

Meeting Minutes for  
Rico Fire Protection District  
Regular Meeting: July 21<sup>st</sup>, 2025

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

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

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

**Approval of Agenda:** Sarah Eckles moved to approve the agenda as written; Maria Casanova seconded. Approval was unanimous.

**Approval of Minutes:** Maria Casanova moved to approve the minutes for the May 19<sup>th</sup>, June 4<sup>th</sup>, and June 16<sup>th</sup> meeting as written; Paul Ruud seconded the motion. Approval was unanimous.

**Public Comment:** No public comment. The camera and speaker/ microphone on the firehouse computer were not functioning.

**Approval of Financial Report, Accounts Payable:** Anderson proposed that, due to the significant balances in the the DSB Hose Company account and DSB General Account, that \$3,000.00 from the Hose Company and \$50,000 from the General Account be transferred to CSAFE Capital Improvement to earn interest. Sarah Eckles moved to approve the financial report and pay the bills; Maria Casanova seconded the motion. Approval was unanimous.

**Administrative Report:** Kunz reported that the bulk of his billable hours were for the Fourth event. The 4th report and financial summary are on the agenda.

**Grants (awarded):**

**SMPA Community Focus Grant:** Request for \$20,000 for the light rescue truck; awarded \$2,000; an additional \$2,000 was received from Basin Electric. Kunz has notified SMPA contact MartyJo Davis that the Light Rescue may not be fulfilled until 2025.

**Rico Center 2025:** \$75,000 request for light rescue truck. Awarded. Closeout: September 30.

**Grants (potential):**

Telluride Foundation FY 2026 (Community): planned request for \$7,000.00 in training funds. Due 9/27/2025.

Telluride Foundation FY 2027 (Capital): planned request for \$35k towards rescue truck. Due date TBD.

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

**Runs:** (11) calls: 5 MVC's, 3 involving motorcycles or bikes, one single vehicle MVC without injuries, one head on collision involving seven people; a SAR at El Diente, (4) medical calls, one horse-related trauma, one wildfire response in Wildcat Canyon.

**Training:** In-house.

**Equipment:** Ongoing repairs to 928; oil changes TBD; Suburban should get a going over by Chevrolet. 800 Mhz radios were reprogrammed: (3) are obsolete/unprogrammable; (3) will be sunsetted soon. Jones brought up the need to budget to replace radios.

**Old Business:**

**Northland Securities Proposal for Firehouse financing:** Troy Brenberg was not reachable, Kunz texted him.

**Memorandum of Understanding with Town of Rico for the Transfer of Lots to RFPD:** Gregg Anderson stated that Annaliese at Alpine Title could perform the title work at a reduced rate. Anderson also expressed concern about the proposed MOU giving the Town a blank check to spend on legal fees. The Board agreed to suggest a limit of \$2,500 to the TOR for the legal fees associated with the transfer documents.

**Light Rescue Truck Project:** Kunz reported that the EMTS grant request was denied. Kunz and Jones are still looking at used trucks. The District is building financial reserves since the 2023 mill levy increase, which makes the numbers for a truck more affordable within the District budget.

**New Business:**

**2025 Fourth of July Debrief:** Kunz reported that Pat Fallon had done a great job on the Philly steaks at the food line, both in the food prep and in keeping costs under control. While the District did not get subsidy money for the event from the Rico Center, it also did not have the expense and effort of meat in the ground for the Community/Old Timers' event. 560 ducks were sold, and sellout time was 1 PM. 86 shirts were sold, plus cups and stickers. Shirt inventory is healthy post-FOJ. Kunz estimated that the event netted approximately \$2,000 this year. There were no major emergencies or adverse events over the weekend.

Troy Brenberg called in on speakerphone. He introduced himself as having 23 years in public finance, and that he currently works for Northland Securities, an investment firm that focuses on capital projects for municipalities. His firm attempts to find the lowest cost of borrowing and flexibility in terms. Northland can solicit banks for loan terms on RFPD's behalf. With RFPD's approval, they would approach 6-10 lenders (local and regional) to find the best match.

To bypass the need for bond approval, as well as Tabor issues, Northland structures the loan as lease/purchase financing where RFPD would retain ownership of the capital improvement (building). Instead of pledging a revenue source, the lease would be approved each year as part of the budget process.

(Paul Ruud recused himself and left the meeting at this time, due to his current employment at a bank).

Brenberg explained that the starting point for determining the amount to finance would depend on the building's cost, or insured value when completed.

A bond attorney would be required to write the tax-exempt opinion.

The Board agreed that re-evaluating construction costs for the proposed building would be the next step.

Suggestion was to contact the contractor for the Town shop.

This item will be continued under old business.

The next regular RFPD meeting is scheduled for August 18<sup>th</sup>, 2025.

A motion to adjourn was made by Maria Casanova at 8:04 PM.; seconded by Sarah Eckles. Approval was unanimous.

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Chairman

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Secretary