

Meeting Minutes for  
Rico Fire Protection District  
Regular Meeting: December 9<sup>th</sup>, 2024

The regular Rico Fire Protection District Meeting was called to order at 7:12 p.m. by Board Chair Tyler Lapp.

**Roll Call:** RFPD Board members Gregg Anderson, Maria Casanova, Sarah Eckles and Tyler Lapp. Paul Ruud was absent due to a work commitment.

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

**Approval of Agenda:** Gregg Anderson moved to approve the agenda; Maria Casanova seconded the motion. Approval was unanimous.

**Approval of Minutes:** Gregg Anderson moved to approve the minutes for the November 18<sup>th</sup> meeting; Maria Casanova seconded the motion. Approval was unanimous.

**Public Comment:** No public comment.

**Approval of Financial Report, Accounts Payable and Pension Checks:** Kunz presented 2 more checks for payment: \$7.00 to Four Corners Welding for oxygen cylinder rental, and \$712.00 to Mancos Mobile Repair for snowmobile maintenance. The Board agreed to transfer \$8,000 from the CSAFE Pension account to the DSB Pension account to cover pension obligations for 2025. Gregg Anderson also proposed to transfer \$30,000.00 from DSB General to CSAFE Capital Improvement, and \$1,000.00 from DSB Hose Co. to DSB Debit Card. Gregg Anderson moved to approve the financial report and bills plus the (2) additional checks, pension checks and transfers. Maria Casanova seconded the motion. Approval was unanimous.

**Administrative Report:** The District will need to find a CPA who can perform the 2024 application for exemption from audit in 2025. Tracy Montgomery (Dolores Fire) contracts with a front range CPA, reportedly for \$1,200.00; Soronen, Donley, Patterson of Grand Junction (\$1,000.00-ish); Frederick Zink of Durango. Kunz will contact and line up a suitable CPA.

**Grants (awarded):**

**Rico Center 2024:** All (4) components closed out. Operations component has money remaining in the training budget (December 31, with extension). Reimbursement has not yet been received, Kunz has contacted the RC board to ensure the payment is issued in 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. All members have picked up boots, all tools and fittings have been ordered, invoiced, received and paid. 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. Kunz has notified SMPA contact MartyJo Davis that the Light Rescue may not be fulfilled until 2025.

**Colorado Fire Safety and Disease Prevention Grant (CFSDPG) 2024:** Request for \$13,088 for (4) new sets of structural fire bunkers. Firefighters Kunz, Hackett, and Juarez have been sized for bunkers. One pair of bunkers will be a standard size. No match, reimbursement required. Closed out on October 31, 2024. Reimbursement draft has been issued.

**CFSDPG Direct Distribution Grant:** Kunz applied for (4) wildland fire packs and (4) fire shelters. This is a 100% funded grant, no match. The fire shelters have been delivered.

**Grants (applied for):**

**Rico Center 2025:** \$80,000 request for light rescue truck. Kunz met with Jonathan Hay to answer Rico Center questions.

**Grants (potential):**

**Colorado Fire Safety and Disease Prevention Grant (CFSDPG) 2025:** Grant provides reimbursement for equipment and training designed to increase firefighter safety and prevent occupation-related diseases. Agencies are limited to a single project up to the grant award maximum of \$20,000.00. Deadline for application: February 19, 2025.

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

**Runs:** (1) call, a vehicle recovery at Dunton Meadows.

**Training:** In-house. RVFD will host the firefighter academy in April.

**Equipment:** 928 is functional and will need decals. All AFFF foam will need to be removed from engine 921. The four wheeler needs a battery, Keith Keesling has one in Dove Creek. The heater pipe on the addition is getting pushed over again by the snow. Kunz mentioned that MES equipment is running a sale on handheld IR cameras. The Board approved purchasing (3) of the Seek cameras.

The RVFD Christmas party will be held December 14<sup>th</sup> at 5 p.m. Firefighters will make chili.

**Old Business:**

**2025 Work Plan:** Light Rescue project and the transfer of property from the Town to the Fire District. The ballot issue measuring support for the transfer passed by a wide margin. The RFPD board discussed attending the January 2025 TOR Board meeting to discuss proceeding with the transfer.

Chief Jones mentioned that Cruzan Contractors had given Dolores Fire an excellent price for an outbuilding.

**New Business:**

**2025 Budget Discussion:** The Board had no questions or comments on the proposed 2025 budget as presented.

**Resolution 2024-7: Adoption of 2025 Budget:** Gregg Anderson moved to approve Resolution 2024-7; Maria Casanova seconded. Approval was unanimous.

**Resolution 2024-8: Resolution to Appropriate Sums of Money:** Gregg Anderson moved to approve Resolution 2024-8; Sarah Eckles seconded. Approval was unanimous.

**Resolution 2024-9: Resolution to Set Mill Levies:** Gregg Anderson moved to approve Resolution 2024-9; Sarah Eckles seconded. Approval was unanimous.

**Resolution 2024-10: Resolution for Supplemental Budget and Appropriation:** Gregg Anderson moved to approve Resolution 2024-10; Maria Casanova seconded. Approval was unanimous.

The next regular RFPD meeting is scheduled for January 20<sup>th</sup>, 2025.

A motion to adjourn was made by Sarah Eckles at 7:54; seconded by Gregg Anderson. Approval was unanimous.

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Chairman

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Secretary