

Meeting Minutes for
Rico Fire Protection District
Regular Meeting: April 18th, 2022

The regular Rico Fire Protection District Meeting was called to order at 7:04 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, Sarah Eckles, Allyn Svoboda (via Zoom).

Approval of Agenda: Gregg Anderson requested that the "Road Improvement Plan, Lots 28-40 Block 9" be included under New Business; David Kunz requested that "Resolution 2022-3 (Cancellation of the May 3 election)" be added to New Business. Stacy Sheridan moved to approve the agenda, including the two additional items. Raegan Ellease seconded the motion. Approval was unanimous.

Approval of Minutes: Stacy Sheridan moved to approve the minutes as written for the March 18th, 2022 regular meeting. Mary Hagan seconded the motion. Approval was unanimous.

Public Comment: No public comment.

Approval of Financial Report and Accounts Payable: Kunz requested approval for two additional bills: \$53.60 to G and G Communications for pager repair, and \$394.61 to Amazon for Rico Center 2022 grant fulfillment. Stacy Sheridan moved to approve payment for the bills as presented, the additional bills, and to accept the financial report. Mary Hagan seconded the motion. Approval was unanimous.

Administrative Report: The order for (10) sets of fitted structural fire bunkers has been placed. The funding will come from the CFSDPG grant and the Rico Center grant. Kunz will place the order for SCBA tanks soon (Rico Center funding)

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. RFPD is authorized to spend funding. 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: (2) calls, both for vehicles off the road with no injuries.

Training: The propane fire exercise in Dolores has been postponed. RFPD/DFD/West Fork will co-host a joint ropes training the weekend of May 21st.

Equipment: Tanker replacement is on-hold. State Communications personnel replaced and upgraded VHF radios in 922, 924 and 927 to 100-watt units and also trimmed antennas for better reception. Motorola XTR 800 MHZ radios and 2500 pacssets will be phased out in 2025.

Old Business:

New Property Improvement Plan/fundraising strategies: Ongoing issue.

Town of Rico Lodging Tax: Ongoing questions on whether the Town can re-allocate revenue from the voter-

approved short-term lodging tax to RFPD. A proposed 6-month moratorium on STL's is on the Town docket this month.

2022 Election Update/RFPD Board: As the number of candidates submitting applications was equal to the number of empty seats, the May 3rd election will be canceled (See new business).

New Business:

2022 Fourth of July: The Fourth falls on a Monday this year. Tentative schedule would include: Bake Sale and Firefighter dinner on Saturday; Community/Old Timers' picnic/ volleyball tournament on Sunday (held in Rico Town park); parade, food line (featuring Philly Cheese steaks), Duck Race and Fireworks on Monday.

Staffing for the food line remains an issue. Kunz would like the firefighters to do better on getting Duck Race donations, and commented that having a large desirable item (e.g.: Yeti cooler) drives interest and sells tickets, and that advance cash donations from local businesses takes some of the pressure off of fundraising on the Fourth. Chief Jones is working on the fireworks order, there may be supply chain issues that will affect availability. Jones would like to purchase 3" and 4" fireworks tubes over time to get away from firefighters having to reload during the show. The Board agreed that the 2022 budget for fireworks and tubes will be \$6,500.00.

Flatt/Commercial Street Development Preliminary Access Review: Anderson stated that he could provide information on the project but would recuse himself from any motion due to conflict of interest. The proposal provides access to platted lots located east of Commercial Street (Lots 28-40, Block 9), and includes the installation of an additional fire hydrant. Chief Jones and the Board discussed the location of the proposed hydrant and agreed there were "no major glaring issues" with the proposal.

Resolution 2022-3: Cancellation of Election and Deeming Candidates Elected: Gregg Anderson moved to approve Resolution 2022-3; Stacy Sheridan seconded the motion. Approval was unanimous.

Other Business:

RVFD firefighter and training officer Sarah Eckles requested permission to purchase items for individual members' SAR packs. The Board approved spending of up to \$500.00 for this purpose. Eckles also expressed interest in new shirt designs for sale to the public as well as new shirts and hats for RVFD members.

The next regular RFPD Board meeting is scheduled for May 16th, 2022.

A motion to adjourn was made by Stacy Sheridan and seconded by Raegan Ellease at 8:34 PM. Approval was unanimous.

Chairman

Secretary