

Meeting Minutes for
Rico Fire Protection District
Regular Meeting: July 17th, 2023

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, Raegan Ellease and Tyler Lapp. Sarah Eckles was unable to get her remote meeting to connect. Paul Ruud was absent.

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

Approval of Agenda: Raegan Ellease moved to approve the agenda with the removal of the Appointment of Officers item; Gregg Anderson seconded the motion. Approval was unanimous.

Approval of Minutes: Gregg Anderson commented that he would like to see several specific references to Chief Jones removed from the minutes as Jones had not been at the meeting. Anderson then moved to approve the revised minutes; Tyler Lapp seconded the motion. Approval was unanimous.

Public Comment: Allyn Svoboda asked if there was a specific purpose for the proposed mill levy increase. The topic will come up under old business, but general comment was made that the increase would cover increased operating costs, and provide revenue for the eventual construction of a new facility and replacement of older apparatus as they age out. The current average age of RVFD's fire apparatus is 30 years old.

Approval of Financial Report and Accounts Payable, Pension Checks: Kunz stated that there was an additional bill from Uline to pay for additional parts for shelving units (\$314.78). Tyler Lapp moved to approve payment for the bills as presented, plus the additional Uline payment, and to accept the financial report; Gregg Anderson seconded the motion. Approval was unanimous.

Administrative Report:

The District was awarded the EMTS grant towards the light rescue/QRV project, but with \$44,618.75 in funding as opposed to the \$60,000.00 requested. Kunz will look for additional funding sources.

Kunz will be the administrator for the Economic Zone tax credit certificates, which apply to donations greater than \$250.00 made after 6/15/23.

Kunz is working on updating the signature cards for the District's CSAFE and Dolores State Bank accounts.

Grants (awarded):

Rico Center 2023: Operations request for \$66,226.00, including \$50k in funding for a QRV/ light rescue truck; Fourth of July request for \$2,975.00. Payment received, and fulfillment proceeding. Closeout: 9/1/2023.

CFSDPG 2023: Firefighter life and safety equipment; no match. Awarded \$11,796 in funding for (4) new sets of structural fire bunker gear. Firefighters Jones and Roberts as well as firefighters Bulk and Guertin (who are taking the TFPD FF1 class) have been fitted for the gear by LN Curtis. Closeout: October 31st.

CDPHE EMTS grant: \$44,618.75 in funding towards a QRV/ Light rescue truck. RFPD will have to formally accept the grant and enter into a contract before proceeding. Closeout: June 30th, 2024.

Fire Chief Report (Fire Chief Todd Jones):

Runs: (7) calls: Mutual aid assist to Priest Gulch for a 64 YO male with shortness of breath; dehydrated 40 year old woman at MM 39; a child with abdominal pain at MM 58; missing campers reported at Cayton CG; 43-YO female in single vehicle MVA at MM 49; barricaded subject on North Hancock (2 pages).

Training: Tri-State Firemen's Association for 2023 will be held August 4-6 in Grants, NM. Training for the event is ongoing. Wilderness First Responder training planned for fall; possible chainsaw class planned.

Equipment: No issues.

Old Business:

Light Rescue Truck project: As EMTS funding was less than anticipated, more funding will have to be secured. Currently, the Rico Center has funded \$50,000 and Dolores County has funded \$5,000. Additional funding sources could include: the Telluride Foundation (<\$20,000); San Miguel Power (\$10,000); USDA Rural Development funds (TBD).

RFPD Host planning:2024 Tri State Firemans' Association (TSFA): The event will be held August 1-3 of 2024. Chief Jones believes that RFPD will need to rent a larger tent, as well as tables and chairs for approximately 100 additional people. RFPD will need to set meal ticket prices to cover costs but not be prohibitive; RFPD will need to "pin down" Will Nolan on his availability for the event. Training events still need to be figured out. Jones mentioned the possibility of renting a shipping container for additional storage of Tri-State items and FOJ fireworks.

RFPD proposed Mill Levy increase: The School District and the State will have issues on the ballot. RFPD would need to notify the DOCO clerk by the end of July to participate in a combined election. Clerk Lana Hancock believes that the cost of the election (mostly cost for printing the ballot) could be \$5,000.00. Gregg Anderson moved to proceed with the letter to the County asking that the District participate in a combined election, in order to request a 4.5 mill levy increase from the voters; Raegan Ellease seconded the motion. Approval was unanimous. Comment was made to determine how to best publicize the need for additional revenue without spending District funds, as taxpayer money cannot be spent to lobby for a tax increase.

New Business:

Resolution 2023-4: Adopting the NFPC 2009 Appendix D: standards for roadways in regards to emergency vehicle access/turnarounds: as the District had not had time to review Kunz's draft, Lapp asked for this to be tabled until August.

2023 Fourth of July debrief: The District spent approx. \$6500 on fireworks, \$3100 on food, and \$3700 on tee shirts for the event. After accounting for \$2000 in funds for firefighter Mike O'Connor, the District netted over \$9000 on the event. Kunz stated that all 500 ducks were sold and that the firefighters had done a great job of getting prizes. The new design tee shirts sold very well. Pat Fallon may have input in regards to Food Line operations; the sandwiches sold well, but the sides ran out. Comment made that the Street Dance was supposedly giving RFPD some of their proceeds?

RFPD kitchen remodel cost proposal: Raegan Ellease has found a supplier for a commercial sink and sprayer that would replace the existing sink on the north wall. A stainless table and new range would fill the west wall. Cost, including new lighting, would be \$3500.00, which could be part of the 2024 Rico Center grant application.

Additional Business:

The District requested that Kunz look for documentation of the RFPD station property being conveyed to the Fire District.

The next regular meeting is scheduled for August 21st. 2023.

A motion to adjourn was made by Gregg Anderson and seconded by Raegan Ellease at 9:01 PM. Approval was unanimous.

Chairman

Secretary