

Meeting Minutes for  
Rico Fire Protection District  
Regular Meeting: January 16<sup>th</sup>, 2023

The regular Rico Fire Protection District Meeting was called to order at 7:01 p.m. by Board Chair Gregg Anderson

**Roll Call:** RFPD Board members Gregg Anderson, Sarah Eckles, Raegan Ellease and Stacy Sheridan. Tyler Lapp was not present at the start of the meeting.

**Guests Present:** RFPD Administrator David Kunz.

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

**Approval of Minutes:** Sarah Eckles moved to approve the minutes for the December 5<sup>th</sup> 2022 regular meeting. Raegan Ellease seconded the motion. The motion passed with Board members Eckles, Ellease, and Sheridan voting in favor; Anderson abstained from voting.

**Public Comment:** No public comment.

Tyler Lapp joined the meeting remotely at 7:12 P.M.

**Approval of Financial Report, Accounts Payable, Pension Checks:** Kunz added one check for payment to Justin Juarez: \$46.67 for reimbursement for snowmobile parts. Kunz's hours included run documentation, Gregg Anderson asked if that was a Department or District expense. Kunz replied that documentation is required for FEMA and several other grant sources, and that EMS call documentation is required to qualify for EMTS grants. Anderson proposed that \$50,000 be moved from the General Fund (balance over \$190K) to the CSAFE Capital Improvement fund due to favorable interest rates. Anderson moved to authorize said transfer of \$50K; Sarah Eckles seconded. Approval was unanimous.

Stacy Sheridan moved to approve payment for the bills as presented (plus additional), and to accept the financial report, and to effect the transfer of \$50K. Sarah Eckles seconded the motion. Approval was unanimous.

**Administrative Report:** DOLA has accepted the amended budget documents for 2022 as well as the proposed budget for 2023. Kunz has started the Exemption from Audit process with Heidi Trainor, CPA. The Rico Center's funding decision on the 2023 request is pending and will likely be favorable. Kunz will draft a letter for the Town approving the District's request to be designated as an Enterprise Zone, which would encourage larger donors via a tax credit.

All other items on agenda.

**Grants (awarded):**

**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. Reimbursement is pending.

**Grants (pending):** Rico Center 2023: application submitted. Operations request for \$66,226.00, including \$50k in funding for a rescue truck; Fourth of July request for \$2975.00.

**Grants (potential):**

**El Pomar:** 100% funding for wildland firefighting equipment

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

**CDPHE EMTS grant:** Kunz has started this request for approximately \$60,000 towards the light rescue truck. 50/50 match, due February 15<sup>th</sup>.

**Fire Chief Report (Firefighter/Training Officer Sarah Eckles)**

**Runs:** CO alarm in West Rico; (2) MVC's with no injuries; an EMS call for a 64 YO male with shortness of breath (no transport)

**Training:** Scottie Larsen will teach a CPR class January 17<sup>th</sup>. Montezuma Fire Chiefs' Firefighter 1 class will be held in Rico late March through early April, will include vehicle extrication.

**Equipment:** OK

**Old Business:**

**New Property Improvement Plan:** Continued until next month, and on 2023 work plan.

**RFPD Development Review Standards/procedures:** Tyler Lapp was to provide an update, however his audio was intermittent. Item continued.

**Light Rescue Truck project:** The project as proposed will cost \$160,000: Kunz plans to ask CDPHE's EMTS program for \$60,000 (Feb 2023); the Rico Center for \$50,000 (submitted);the Telluride Foundation for \$18,000 (Oct. 2023); San Miguel Power for \$5,000.00. Dolores County has approved \$5,000 in their budget for the project. each. RFPD's contribution to the project would likely be approximately \$21,000.

**RFPD Host planning:2024 Tri State Firemans' Association (TSFA):** Due to the large budget and the significant volunteer hours needed to put on this event, it will remain on the agenda and on the 2023 work plan. Tyler Lapp, Gregg Anderson and Dave Kunz volunteered to participate in the planning committees.

**New Business:**

**2023 Work Plan:** Potential Mill Levy increase to be proposed to the voters in November (combined election with the Town); renegotiation of the Commnet Cell Tower lease; Light Rescue project.

**RFPD 2023 election:** DOLA is transitioning to odd-year elections. Board members Eckles, Lapp and Sheridan seats are up for election. The District will solicit qualified electors to apply for the three open seats (each a four year term) by publicizing a call for nominations as per State statute. If there are no more qualified candidates than open seats, the election will be canceled.

There was some discussion whether the by-laws should be amended to specify a maximum number of Department members who can serve on the Board. The Board agreed that, while input and participation from the Department is critical to the District, Department members cannot hold a majority of seats on the Board due to conflict of interest.

**Resolution 2023-1:** Appointing a Designated Election Official: Sarah Eckles voted to approve Resolution 2023-1; Gregg Anderson seconded. Approval was unanimous.

**Other Business:**

**Appointment of RFPD Officers:** After discussion, Gregg Anderson moved that officers remain: Anderson as Chair, Sheridan as Secretary; Eckles as Treasurer; seconded by Sarah Eckles. Approval was unanimous.

The next regular meeting is scheduled for February 20<sup>th</sup>, 2023.

A motion to adjourn was made by Stacy Sheridan and seconded by Sarah Eckles at 7:42 PM. Approval was unanimous.

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Chairman

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Secretary