

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

The regular Rico Fire Protection District Meeting was called to order at 7:10 p.m. by Chairman Gregg Anderson.

Members Present: RFPD Board members Gregg Anderson, Raegan Ellease, Stacy Sheridan. Susan Robertson was present via Zoom. Mary Hagan was absent due to travel.

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

Approval of Agenda: Stacy Sheridan moved to approve the agenda as written. Raegan Ellease seconded the motion. Approval was unanimous.

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

Public Comment: Gregg Anderson commented that he would prefer to have the Board packet a week prior to the meeting. Allyn Svoboda spoke in favor of making the District meetings available for public participation via the internet (although not necessarily by the Zoom platform).

Approval of Financial Report and Accounts Payable: Gregg Anderson asked about a negative balance in the equipment category in the Profit and Loss report. Kunz explained that he has voided out a number of outstanding/stale checks issued over the last 3 years; the credit for those appeared as negative spending in the P&L. Stacy Sheridan moved to approve payment for the bills as presented, and to accept the financial report. Raegan Ellease seconded the motion. Approval was unanimous.

Administrative Report: The DOLA administrative grant and VFA grant are closed out.

Grants (Awarded):

Rico Center 2022: \$32,774.25 requested for Fire Operations; \$1,000.00 for avalanche beacons; \$2,875.00 requested for the 2022 Fourth of July. Award letter has been signed and returned.

Grants (Pending):

Co. Fire Safety and Disease Prevention: Potential 100% funding for sets of Structural Fire PPE: [(4) sets, total of \$9,560.00] RFPD has successfully applied for this funding in the past for PPE and an extractor. Award notifications scheduled for February, 2022.

Grants (potential):

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

Fire Chief Report (Fire Chief Todd Jones)

Runs: (3) calls: (2) medical calls involving children; (1) burn pile called in as a structure fire.

Training: Wildland refresher class scheduled in Dolores on March 15th.

Equipment: The search for a new tanker is ongoing. Eric Simmons has located (3) additional 100-watt radios for 922, 924 and 927. According to Jones, the EMTS grant program has more funding than usual this year, and could be a source for a crew cab pickup. Kunz stated that the grant program is a 50% match unless a waiver is requested and that the deadline was February 15th but the District could consider applying in FY 2023.

Jones would like to sell the old ambulance, after some research the District agreed on \$5,000 selling price to a Department member, or \$7,500 to a non-department member.

Old Business:

New Property Improvement Plan/fundraising strategies: The board reviewed the construction cost estimates prepared by J and D. The costs came in at \$2 million for the structure and \$2.7 million for the entire project. Given

the magnitude of the cost, it was apparent that the project will require a longer-term timeline to coordinate additional funding. Chief Jones and Chair Gregg Anderson will plan to attend a Town Board meeting to request the transfer of the Firehouse parcel to RFPD so that the District has collateral for a loan.

Chief Jones also expressed an interest in exploring whether, as a stopgap measure, the District could construct a one- or two-bay carport or quonset-type structure to shelter the snowmobile trailer until the new station building could be constructed. The District agreed to have this proposal be a part of the new construction agenda item.

Other revenue sources to be pursued: Kunz will look into making RFPD a recipient of the Amazon Smile program; Sheridan will research the ability to “round up” credit card charges in town; Ellease has done research on short term lodging taxes in other municipalities (the Town will have a worksession on STR tax on March 7th)

Review/Approval of RFPD by-laws: Gregg Anderson moved to approve the RFPD by-laws as written; Stacy Sheridan seconded the motion. Approval was unanimous.

New Business:

Resolution 2022-2: Application for Exemption from Audit: Stacy Sheridan moved to approve Resolution 2022-2; Susan Robertson seconded the motion. Approval was unanimous. The application will be sent to the Office of the State Auditor once all members have signed.

The next regular RFPD Board meeting is scheduled for March 21st, 2022.

A motion to adjourn was made by Stacy Sheridan and seconded by Raegan Ellease at 8:29 PM. Approval was unanimous.

Chairman

Secretary