

Meeting Minutes for
Rico Fire Protection District
Regular Meeting: July 18th, 2022

The regular Rico Fire Protection District Meeting was called to order at 7:04 p.m. by Chair Gregg Anderson.

Roll Call: RFPD Board members Gregg Anderson, Raegan Ellease, Tyler Lapp and Stacy Sheridan. Sarah Eckles was absent due to travel.

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

Approval of Agenda: Stacy Sheridan moved to approve the agenda as written; Tyler Lapp seconded the motion. Approval was unanimous.

Approval of Minutes: Raegan Ellease moved to approve the minutes for the June 20th, 2022 regular meeting. Stacy Sheridan seconded the motion. Approval was unanimous.

Public Comment: Allyn Svoboda inquired about Gov. Polis' July 12th visit to the Rico Firehouse. Kunz responded that the meeting had been set up with 24 hours notice, and the Governor's security team had requested that the attendees be limited to Fire Chief, staff and Board members. Kunz added that the District had received approximately \$3,000.00 in State funding through a DOLA administrative grant to fund the preliminary study of the proposed new building. Svoboda also commented that electric co-op's (such as SMPA) can now access funds released by the legislature for microgrids.

Approval of Financial Report, Accounts Payable and Pension Checks for the 3rd quarter: Kunz added three more bills to be paid out of the General Fund: \$45.00 additional to Benn Vernadakis (reimbursement, food for FOJ); \$52.26 to Emergency Medical Products (narcan kit); \$51.75 to Sarah Eckles (reimbursement, food for Polis meeting); also a bill for \$696.38 to AL Coors to be paid out of the Hose Co. Tyler Lapp moved to approve payment for the bills as presented/plus additional and accept the financial report. Stacy Sheridan seconded the motion. Approval was unanimous.

Administrative Report: The Application for Exemption from Audit was approved by the State. Kunz reported he had spent time on grant fulfillment for the Rico Center and the Fourth of July event.

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. Payment has been received and fulfillment has started. Closeout: 8/31/22.

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.

Grants (potential):

USDA VFA 2022: 50/50 match for wildland firefighting equipment

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

Fire Chief Report (Fire Chief Todd Jones)

Runs: (2) EMS calls, one to Priest Gulch (fainting), one to the East Fork trail (fall w/injured hip). One report of smoke on Lizard head (nothing found), one multi-vehicle collision at MM 32.5.

Training: Tri-State Firefighter will be held August 6th. DFPC will have the burn trailer and driving simulator. RFPD may consider hosting TSFA in 2023.

Equipment: Chief Jones reported that Cortez Fire may have a type 4 brush truck to transfer to RVFD. Engine 922 may be loaned to Towaoc as their pumper is out of service.

Old Business:

New Property Improvement Plan/fundraising strategies: The Board discussed various grants and strategies to raise the \$2.5 million budget for the new building. At the July 12th meeting, Governor Polis and DOLA representatives encouraged RFPD to apply for DOLA tier 2 funding. Kunz will contact DOLA District manager Patrick Rondinelli, and check in with J&D on whether cost estimates have to be updated.

The Town of Rico will discuss the proposed transfer of lots 13-14 from the Town to the Fire District during executive session at their July 20th meeting.

Town of Rico Lodging Tax: Anderson reported that the Rico Town Board has concerns about the legality of re-allocating lodging tax to benefit the District without additional voter approval, but is considering adding an application fee for the lodging permit that would support RFPD.

New Business:

Fourth of July debrief: Kunz went through the final financial summary with the Board. Several of the final bills are outstanding but the preliminary numbers indicate that the District netted over \$6,000.00 on the event. Duck and Tee shirt sales totaled over \$5,500.00. The District supported the purchase of additional ducks for the 2023 Duck Race. The Food Line and Pat Fallon's Philly cheese steaks were very popular, with a gross income of over \$3,000.00. Kunz noted that the QR codes put in place by Department member Leah Chmielewski were very effective at selling ducks as well as providing customers with an alternate, phone-based form of payment.

The next regular RFPD Board meeting is scheduled for August 15th, 2022.

A motion to adjourn was made by Tyler Lapp and seconded by Raegan Ellease at 8:05 PM. Approval was unanimous.

Chairman

Secretary