

Meeting Minutes for
Rico Fire Protection District
Regular Meeting: March 18th, 2024

The regular Rico Fire Protection District Meeting was called to order at 7:09 p.m. by Board Chair Tyler Lapp.

Roll Call: RFPD Board members Gregg Anderson, Sarah Eckles, Raegan Ellease, and Tyler Lapp. Paul Ruud was absent.

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

Approval of Agenda: Raegan Ellease moved to approve the agenda; Sarah Eckles seconded the motion. Approval was unanimous.

Approval of Minutes: Gregg Anderson moved to approve the minutes for the February 18th meeting; Raegan Ellease seconded the motion. Approval was unanimous, with Sarah Eckles abstaining.

Public Comment: No public comment.

Approval of Financial Report and Accounts Payable and Pension Checks:

Raegan Ellease inquired about pension checks potentially being adjusted upward for inflation. Kunz said he could project which Department members could be eligible to collect pension in the next 5-10 years.

Raegan Ellease motioned to approve payment for the bills as presented, to accept the financial report, pay second quarter 2024 pension checks, and to authorize the transfer of \$20,000.00 in funds from the DSB General Account to the CSAFE Capital Improvement Account; Gregg Anderson seconded the motion. Approval was unanimous.

At Kunz's request, Gregg Anderson moved to transfer \$5,400.00 from the CSAFE Pension Account to the DSB Pension Account in order to cover pension checks for 2024; Sarah Eckles seconded the motion. Approval was unanimous.

Administrative Report:

Kunz reported that he had asked the Montezuma County Clerk's office for the Ballot and Blue Book language for Ballot issue 2B, regarding the transfer of property from the Town of Dolores to the Dolores Fire Protection District. Kunz received the Resolution authorizing the ballot issue.

Chauncey McCarthy has provided the correct backflow prevention valve for the Firehouse. Mike Contillo/Rico plumbing will schedule the installation of the valve as well as a pressure reducer and a sediment filter. The backflow prevention valve will need to be tested yearly. Commercial properties in Town plan to coordinate the inspection to save costs.

The new Streamline ricofire.org website is live and Kunz can upload documents directly instead of going through a third party. The SIPA site (ricofpd.colorado.gov) will redirect to the Streamline site soon.

Kunz mentioned that the Board may wish to consider a District credit card for certain larger purchases and for booking hotel rooms for travel and training. There was general discussion regarding who would have authorization to use the card, Board approval for expenses over a set amount, whether there are specific cards tailored toward non-profits, and seeking a card that gave cash back or points vs. one that had a low APR since there would not be a carried balance.

Chief Jones mentioned that Kunz should look into PILT payments that could benefit the District.

Dolores County Emergency Manager Keith Keesling has advocated for RFPD to receive County money to support the Tri-State event.

Grants (awarded):

Rico Center 2024: (4) requests: \$2,980.00 for food and other expenses for the 2024 Fourth of July (awarded \$1490); \$21,785.75 for Operations (full award): kitchen remodel funds, equipment, fire hose and fittings, EMS training dummies, training funds; \$19,982.75 for TSFA expenses (awarded \$12,356.25); \$50,000 for Light Rescue

(full award). Grant agreement has been received. Fulfillment is starting. Reimbursement will occur upon request. Closeout October 31, 2024/ December 31, with extension.

CDPHE EMTS grant: Request of \$60,000 towards the light rescue truck. Awarded \$44,618.75. The purchase order has been received and RFPD can spend funds from this grant. The first and second quarterly reports have been filed. Closeout: June 30, 2024.

El Pomar: \$11,973.00 requested from the El Pomar Fire fund to pay for hand tools for the new tanker and wildland fire boots for RVFD personnel. Funding for \$12,000 has been received. Closeout: January 31, 2025.

SMPA Community Focus Grant: Request for \$20,000 for the light rescue truck; awarded \$2,000; an additional \$2,000 was received from Basin Electric this month. Kunz has notified SMPA contact MartyJo Davis that the Light Rescue may not be fulfilled until 2025.

Grants (submitted):

Colorado Fire Safety and Disease Prevention Grant (CFSDPG) 2024: Request for \$13,088 for (4) new sets of structural fire bunkers. Award notification: late March, 2024.

Grants (potential):

USDA RD Community Facilities grant: Kunz may apply for funds for the Light Rescue. USDA would like to see a letter from a bank stating that they will not loan to the District, which seems unlikely. USDA also will require an attorney's opinion the the District is a valid entity and able to legally spend the requested funds. Due date: rolling.

Fire Chief Report (Fire Chief Todd Jones):

Runs: RVFD responded to (5) calls for service: (3) responses on Highway 145 (no transports); (1) "sick/general" transferred to SWMH ambulance; (1) fire call (smoke alarm).

Training: In house. There will be a S130/190 wildland class and a refresher class in April. Rico is trying to get a sawyer class, but the opportunity for cutting is on Redburn Ranch, and "cottonwood is not a tree you train on".

