

Meeting Minutes for  
Rico Fire Protection District  
Regular Meeting: July 20<sup>th</sup>, 2026

The regular Rico Fire Protection District Meeting was called to order at 7:03 p.m. by Chair Tyler Lapp.

**Roll Call:** RFPD Board members Gregg Anderson, Maria Casanova, Tyler Lapp and Paul Ruud. Sarah Eckles was absent due to travel.

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

**Approval of Agenda:** Paul Ruud moved to approve the agenda as written; Maria Casanova seconded the motion. Approval was unanimous.

**Approval of Minutes:** Maria Casanova moved to approve the minutes for the June 15<sup>th</sup> 2026 regular meeting; Paul Ruud seconded the motion. Approval was unanimous, with Gregg Anderson abstaining.

**Public Comment:** No public comment.

**Approval of Financial Report and Accounts Payable:** Gregg Anderson moved to approve the financial report and pay the bills as presented, and to transfer \$5,000 from the DSB Hose Company account to the CSAFE Capital Improvement fund. Paul Ruud seconded the motion. Approval was unanimous.

**Administrative Report (Administrator David Kunz):** Ambulance inspection for new State license occurred 6/17, there were a few items to be purchased but the process appeared to work. The FEMA AFG funding request for brush truck was submitted. CFSDPG reimbursement was received. Kunz made a mistake when submitting the EMTS grant, he used the previous year's prices for the (4) mobile radios. Fourth prep took significant time. All other items on agenda.

**Grants (awarded):**

**CFSDPG:** (State grant for firefighter disease prevention). \$2539.40 (100%) in funding for highway visibility vests and personal safety lighting. All equipment is received, reimbursement has been received. Closeout 10/31/26.

**El Pomar (Wildland fire):** Request for \$5,981.83 for wildland fire equipment; awarded \$5000.00. Fulfillment almost complete.

**Telluride Foundation FY 2026 (Community):** \$5,000.00 in training funds. Fulfillment started. Additional training opportunities to include Ropes class, fire academy, and TSFA. Closeout 11/15/26.

**CDPHE EMTS:** Kunz applied for \$10,486.00 (50/50 match) in communications funding to replace/upgrade (4) mobile radios. RFPD has received a purchase order and is OK to fulfill. Closeout 6/30/27.

**Grants (submitted applications):**

**FEMA Assistance to Firefighters grant (AFG)** submitted: request for funds to replace brush truck. Awards announcement by 9/30.

**Fire Chief Report** (Fire Chief Todd Jones):

**Runs:** (7) EMS calls: MVC motorcycle vs. car (fatal); stroke patient up Scotch Creek, the rest were no transport. 1 fire call.

**Training:** Fire Academy in Durango (October); Tri-State will be held 7/30 – 8/1 in Grants, NM.

**Equipment:** Mancos donated a 1988 F800 tanker. It runs and pumps well, and will need some equipment. Jones will research getting 927 a new tank. 926 Suburban needs alignment and new tires.

**Old Business:**

**Transfer of Lots to RFPD from Town of Rico:** RFPD should be good to go for the closing. Kunz will contact Anneliese at Alpine Title and coordinate signatures from Tyler Lapp and Cristal Hibbard for the TOR.

**Proposed new Fire Station Construction and Financing:** No change.

**Replacement of 924 (Brush Truck):** Discussed under Chief's/Administrator report.

**New Business:**

**Review of SMPA battery electric storage (BES) facility, Town Shop:** SMPA has presented a revised MOU (v.4) that seeks RFPD approval for a BES facility identical in spec to that RFPD approved in May, 2026, but located at the new Town Shop facility instead of north of the Rico School. Board members agreed that they found the Town Shop site preferable to the school due to increased distance from residences and Highway 145. Gregg Anderson requested that section #4 refer to the Town Shop site specifically, and not provide generic approval for a BES anywhere in Town. Kunz will revise the MOU as directed for Chief Jones's signature.

**Fourth of July 2026 recap:** Opinions differed on relative crowd size this year for the parade and food line. Kunz stated that this was the second FOJ with no Rico Center support, however the Town will be billed approximately \$850 for the Old Timers'/Community Picnic. Kunz added that while no new merchandise stock had been purchased, no product lines or sizes ran out. Estimated profit this year was between \$6-\$7,000 pending final bills and receipts.

**Additional Business:** Chief Jones will price out a 8' x 20' shipping container for fireworks storage out of Dove Creek. He believes it will be \$3,500 delivered. The container could also serve as off-season storage for snow machines and ATV/dirt bikes. Gregg Anderson moved to approve up to \$4,000 for the container purchase; Paul Ruud seconded. Approval was unanimous.

The next regular RFPD meeting is scheduled for August 24<sup>th</sup>, 2026.

A motion to adjourn was made by at 7:48 PM. by Maria Casanova; seconded by Tyler Lapp. Approval was unanimous.

---

Chairman

---

Secretary