

Meeting Minutes for
Rico Fire Protection District
Regular Meeting: October 16th, 2023

The regular Rico Fire Protection District Meeting was called to order at 7:11 p.m. by Board Chair Tyler Lapp.

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

Guests Present: RFPD Administrator David Kunz; Allyn Svoboda (remote).

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

Approval of Minutes: Paul Ruud moved to approve the minutes for the September 18th meeting; Sarah Eckles seconded the motion. Approval was unanimous.

Public Comment: No public comment.

Approval of Financial Report and Accounts Payable, Pension Checks:

Kunz reported that there was an additional bill for approval, \$120.27 to be paid to Region 9 as a 3% commission on the Enterprise Zone donations. Paul Ruud moved to approve payment for the bills as presented (plus Region 9) and to accept the financial report; Raegan Ellease seconded the motion. Approval was unanimous.

Administrative Report: RC 2023 (closed out, details below); CFSDPG: Kunz requested payment for the bunkers be issued to LN Curtis. Although delivery will not be until early November, for RFPD to be reimbursed the payment for the bunkers must clear.

Grants (awarded):

Rico Center 2023: Closed out. However, RFPD has retained \$48,998.25 in RC funds towards the light rescue truck. These funds will need to be accounted for in year-end financials, and will revert to the Rico Center if not spent by February 15th, 2024. Supplemental grant report due: January 15th, 2024.

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 the have completed the Telluride FPD FF1 class) have been fitted for the gear by LN Curtis. Closeout: October 31st.

CDPHE EMTS grant: Request of \$60,000 towards the light rescue truck. Awarded \$44,618.75. The purchase order has been received and RFPD can spend funds from this grant. The first quarterly report has been filed. Closeout: June 30th, 2024.

Grants (potential):

USDA RD Community Facilities grant: Kunz will apply for funds for the Light Rescue.

Rico Center 2024: Fourth of July: request for foodstuffs for food line and Old Timers' Picnic. Operations: Potential requests for kitchen remodel funds; TSFA equipment; fire hose and fittings; EMS training dummies; training funds. Deadline: October 31.

Ballot issue 6a: Kunz reported that the TABOR letter went out to property owners who are not registered to vote in the District, and that the letter included a PRO- ballot issue statement. He asked for ideas to publicize the ballot issue, although the District cannot spend taxpayer money to lobby for 6a.

Fire Chief Report (Training officer Sarah Eckles):

Runs: RVFD responded to (8) calls for service: a male construction worker who fell; a missing female runner; a (false) smoke alarm; an assist to DOCO deputies; a 1-vehicle accident with no injuries; an 80-year old male who fell from standing; a construction burn called in as a wildfire; a single-vehicle MVA (car vs tree).

Training: Eckles will see which RVFD members want to attend the 2024 wildfire academy. 3 RVFD members attended the Ignacio structural Fire Academy.

Equipment: Kunz reported that the firehouse septic tank has been pumped, but there is a slope/breakage issue with the drain pipe under the footer of the building; Oerhead Door performed maintenance on the garage doors; Mike Contillo will install a particulate filter, pressure reducer, and backflow preventer on the firehouse water service line. Still needed: maintenance on Reverberay heater unit and replacement of exhaust flues prior to snowfall.

Old Business:

Light Rescue Truck project: The projected cost of the vehicle is approximately \$190,000. Currently, the Rico Center has funded \$50,000 and Dolores County has funded \$5,000. The EMTS program will fund \$44,618.75. Additional funding sources could include: the Telluride Foundation (<\$20,000); San Miguel Power (\$10,000); USDA Rural Development funds Community Development grant.

RFPD Host planning for 2024 Tri State Firemans' Association (TSFA): The event will be held August 1-3 of 2024. The first general planning meeting covered proposed menu, training sessions, accommodations, need for sponsors, raffle prizes, schwag and general donations. Renting a 50 x 100 tent, plus table and chairs will be a significant cost for the event. Kunz will ask the Rico Center for some of the funds for the tent as well as sanitary facilities and foodstuffs.

USDA Rural Development Community Facilities Grant application: Kunz explained that this agenda item will be a placeholder as federal agencies require public noticing and input to agencies applying for Federal funds.

New Business:

RFPD 2024 Budget: Kunz reviewed the initial budget line-by-line with the Board. The Board will revisit the 2024 budget at the regular November meeting. Approval of the 2024 budget and related documents will occur on December 4th. Paul Ruud advocated raising the training budget; Ruud also stated that he would draft a vehicle replacement schedule for RFPD apparatus.

RFPD Thanksgiving and Christmas Parties, 2024: the Thanksgiving Community Dinner will be held November 11th; the Christmas Party will be held December 16th.

The next regular meeting is scheduled for November 20th, 2023.

A motion to adjourn was made by Sarah Eckles and seconded by Raegan Ellease at 8:26 PM. Approval was unanimous.

Chairman

Secretary