

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

The regular Rico Fire Protection District Meeting was called to order at 7:02 p.m. by Chairman Gregg Anderson.

Members Present: RFPD Board members Gregg Anderson, Raegan Ellease, Mary Hagan, Susan Robertson, Stacy Sheridan.

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

Approval of Agenda: Susan Robertson moved to approve the agenda as written. Mary Hagan seconded the motion. Approval was unanimous.

Approval of Minutes: Susan Robertson moved to approve the minutes as written for the February 21st, 2022 regular meeting. Stacy Sheridan seconded the motion. Approval was unanimous.

Public Comment: No public comment.

Approval of Financial Report and Accounts Payable: Kunz requested approval for an additional check of \$935.88 (or similar amount) issued to Back Country Access. The payment would be for (6) avalanche beacons and reimbursed under the Rico Center 2022 grant funding. Susan Robertson moved to approve payment for the bills as presented, the additional check to BCA, the quarterly pension checks, and to accept the financial report. Stacy Sheridan seconded the motion. Approval was unanimous.

Administrative Report: Kunz stated that the District has received funding from 2 sources for structural fire PPE. (see below). Due to the lead time for ordering the bunkers, he and Chief Jones will identify the members to be fitted for new bunkers and get the orders in ASAP. The Exemption from Audit application was signed and submitted to the Office of the State Auditor.

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: \$9560.00 in funding for (4) sets of Structural Fire PPE. Award letter signed and returned. 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: (3) calls: 1 body recovery out of the river at MM 29; EMS to a unresponsive female at the Enterprise; SAR assist to helicopter evacuation of a snowmobiler with a leg fracture near Bolam Pass.

Training: Wildland fire training accomplished in Dolores; propane fire exercise upcoming in Dolores.

Equipment: Dolores County provided a new 4-wheeler with tracks; the old ambulance was sold to fireman Monroe Ivy; the titanium stokes basket/wheel combo was delivered (Rico Center funds + private donations). A pallet of Class A foam was donated by Nucla FD, the Department will need to pick up a hand pump to transfer the foam.

Old Business:

New Property Improvement Plan/fundraising strategies: Ongoing issue.

Town of Rico Lodging Tax: Gregg Anderson attended the Town's work session. According to Rico Town Mayor Nicole Pieterse, the Town is bound by the language approved by the voters in November of 2021, which does not

include funding for the Fire District, although the Town Board was generally in favor of the concept. The Town has recently retained new legal counsel and will confirm with them as to whether RFPD can receive funding from the tax without additional voter approval.

Anderson and Chief Jones plan to go to the Town's April 20th meeting and request either a donation or sale of the land occupied by the 1996 portion of the firehouse (Block 2, lots 9-12). RFPD purchased lots 13-16 in 2004 and purchased lots 15,16, and part of 17 in 2020.

2022 Election Update/RFPD Board: Kunz reported that after the call for nominations, there were three candidates for the three seats up for the 5/2/2022 election. The election will therefore be canceled and the three candidates (Gregg Anderson, Raegan Ellease, and Mary Hagan) shall be deemed elected for three-year terms.

New Business:

RFPD Subdivision Review Process: This discussion was to clarify the District, Department, and Chief's role in the review of development applications. It was agreed that the Town should request review by the District as the referral agency, and that the District Board, interested members of the Department, and the Chief can all have input and review new development applications as appropriate. At this time, the Town has adopted the 2006 International Fire Code, but is considering updating to the 2015 standard. Stacy Sheridan asked for clarification on graduated standards of review for subdivisions of increasing sizes. Gregg Anderson commented that governmental entities, including the District, have governmental immunity from lawsuits unless gross negligence can be proven.

The next regular RFPD Board meeting is scheduled for April 18th, 2022.

A motion to adjourn was made by Raegan Ellease and seconded by Stacy Sheridan at 8:00 PM. Approval was unanimous.

Chairman

Secretary