

Meeting Minutes for  
Rico Fire Protection District  
Regular Meeting: September 20<sup>th</sup>, 2021

The regular Rico Fire Protection District Meeting was called to order at 7:07 p.m. by Chairman Gregg Anderson.

**Members Present:** In Person: RFPD Board members Gregg Anderson, Raegan Ellease, Mary Hagan and Stacy Sheridan. Susan Robertson was late due to an unsuccessful Zoom connection.

**Guests Present:** RFPD Administrator David Kunz, Allyn Svoboda (in attendance by Zoom).

**Approval of Agenda:** Stacy Sheridan moved to approve the agenda as written. Mary Hagan seconded the motion. Approval was unanimous.

**Approval of Minutes:** Stacy Sheridan moved to approve the minutes as written for the August 16<sup>th</sup>, 2021 regular meeting; Raegan Ellease seconded the motion. Approval was unanimous, with Mary Hagan abstaining.

Stacy Sheridan moved to approve the minutes as written for the August 16<sup>th</sup>, 2021 executive session; Raegan Ellease seconded the motion. Approval was unanimous, with Mary Hagan abstaining.

**Public Comment:** Board member Raegan Ellease asked about billing and reimbursement for recent SAR operations undertaken by the Department. Administrator Kunz explained that the reimbursement was limited to half- or whole-day rates for equipment and vehicles. Kunz will get the latest reimbursement forms from Dolores County SAR/ Keith Keesling.

Susan Robertson joined the meeting in-person at 7:21. She had been unable to join by Zoom.

**Approval of Financial Report and Accounts Payable/Pension checks and EMT class Reimbursement:** In addition to the payments in the Financial Report, Kunz asked for Board approval of an additional \$200.00 to Cascade Fire Equipment for wildland PPE as well as a payment of \$368.55 to Forestry Suppliers for wildland fire equipment. The additional bills are to fulfill the VFA grant, which closes out at the end of the month.

Raegan Ellease moved to approve payment for the bills as presented (plus changes/additional bills), pension checks and EMT class reimbursement checks, as well as to accept the financial report; Stacy Sheridan seconded the motion. Approval was unanimous.

**Administrative Report:** Kunz reported that RFPD had received a donation of \$23,000 from the Rico Church. The 2021 Certificate of Valuation from the County shows an increase of 11% in the District's valuation, which would result in mill levy revenues of \$57,098 in 2022. Comment was made about the first million-dollar sale of residential property in Rico.

Kunz will prepare a draft budget for the October meeting.

The One Beacon general insurance/liability policy is being renewed. Terrorism coverage and uninsured motorist coverage will need to be accepted or rejected.

**Grants (Awarded):**

**Rico Center 2021:** \$39,185.98 for General Operations and property improvement; \$2,775.00 for the 2021 Fourth of July. The District approved reversion of \$3257.49 in unused funds. Closed out.

**DOLA administrative/planning grant:** \$3,050.00 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 completed the first version of the schematic drawings.

**VFA 2021:** \$1,629.15 for Wildland Fire equipment and PPE; fulfillment is proceeding. Closeout September 30.

**Grants (Pending):**

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

**Fire Chief Report (Chief Todd Jones):** Chief Jones was absent; Kunz gave the Fire Chief report.

**Runs:** (9) runs, including: one vehicle fire; (3) wildland fire/smoke reports; (4) SAR activations, including a body recovery near Kilpacker trail and an ankle injury up Sulphur Creek; one sick/general.

**Training:** Emergency Medical Responder and Wilderness Medicine classes are scheduled to begin in the next month. SAR personnel will need training on the new locator beacons.

**Equipment:** Kunz will work with the County and use donated funds/Rico Center funds to purchase a newer wheeled stokes/ rescue litter.

**Old Business:**

**New Property Improvement Plan:** Kunz will follow up with Tim Halper of J & D in regards to the draft schematics.

**Tanker 924 replacement/refurbishment options:** Chief Jones was absent, this item will be continued.

**New Business:**

**Rico Center 2022 grant proposal:** Jones and Kunz are working on prices for fire equipment, including: battery-powered rescue saw, chainsaw and ventilation fan; SCBA bottles; siphon jet intake strainers and supply hose. Kunz will also ask for discretionary training funds and money for food for the 2022 Fourth of July. Comment was made to see if the Rico Center or County SAR funds could pay for lighter rescue ropes. Raegan Ellease brought up the need for additional sets of structural bunker gear to outfit new members and compliance for fire and training exercises.

The next regular RFPD Board meeting is scheduled for October 18th, 2021.

A motion to adjourn was made by Gregg Anderson and seconded by Stacy Sheridan at 7:57 PM. Approval was unanimous.

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Chairman

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Secretary