

Meeting Minutes for
Rico Fire Protection District
Regular Meeting: May 20th, 2024

The regular Rico Fire Protection District Meeting was called to order at 7:08 p.m. by Board Chair Tyler Lapp.

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

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

Approval of Agenda: Gregg Anderson moved to approve the agenda and to add the potential RFPD Ballot issue under Old Business as well as the Board vacancy under New Business; Sarah Eckles seconded the motion. Approval was unanimous.

Approval of Minutes: Sarah Eckles moved to approve the minutes for the April 22nd meeting; Gregg Anderson seconded the motion. Approval was unanimous.

Public Comment: No public comment.

Approval of Financial Report and Accounts Payable:

Kunz added (1) additional bill for payment: Customink printers for plastic stadium cups and RFPD Supporter Tees (\$1379.08). Kunz commented that Fraley has sent the evenpay summary for the next 11 months. RFPD currently has nearly \$2000 in credit and the monthly charge will be \$265 (last year was \$455). 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:

El Pomar and Rico Center grants are being fulfilled. LN Curtis will size (4) firefighters for structural bunkers, funded through the CFSDPG program.

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 has started. 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. Kunz informed the grant manager that the funding would be de-obligated due to the increased cost and lead time for the vehicle. 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. All members have picked up boots, all tools and fittings have been ordered. 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. Kunz has been in touch with LN Curtis with the names of the firefighters who will need to be fitted. Closeout: October 31, 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 (3) calls for service: a SAR welfare check; a cleanup of fluids on the road after a vehicle hit 2 bull elk; and a SAR/recovery of a family who decided to go up the Barlow Creek Road.

Training: RVFD members completed pack tests and the S130/190 refresher class.

Equipment: the El Pomar grant will equip the new brush truck (928) with hand tools; Firefighters Pat Fallon and Justin Juarez are rewiring the switch banks on the truck. Tanker 927 still needs complete refurbishment of water tank and possibly adding compartments, Jones is working on a quote. San Miguel SAR donated (4) snowmobiles and (2) enclosed trailers to Rico; the sleds will need tuning up and prep for summer storage.

Building: The fixtures for the kitchen remodel have arrived. There was agreement that at least part of the \$4,000 budgeted for building maintenance could be used to pay for kitchen remodel labor.

Old Business:

RFPD Host planning for 2024 Tri State Firemans' Association (TSFA): The event will be held August 1-3 of 2024. Will Nolan is working out the majority of the meals planning, while RFPD will provide the prep labor. Pat Fallon and Dylan Robertson are fabricating the trophies. Despite looking for another sanitary provider, RFPD will be using Le Pew's expensive services. Waste Management will donate the trash service. Viking will provide the tent, chairs and tables. Jones and Eckles hosted the TSFA directors for lunch in Mancos and explained RFPD's progress on the event. Colin Casanova has access to the Rico School and RVFD members will do a walk-through 5/21. The next TSFA organizational meeting will be 5/23 at 6 PM.

Gregg Anderson is working on a donation from Timberline/Mortell family. Suggestion was made to approach Bill Gordon as well as Gordon and Rebecca Mortenson for potential donations for TSFA and FOJ.

Review and Approval of RFPD By-Laws (2024 revision):

RFPD by-laws are to be reviewed and re-adopted in even years.

Board members had a week to review the amended RVFD by-laws. Sarah Eckles moved to approve the 2024 revision of the by-laws; Gregg Anderson seconded. Approval was unanimous.

Review of RFPD Pension plan and structure: Kunz received a quote from the FPPA to manage the RFPD pension fund at a cost of nearly \$7,000 per year. As per CRS 31-30-1105, the RFPD Pension Board is to consist of the RFPD board and (2) volunteer firefighters, and is to meet quarterly. Kunz has drafted a resolution to increase pension payments to \$100/month but suggested it would be better to wait for the June meeting when the Pension Board could review and approve the amended payment schedule.

Review of Alley Standards for Emergency Access:

The 2006 International Fire Code Appendix D does not contemplate roadways narrower than 20' in width; however, platted ROW's for alleys in the Town of Rico are 16'. and the improved surface (due to terrain and drainage restrictions, among others) is often significantly smaller (often 12'). The Board wishes to proactively clarify acceptable access parameters for accessing residential properties that can only be accessed via an alley ROW. IFC 2009 Table D103.4 calls out standard turnarounds for dead-end fire access roads. Access roads exceeding 150' in length are supposed to have hammerhead or cul-de-sac turnarounds; however, due to Rico's topography, these may not be practical to construct or maintain. As an alternative, Gregg Anderson will prepare an exhibit for the June meeting showing an alternative proposal with a 26' radius curb return that would connect an alley to a 12' width driveway.

Further questions raised during the discussion included: RFPD review of access plans for properties within the District but outside the Town; whether RFPD should review access plans for the proposed Town campground; testing requirements for self-contained suppression systems (e.g: sprinkler systems) should they be required.

Carter Way Alley improvement plan review

Board member Gregg Anderson recused himself, stating that he could provide his opinion, but would not vote as his company (Alpine Land Consulting) provided the engineering study for the proposed access.

The nearest hydrants to the property are within 500': in Block 16 on the NE corner of Mantz Avenue and Silver Street, a pull of 484'; and in the Block 7 alley between Commercial and Silver, a considerable uphill pull of 264'. The

proposed alley improvements exceed 150', and no hammerhead or cul-de-sac is proposed. The existing water service in the alley is a 2" service line that would not support a hydrant. The proposed width of the improved alleyway (12') is narrower than the standard width of Town alley right-of-ways (16'). The proposed ROW alley slope exceeds 15%; Town road standard maximum is 10%. The proposed access would be sloped downhill to the north, which would compound any drainage issues during freezing conditions.

The Town requested clarification on the District's letter of review dated 4/22/24, which did not include language to approve or deny the proposed access plan. Kunz drafted a revised letter which includes the motion as made by Paul Ruud to approve the access, however (with Anderson's recusal) there was not a quorum to approve the revised letter. The item will be continued.

RFPD ballot issue: The Board directed Kunz to get deadlines in order to place language on the ballot for the November 2024 combined election specific to voter's preferences for the disposition of lots under the 1996 fire station building (similar to the ballot issue passed by Dolores Fire District voters)

New Business:

Rico Fourth of July: Comment was made that it would be the standard Fourth schedule as far as the District is concerned, with the exception of the Community Picnic (Old-Timers') being held on Saturday, July 6th.

Other Business:

Raegan Ellease's seat is vacant and will be posted.

Gregg Anderson stated that he will be unavailable for the next regular RFPD meeting as scheduled on June 17th. Board members agreed to reschedule the meeting for June 24th.

A motion to adjourn was made by Gregg Anderson at 8:38; seconded by Sarah Eckles. Approval was unanimous.

Chairman

Secretary