

Meeting Minutes for
Rico Fire Protection District
Regular Meeting: July 19th, 2021

The regular Rico Fire Protection District Meeting was called to order at 7:03 p.m. by Chairman Gregg Anderson.

Members Present: In Person: RFPD Board members Gregg Anderson, Mary Hagan. Susan Robertson, and Raegan Ellease. Mary Hagan and Stacy Sheridan were present via Zoom.

Guests Present: RVFD Fire Chief Todd Jones, RFPD Administrator David Kunz, Allyn Svoboda. Dolores County Emergency Manager Keith Keesling was in attendance by Zoom.

Approval of Agenda: Susan Robertson moved to approve the agenda as written. Mary Hagan seconded the motion. Approval was unanimous.

Approval of Minutes: Gregg Anderson pointed out a typographic error in the minutes. Susan Robertson moved to approve the corrected minutes for June 7th, 2021; Raegan Ellease seconded the motion. Approval was unanimous.

Public Comment: Allyn Svoboda gave an update on the potential for a battery backup power system that could be funded through DOLA's resiliency grant program. Kunz and DCOEM manager Keith Keesling will work on DOLA phase 2 funds in order to get backup power generation for the FD.

Approval of Financial Report and Accounts Payable, Pension Checks: Mary Hagan moved to approve payment for all bills as presented and to accept the financial report; Susan Robertson seconded the motion. Approval was unanimous.

Administrative Report: Kunz reported that he mostly worked on grant fulfillment and closeout, along with the Fourth of July event.

Grants (Awarded):

2020 EMTS grant: \$7,196.00 to purchase a refurbished CPR compression device ("Lucas 2") at a 20% match. The unit has been received from AED.US and is in service on the Rico ambulance. **Reimbursed and closed out.**

Rico Center 2021: \$39,185.98 for General Operations and property improvement; \$2775.00 for the 2021 Fourth of July. Payment has been deposited and fulfillment is proceeding. The grant closes out 9/01/21.

DOLA administrative/planning grant: \$3050.00 in DOLA funds to assist with the surveying of the recently purchased property as well as the rendering of technical drawings by Jones and DeVille. The purchase order is in place. The survey has been completed. R&D has been commissioned to start the schematics.

SIPA Micro-Grant: \$2,000.00 in funding for revision of the RFPD website and migration to the State platform. Payment has been received. Karen Overn/KO Web designs has moved the website to the new platform. The Board has approved payment to KO web designs. **Fulfilled.**

Grants (Pending):

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

Fire Chief Report (Chief Todd Jones)

Runs: (5) calls for service: an on-highway motorcycle accident resulted in an isolated arm injury and a partial transport to Priest Gulch; SAR for lost hiker in McJunkin Creek; 50 YO male bicyclist had a fatal cardiac event in the Silver Creek drainage/Circle Trail; car versus deer; car off-road.

Training: In-house. Tri-State Firemen's Association will be held August 6-9.

Equipment: Tanker 924's steel tank is beginning to corrode through. Repair of the 1500-gallon tank would be challenging and would buy a little more time. Longer term options could include fabrication of a new poly/ stainless tank, or the replacement of the entire truck. Chief Jones will look at the costs of various options to address the issue. This item will be on the August agenda.

Old Business:

New Property Improvement Plan: RFPD members Anderson and Ellease, along with Chief Jones and Administrator Kunz met with the Jones and DeVille team earlier this afternoon via Zoom to review and clarify certain building details prior to generation of the schematic drawings. Tim Halper, Kim Campbell, and Jamison Christenson were on the call for J & D. Items discussed included: Reduction of 2nd floor footage/Identification of rooms (due to elevator access/square footage requirements) – agreement to not put floors above bay areas, and to limit 2nd floor space only to uses that were also available on the first floor; rollup door heights to be @ 14', giving approx. ceiling height of 16'/ floor-to-floor height of 17'; variances to be requested from TOR would include: parking, height, and commercial front facade requirements; heating options (radiant ceiling units vs. in-floor hydronic); exhaust extraction; floor drainage to include sand/grease trap system prior to discharge into storm sewer; SIPS – type metal panels for exterior walls; window treatments such as second-story clearstory windows and “calwall” translucent panels in rollup doors. With these items discussed, the J&D team felt that they had sufficient information to proceed with the drafting of the schematic drawings.

After the recap of the meeting with J&D, Board members discussed grant funding sources including the DOLA tier 2 program (next funding deadline of September 1st); the Rico Center (10/1/21); the Telluride Foundation (10/19/21) as well as the USDA Rural Development loan package and its requirements for proper public notification, an environmental study, and the hiring of an attorney to attest that RFPD has the proper authority to apply for funds. The Board also reviewed other sources of funding for the new construction, including private donors, fundraising, and raising the mill levy. After the discussion, the Board agreed to delay applying for DOLA funding until the spring, 2022 cycle.

New Business:

Fourth of July debrief/financial summary: Rico was busier than usual on the 4th. In general, feedback was positive from attendees, locals, and businesses, although there was one report of public urination. Kunz reported that the 2021 Fourth of July event had a net profit of \$3,371.79. Duck tickets and Tee shirt/merchandise sales netted \$5224.45 and all 500 ducks were sold. The Food Line grossed \$1911.00 and Pat Fallon's Philly cheese steaks sold out.

Discussion: Future fundraising strategies: Although there were several pageouts over the 4th of July weekend, the Department had just enough staffing to cover emergency response as well as run the events for the Fourth. Board member (and long-time food line coordinator) Susan Robertson expressed her concern that the Food Line planning process had not gone smoothly and had too much input from people who were not going to be there on the Fourth.

Administrator (and Duck Race organizer) David Kunz expressed his concern at the thin staffing and that the Department needed to do more in terms of getting Duck Race donations.

Board President Gregg Anderson commented that other volunteer boards had requirements for volunteer hours and fundraising by their members, but there was general agreement that RFPD did not want to implement those.

Coordination of Wildland emergency response: Boardmember Raegan Ellease had posed a number of questions prior to the meeting in regards to emergency plans for notification of Rico residents and evacuation planning in the event of an emergency (particularly wildfire). Dolores County Emergency manager Keith Keesling discussed NIXLE (the opt-in emergency notification system) as well as IPAWS (a “pushed” emergency alert that goes out to all cellphones within range of the Rico cell towers, as well as radio, NOAA radio, and TV). Keith will send Kunz a NIXLE widget to put on the website.

Keesling also reviewed the basics of the Town's multi-hazard evacuation plan with the Board. Chief Jones commented that due to the relatively light vegetation loads near Rico there would probably be more time to implement an evacuation plan than in heavier fuel-loaded regions such as the Summit Lake area.

Review of Bedrock/D. Bulson development proposal: The RFPD board took a look at the proposed plans for Bedrock, which would be accessed from North Silver St., north of the Atlantic Cable subdivision. The plans include a hammerhead turnaround for emergency vehicles as the development does not have access from the west due to property ownership. The nearest hydrant is on North Silver St.. Chief Jones will ask Dennis Swank (TOR Streets and

Water) about flow rates from that hydrant, as well as snow removal plans. Board members noted that the hydrant should be modernized and elevated. This issue will be continued at the 8/16 meeting, when the RFPD board will formalize recommendations to make to the Rico Planning Commission.

The next regular RFPD Board meeting is scheduled for August 16st, 2021.

A motion to adjourn was made by Stacy Sheridan and seconded by Raegan Ellease at 9:17 PM. Approval was unanimous.

Chairman

Secretary