Equipment: the El Pomar grant will equip the new brush truck (928) with hand tools; Pat Fallon and Justin Juarez are rewiring the switch banks on the truck. Tanker 927 will need complete refurbishment of water tank and possibly add compartments. Jones is interested in purchasing a vehicle lockout kit given the number of public service calls RVFD runs: "We're the ones taking the calls".

Building: Jones will contact Cruzan contracting in regards to the new building. They have reportedly constructed buildings similar to what RFPD is planning for under \$200/sq.ft. The fixtures for the kitchen remodel have been ordered. There was agreement that the \$4,000 budgeted for the building could be used to pay for kitchen remodel labor.

Old Business:

Light Rescue Truck project: Restarting. Kunz will research vendors and establish lead time for chassis. EMTS 2026, USDA, and the Telluride Foundation are all potential funding sources to help realize the project, in addition to the existing donors.

RFPD Host planning for 2024 Tri State Firemans' Association (TSFA): The event will be held August 1-3 of 2024. Issues to be addressed include: proposed menu (to be worked out with Will Nolan); training sessions (currently pump trailer/ flashover trailer and electric car fire simulator from DFPC); accommodations, trophies and merch, need for sponsors/ raffle prizes/ schwag and general donations. The school property will transfer from Dolores County Schools to Telluride School District on July 1st; Kunz will confirm with McCarthy about school usage for the 4th of July and for the TSFA event. Kunz will also request money from the Town to help subsidize fixed costs for the TSFA event. The next meeting will be 3/25 when the mailed packets will be assembled. Jones estimates that a per-head meal cost of \$80 will generate \$17,000 in revenue. More kitchen fixtures/equipment may be needed for the event.

USDA Rural Development Community Facilities Grant application: On hold, due to Rescue Truck reboot. Kunz will try to establish the timeframe to spend USDA funding due to lead time issues.

Review of proposed Property access: Block 18 Alley improvement to Chmielewski property: Gregg Anderson recused himself, stating that he could provide his opinion, but would not vote as he is designing Chmielewski's OWTS system.

As there were not three members who could vote in favor at the February meeting, the Board revisited the proposed (unnamed) alley access to the property (which cannot be reached by Hancock St.). The proposed residence would be served by an existing hydrant at the SE corner of Hancock and Soda Streets.

Platted alleys in the Town are 16' wide, however the proposed alley improvement is for a narrower ROW. Appendix D, section 103.4 of the NFPA fire code requires turnarounds for access roads longer than 150'; the proposed alley access is 147' from Soda St. to the far end of the driveway access, so a turnaround is not required. The road will be improved to a length of 20 feet beyond to allow for snow removal.

The Board discussed the precedent being set (Eckles mentioned this as a particular concern of RVFD) in light of other potentially developable parcels in Town which only have alley access. Chief Jones commented that access for EMS response was different than for a fire response, and that it is up to the vehicle operator to make the call whether to back in or back out.

It was agreed that language clarifying access standards for "alleys" vs. "roads" warranted further discussion at a future meeting: NFPA Appendix D, Table D103.4 does not consider roadways narrower than 20'.

Raegan Ellease moved (again) to approve access to the lot 18 parcel subject to the following conditions: the road surface be improved to 12' wide (minimum); that trees and foliage be maintained so that they are vertically clear of the road surface to a height of 14' minimum. These variance conditions are considered due to the existing site-specific drainage and foliage conditions. Sarah Eckles seconded. Approval was unanimous, with Anderson abstaining.

Review and Approval of RFPD By-Laws:

Review, revision and approval of the RFPD by-laws occurs at the beginning of even-numbered years. Raegan Ellease suggested several revisions to the most recent (2018) revision of the by laws: Section R should refer specifically to the 2006 International Fire Code; that the Article VII (Fiscal Committee) language should be clarified (by resolution) that the RFPD Board shall function as the Fiscal Committee; that Article VIII, Section 1 be revised to state that the Fire Chief is elected by the Rico Volunteer Fire Department, but can be vetoed by a majority of the RFPD Board. Kunz has drafted some of the changes and will look for precedent in the record for how the pension committee was addressed. Voting and quorum language in Article V was agreed to be sufficiently clear in intent and no revision was made.

The proposed amendments to the RFPD by-laws shall be duly noticed and presented for adoption at the next RFPD regular meeting as per Article X, Section 1 of said bylaws.

New Business:

2024 Fourth of July Schedule: FOJ falls on a Thursday this year. Department will be involved in the parade (lineup at 10 AM, parade to start at 11 AM), host the Duck Race at 3 PM. and shoot fireworks at dusk/ 9:15 ish. The Community Picnic will be held on Saturday the 6th at noon.

The next regular RFPD meeting will be held on April 22nd, a week later than usual, due to spring break.

A motion to adjourn was made by Raegan Ellease at 8:45; seconded by Sarah Eckles. Approval was unanimous.

Chairman

Secretary