

Meeting Minutes for
Rico Fire Protection District
Regular Meeting: September 21st, 2026

The regular Rico Fire Protection District Meeting was called to order at 7:04 PM by Chair Tyler Lapp.

Roll Call: RFPD Board members Gregg Anderson, Sarah Eckles, Tyler Lapp and Paul Ruud. Maria Casanova was absent at the beginning of the meeting.

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

Approval of Agenda: Sarah Eckles moved to approve the agenda with the addition of "Property Transfer with Town of Rico" to old business. Gregg Anderson seconded the motion. Approval was unanimous.

Maria Casanova joined the meeting at 7:12 PM.

Approval of Minutes: Gregg Anderson moved to approve the minutes for the August 24th, 2026 regular meeting; Sarah Eckles seconded the motion. Approval was unanimous.

Public Comment: No public comment.

Approval of Financial Report and Accounts Payable: Gregg Anderson moved approve the financial reports for August and September and to pay the bills as presented as well as pension checks. Sarah Eckles seconded the motion. Approval was unanimous.

Administrative Report (Administrator David Kunz): All items on agenda.

Grants (awarded):

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, unless RFPD applies for additional TF funds, in which case 10/9/26.

CDPHE EMTs: Kunz applied for \$10,486.00 (50/50 match) in communications funding to replace/upgrade (4) dual-band mobile radios. RFPD has received a purchase order and is OK to fulfill. RFPD board is good with going ahead with refurbished Motorola units. 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: (9) calls: (3) motorcycle crashes (1 a fatality); (2) "strokes" (1 was ETOH); a seizure; a lift assist; a semi off the Dunton Road; MVC car v. elk.

Training: Fire Academy in Durango (October 8-11), participants will be Sarah Eckles, Pat Fallon, Benn Vernadakis and John Young (overnight lodging needed); trauma conference in Durango.

Equipment: Mancos F800 tanker will need lettering. Jones will research getting 927 a new tank. Pat Fallon checked the Suburban's front suspension; it will need tires before winter.

Old Business:

Transfer of Lots to RFPD from Town of Rico: Alpine Title has been purchased by Title Company of the Rockies which has slowed down the transfer process. Hailee Cotton has not responded to several emails, Kunz says he will start calling her every day.

Proposed new Fire Station Construction and Financing: Jones may contact Cruzan Construction, who completed the West Fork and latest addition to the Dolores Station. Possible to reduce costs by keeping building at 1-story, including (3) drive through bays, kitchen, bathroom and general purpose room.

Replacement of 924 (Brush Truck): Awards for AFG grant program to be announced by September 30th. AFG requirement that apparatus meet NFPA standards might add approximately \$25k to the cost.

New Business:

2027 budget preview: Assessed values are slightly down, which will result in a 2% decline in mill levy revenue. Kunz will get a draft of the 2027 budget to the Board by October 15th for review.

A motion to adjourn the regular meeting was made by Sarah Eckles at 7:50 PM; seconded by Maria Casanova. Approval was unanimous.

The next regular RFPD meeting is scheduled for October 19th, 2026.

Chairman

Secretary