinner (Saturday, July 1st); Old Timers' Community Picnic (Sunday, July 2nd); July 4th: Parade/food line/Duck Race/ Fireworks show (weather permitting).

There will be a Street Dance on Mantz Ave. near the Courthouse. Chief Jones stated that any emergency response to the event would be based out of the firehouse; EMT's would not be manning the event.

Jones believes that the river will be too high for a duck race, so the ducks may get pulled out of a porta-pond. Pat Fallon's Philly Cheese steaks will be back (and bigger) at the food line. Raegan Ellease has been watching the used equipment market for a commercial sink to replace existing one in the firehouse kitchen. Jones would like to get griddle inserts for the grills. Jones ordered the fireworks @ \$6,500.00, delivery will be in May.

New Business:

Resolution 2023-3: Resolution of Cancellation of Election: Kunz explained that this is a formality, as there were not more candidates than open positions. Gregg Anderson voted to approve Resolution 2023-3; Tyler Lapp seconded the motion. Approval was unanimous, with Paul Ruud abstaining.

Review of Bedrock Lot 6 subdivision: This project consists of 2- and 3- story multifamily prefabricated structures. The 2006 NFPC fire code (as adopted by the TOR) requires that 3-story buildings have sprinkler systems. As prefabs, those systems would be inspected at the factory and again on-site. Recognizing that the volunteer boards and fire

chiefs do not have the time or expertise to act as building code compliance officials, Chief Jones signed his approval of the system with condition that it be inspected by a third party as per the 2006 code.

Consideration of Adoption of Appendix D of the 2006 NFPA Fire Code: Tyler Lapp stated that the TOR had adopted the 2006 fire code but not the appendices. Appendix D provides standards for roadways in regards to emergency vehicle access/turnarounds. The Board is in favor of adopting a concise, recognized and consistent road standards that would be clear for developers to design to and for the Board to review. The Board directed Kunz to draft a resolution adopting the NFPC 2009 Appendix D for consideration at the June meeting.

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

A motion to adjourn was made by Gregg Anderson and seconded by Paul Ruud at 8:35 PM. Approval was unanimous.

Chairman

Secretary