

Meeting Minutes for  
Rico Fire Protection District  
Regular Meeting: August 15<sup>th</sup>, 2022

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

**Roll Call:** RFPD Board members Gregg Anderson, Sarah Eckles, Raegan Ellease, Tyler Lapp and Stacy Sheridan.

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

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

**Approval of Minutes:** Stacy Sheridan moved to approve the minutes for the July 18<sup>th</sup>, 2022 regular meeting. Tyler Lapp seconded the motion. Approval was unanimous.

**Public Comment:** No public comment.

**Approval of Financial Report, Accounts Payable and Pension Checks for the 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter:** Kunz added five more bills to be paid out of the General Fund: \$257.51 for the San Miguel Power bill; \$12,000.00 payment to LN Curtis (5 sets of bunker gear to fulfill Rico Center 2022); \$777.17 reimbursement to Sarah Eckles for Tri State lodging; \$174.81 reimbursement to Brandon Watson for fuel; \$750.00 to Tony Aspromonte/ Mancos Mobile Repair for pump testing. Gregg Anderson moved to approve payment for the bills as presented/plus additional and to accept the financial report. Sarah Eckles seconded the motion. Approval was unanimous.

**Administrative Report:** Rico Center 2022 is wrapping up; Rico Center 2023 is upcoming. Kunz stated that he spent time on funding for the new building, which would be covered later in the agenda. Kunz added that firefighter Brandon Watson donated cash he won at TSFA towards tees/ shirts for the Department. Gregg Anderson moved to approve purchase of (60) tees, (30) hoodies and (30) hats for Department members.

**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. Fulfillment is wrapping up. 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 (submitted):**

**DFPC PQTS 2022:** Submitted request for (4) sets of Structural Bunkers

**Grants (potential):**

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

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

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

**Fire Chief Report (Fire Chief Todd Jones)**

**Runs:** (4) calls: (1) single vehicle MVA; (1) SAR standby for a hiker on the El Diente ridge; (2) smoke chases.

**Training:** TSFA, some members received medical CE's

**Equipment:** Pump tests run on all engines. No word yet on the USFS tanker from CFD.

**Old Business:**

**New Property Improvement Plan:** Kunz reported that he had a phone conference with DOLA regional manager Patrick Rondinelli in regards to Tier 2 funding. Kunz and Rondinelli agreed that the District is not prepared to successfully apply for the funding at this time. "The price of the project needs to come down, we need to raise more money, and we need to raise our mill levy to pay for operations and debt service for a new building." The

Bosrd discussed various options of reducing the building's upfront cost, including scaling it down and phasing construction. Kunz observed that even with reducing the square footage, certain fixed costs (e.g.: septic) would not commensurately decrease. Other alternatives such as refurbishing the existing structure were also discussed, as well as shorter-term fixes such as a carport for the SAR trailer.

DOLA's \$750k is the major grant funding source for the \$2.5 million project. The Rico Center could fund \$100k, the District \$100k, El Pomar up to \$100k. Other funders for the project (Telluride Foundation, San Miguel Power) could fund tens of thousands of dollars. If all the funding sources were lined up, the grants plus RFPD's capital would cover about half of the proposed construction cost. Even at current USDA rates (3.25% @ 40 years) the resulting payments would be \$4,650/month or \$55,800/year for a \$1.25 million loan. Current RFPD mill levy revenue is \$57k. "We'd be looking at doubling the mill levy just to pay off the debt, not including operation of the new building."

Doubling RFPD's mill levy would bring it to 15 mills; currently the Town of Rico is assessing 18.7 mills. The deadline to participate in a combined election to raise the mill levy was late July.

The Town is planning to meet in executive session on August 20 to discuss the transfer of property to RFPD.

**Town of Rico Lodging Tax:**

At this time it is not clear whether the Town will be in favor of a short-term lodging application fee to support RFPD.

**New Business:**

Todd Jones commented that RFPD will host the Tri-State Firefighter's Association in 2024.

The next regular RFPD Board meeting is scheduled for September 19<sup>th</sup>, 2022.

A motion to adjourn was made by Tyler Lapp and seconded by Raegan Ellease at 8:27 PM. Approval was unanimous.

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Chairman

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Secretary