

Meeting Minutes for
Rico Fire Protection District
Regular Meeting: May 16th, 2022

The regular Rico Fire Protection District Meeting was called to order at 7:01 p.m. by Chairman Gregg Anderson.

Members Present: RFPD Board members Gregg Anderson, Raegan Ellease, and Stacy Sheridan. Mary Hagan and Susan Robertson were absent.

Guests Present: RVFD Fire Chief Todd Jones, RFPD Administrator David Kunz, Sarah Eckles, Dave Chew, Ritchie Parkhill, and Allyn Svoboda (via Zoom).

Approval of Agenda: Stacy Sheridan moved to approve the agenda, with the change that the Bedrock Subdivision letter of approval be considered under Public Comment instead of under new business. Raegan Ellease seconded the motion. Approval was unanimous.

Letter of Resignation: Susan Robertson. Board Chair Gregg Anderson moved to accept Robertson's letter of resignation; Stacy Sheridan seconded. Approval was unanimous. Robertson had served on the District for over ten years and had been a longtime supporter, volunteer and EMT for the Department.

Approval of Minutes: Gregg Anderson commented that Susan Robertson was not present at the April meeting. Raegan Ellease moved to approve the amended minutes for the April 18th, 2022 regular meeting. Stacy Sheridan seconded the motion. Approval was unanimous.

Public Comment: Dave Chew and Ritchie Parkhill presented their proposed site plan for the Bedrock Housing Lot 6 seeking a letter from RFPD in approval of the access to the Bedrock subdivision prior to the Town Board's June meeting. The Board and Chief reviewed the roads/access and water supply to the proposed subdivision. Raegan Ellease commented that the proposed 60' turnaround does not meet NFPA standards. Parkhill responded by observing that if the development pushed the circle turnaround further into the hill to make a hammerhead, it would result in a large retaining wall. The Board suggested moving the proposed parking spaces to free up more of the turnaround.

Approval of Financial Report and Accounts Payable: Gregg Anderson moved to approve payment for the bills as presented, and to accept the financial report. Stacy Sheridan seconded the motion. Approval was unanimous.

Administrative Report: Kunz reported he had spent time on compliance and grant fulfillment.

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: \$9,560.00 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: None.

Training: RFPD/DFD/West Fork will co-host a joint ropes training the weekend of May 21st. Tri-State Firefighter will be held August 6th. RFPD may consider hosting TSFA in 2023.

Equipment: "Hanging in there."

Board members asked Chief Jones about the potential for County and Town fire bans. Jones reported that Montezuma County and the USFS were planning to implement a fire ban on May 25th, although he believed that it would be for elevations under 8000'. The Town of Rico is also considering fire restrictions from but has not yet consulted with Chief Jones.

Old Business:

New Property Improvement Plan/fundraising strategies: Ongoing issue. Gregg Anderson has proposed to the Town that the Town transfer the Firehouse property to RFPD. RFPD would pay closing costs (estimated at \$2,000) through Alpine Title. Anderson believed that the existing survey of the property would be sufficient. The Rico Town Board will hold an executive session at its Wednesday, May 18th meeting to discuss the proposed transfer.

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. The Town is moving forward with short-term rental regulations.

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, also some burgers, brats and hot dogs), Duck Race and Fireworks (if precipitation permits) on Monday.

Staffing for the food line remains an issue. Jones has an order for \$5,900 of fireworks ready. He would like to purchase 3" and 4" fireworks tubes as well. The Board's 2022 budget for fireworks and tubes is \$6,500.00.

New Business:

TOR Truck Purchase: After consideration from the Board and Todd Jones, it was decided to not put in a bid for the Town's Dodge truck.

Review of Proposed Bedrock Development, Lot 6: Covered under Public Comment.

Gregg Anderson moved for the Board, Staff and Chief to go into an Executive Session to discuss Board membership at 8:16; Raegan Ellease seconded. Approval was unanimous.

Gregg Anderson moved to come out of Executive session at 8:30; Stacy Sheridan seconded. Approval was unanimous. No further action was taken.

RVFD firefighter and training officer Sarah Eckles showed the Board new shirt designs for sale to the public as well as new shirts and hats for RVFD members. RFPD's 2022 budget for promotional/merchandise is \$700.00. Some Department members have also offered to front money to purchase more promotional shirts.

The next regular RFPD Board meeting is scheduled for June 20th, 2022.

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

Chairman

Secretary