

Meeting Minutes for  
Rico Fire Protection District  
Regular Meeting March 15<sup>th</sup>, 2021

The regular Rico Fire Protection District Meeting was called to order at 7:03 p.m. by Chairman Gregg Anderson.

**Members Present:** In-person: RFPD Board members Gregg Anderson, Raegan Ellease, Mary Hagan, Stacy Sheridan and Susan Robertson.

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

**Approval of Agenda:** Stacy Sheridan 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 for February 15th, 2021 as submitted; Stacy Sheridan seconded the motion. Approval was unanimous.

**Public Comment:** No public comment.

**Approval of Financial Report and Accounts Payable:** Stacy Sheridan moved to approve payment for the bills and pension checks as presented, to approve an additional check to be issued to Emergency Medical Products for \$193.50 (medical supplies to fulfill the Rico Center 2021 grant) and to accept the financial report; Susan Robertson seconded the motion. Approval was unanimous.

**Administrative Report:** The Exemption from Audit was submitted.

**Grants (Awarded):**

**2020 EMTS grant:** \$7,196.00 to purchase a refurbished CPR compression device ("Lucas 2") at a 20% match. The purchase order has been executed. The 20% match is included in the 2021 Rico Center grant. Kunz placed the order with AED.US, who still need to get a unit to refurbish. Closeout date is 6/30/21.

**Rico Center 2021:** \$39,185.98 for General Operations and property improvement; \$2775.00 for the 2021 Fourth of July. Payment has been deposited and fulfillment is proceeding. The grant closes out 9/01/21.

**DOLA administrative/planning grant:** Kunz applied for \$3050.00 in DOLA funds to assist with the surveying of the recently purchased property as well as the rendering of technical drawings by Jones and DeVille. The funding has been awarded and the purchase order is in process.

**SIPA Micro-Grant:** \$2,000 in funding for revision of the RFPD website and migration to the State platform. Payment has been received. Karen Overn will do the migration starting in mid-April and the new website should be live well before the Fourth of July.

**Grants (Pending):** DOLA Tier 2 funding (see Old Business)

**Fire Chief Report (Administrator David Kunz):**

**Runs:** (5) pageouts, (3) refusals.

**Training:** Chauncey is taking the Montezuma County FF1 class, he is being considered as valedictorian. (3) RVFD members will take the S130/190 wildland fire class, many of the rest will recertify with an online RT130.

**Equipment:** Jones stated that oil changes will be needed for the engines this summer.

**Old Business:**

**New Property Improvement Plan:** Engineering firm Jones and deMille had given an estimate of \$800,000 for construction of the building as proposed, given 8000 sq. ft. of construction X \$100/sq. ft. construction cost. As per Tim Halper at J&D, construction of a portion of the building and adding the rest in a subsequent phase would spread the cost out but would also increase the final cost of the building, and would probably not qualify for DOLA funding. The Board seemed to be in general agreement to keep the building's basic design and square footage, to

pursue the schematic/conceptual drawings with J&D, and to consider additional sources of funding such as the Rico Center, the Telluride Foundation, private donors and fundraising. Gregg Anderson will contact the USDA Rural Development program in regards to their loan terms so the Board can establish what the District could afford within the current budget, or whether a mill levy increase would have to be approved. Savings could possibly be made by constructing the building as a finished shell with one large 2<sup>nd</sup> floor room, then adding the upstairs fixtures and trim at a later time.

**New Business:**

**RFPD Pension and General Fund asset management:** The Fire and Police Pension Association (FPPA) is still not accepting new accounts from volunteer fire departments. Despite the large cash balances in the General and Pension funds, the Board chose to table this issue due to low interest rates, restrictions on pension investments, and the Board not wanting to play an active role in the investment of pension and other cash funds.

**2021 Fourth of July preplan:** Observations, comments and questions: The Fourth falls on a Sunday this year, so most people will have Monday as a holiday. All FD planned events would take place on Sunday. No community/Old timers' picnic due to scheduling.

Food line at the firehouse is a possibility if seating would be outside in tents. Additional sanitary facilities would be required. The situation with virus spread and state regulations on public gatherings will be unknown until much closer to July. Is a socially distanced parade even possible? Given the 120-day outlook (DRY), are fireworks even likely due to drought (absent any other restrictions)?

How to fundraise responsibly (e.g: merchandise sales, duck race tix) for fireworks due to social distancing - (in a typical year, fireworks cost is approx \$7,000).

Access to traditional fireworks site due to property transfer? Alternative sites?

Kunz will send the Board a financial summary of the FOJ from 2019. This item will be continued.

The next regular RFPD Board meeting is scheduled to be held April 19<sup>th</sup>, 2021.

A motion to adjourn was made by Stacy Sheridan and seconded by Mary Hagan at 8:09 PM. Approval was unanimous.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Chairman

\_\_\_\_\_  
Secretary