

Meeting Minutes for
Rico Fire Protection District
Regular Meeting: March 17th, 2025

The regular Rico Fire Protection District Meeting was called to order at 7:08 p.m. by Board Chair Tyler Lapp.

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

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

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

Approval of Minutes: Paul Ruud moved to approve the minutes for the February 17th, 2025 meeting; Gregg Anderson seconded the motion. Approval was unanimous.

Public Comment: No public comment.

Approval of Financial Report, Accounts Payable, Pension Checks: Gregg Anderson moved to approve the financial report and pay the bills/pension checks; Paul Ruud seconded the motion. Approval was unanimous.

Administrative Report: Less activity than last month. Exemption from Audit is ready for submission.

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 (applied for):

CDPHE EMTS Grant (FY 2026): request of \$50,467.20 toward the light rescue and radio. Regional and State review will occur over the next few months. Award notifications will be made in June, 2025. Closeout: June 30th, 2026 unless extension is granted.

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. See below. Due date TBD.

Fire Chief Report: (Fire Chief Todd Jones)

Runs: (4) calls: teenage male with multiple issues was transported; MVC at mile marker 54; brush fire near the chain station; SAR notification that was stood down.

Training: Lewis Burn tower postponed; Rico will host Fire Academy starting 4/9 for 6 days.

Equipment: Nothing major.

Old Business:

2025 Work Plan: Property transfer to be brought up at an upcoming TOR meeting. Paul Ruud and Kunz will work through a replacement schedule for Department apparatus and vehicles.

Light Rescue Truck Project: Holding pattern until grant awards are determined. Kunz is still looking at used trucks, there is a 2016 Fouts truck with a 6.2 gas motor available for \$170k, it is brokered so no warranty.

2025 Election: Anderson and Casanova submitted their self-nominations for the two open seats. The election is therefore canceled, and they are declared elected for 4 year terms.

New Business:

Northland Securities Proposal for Firehouse financing: Kunz reported on a meeting he and Chief Jones had via phone with Troy Bernberg of Northland (who helped the Town with financing for the new shop). The main points follow: the Lease Purchase mechanism was developed in response to TABOR, it enables public entities to secure financing for capital projects without requesting voter approval for bonds; the proposed firehouse itself would serve as the collateral for the loan; the terms of the Lease/purchase can be from 5 to 30 years (20 years is typical); Financial analysis is done by Northland to look at RFPD's cash flow and determine a reasonable amount of lease payments that the FD can afford; Bond Attorney – no need for an appraisal to be performed. The insured value of the finished structure is the amount of the loan; the District would enter into the agreement through a bond resolution, without need to go to voters for approval; Northland runs all the numbers and determines a realistic loan package at no upfront cost (their fee is based on results, baked into the final lease/purchase package); anticipated grant funding can be used to pay down the total/principal on the loan; Northland will shop numbers to 5-6 financial institutions, expecting 2-3 offers (usually they will approach a local bank but they are often not competitive with larger lenders). Paul Ruud commented that RFPD would be wise to consider any alternatives to financing for the project. There was general agreement to ask Mr. Bernberg if he could attend the regular April meeting by phone to explain further and answer questions in re the lease/purchase financing.

The next regular RFPD meeting is scheduled for April 21st, 2025.

A motion to adjourn was made by Gregg Anderson at 7:37; seconded by Paul Ruud. Approval was unanimous.

Chairman

Secretary