

Meeting Minutes for
Rico Fire Protection District
Regular Meeting: May 18th, 2026

The regular Rico Fire Protection District Meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. by Chair Tyler Lapp.

Roll Call: RFPD Board members Gregg Anderson, Maria Casanova (remote), 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

Approval of Agenda: Paul Ruud moved to approve the agenda as written; Gregg Anderson seconded the motion. Approval was unanimous.

Approval of Minutes: Gregg Anderson moved to approve the minutes for the April 20th, 2026 regular meeting with one spelling change; Maria Casanova seconded the motion. Approval was unanimous.

Public Comment: No public comment.

Approval of Financial Report and Accounts Payable, Pension Checks: Kunz presented (1) additional bill for payment: \$70.13 to Todd Jones as reimbursement for fire and SAR maintenance/parts. Gregg Anderson moved to approve the financial report and pay the bills as presented (plus 1 additional). Maria Casanova seconded the motion. Approval was unanimous.

Administrative Report (Administrator David Kunz): Kunz is preparing to submit the ambulance application to the State in accordance with the new licensing process. 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 request pending. 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. Funding announcement has been made, no fulfillment until a statement of work is received from the State and executed by RFPD. Closeout 6/30/27.

Grants (pending applications): None at this time.

Fire Chief Report (Fire Chief Todd Jones):

Runs: (1) EMS/SAR call: 36 YO male dirt biker with a dislocated shoulder in Burnett Creek.

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

Equipment: 928's foam unit is still having issues; 926 will need front end work and new tires. Trail bikes may go to Mancos motorsports to be re-gear. Dolores County may transfer 2 more small cycles, 1 could go to West Fork. The proposed tanker donation from Mancos Fire would not happen prior to their current ISO inspection's completion.

Old Business:

Transfer of Lots to RFPD from Town of Rico: The second reading will occur at the May 20th meeting, closing should occur on the 3rd week of June.

Proposed new Fire Station Construction and Financing: No revised plans yet from Tom Bulk. Other options could include Mike McCallister out of Durango.

SMPA MOU: Proposed Safety Plan/protocols for microgrid/BESS facility: Gregg Anderson requested several changes to the proposed MOU, including: change of date to May 18th, 2026; that RFPD would have final approval over the proposed air filtration system for the SCBA compressor; yearly safety trainings to be scheduled by RVFD; RFPD's approval of BESS is for current proposed location (101 S Glasgow Ave); deletion of language that referred to RFPD's recognition of project compliance with State safety standards. Chief Jones commented that the BESS system was not as important as having cellular/911 access, as that has been a recurring issue in Rico over the last several months.

Gregg Anderson moved to conditionally approve the MOU pending the proposed changes; Paul Ruud seconded the motion. Approval was unanimous.

Additional Business

Fourth of July 2026: The Liquor (Beer) license has been approved by the Town and the State. As per Chief Jones: "our lunch, duck race, fireworks".

The next regular RFPD meeting is scheduled for June 15th, 2026. Anderson stated he will likely not be present due to travel.

A motion to adjourn was made by at 7:30 PM. by Paul Ruud; seconded by Gregg Anderson.

Chairman

Secretary