

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

The regular Rico Fire Protection District Meeting was called to order at 7:01 p.m. by Board Chair Tyler Lapp.

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

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

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

Approval of Minutes: Paul Ruud moved to approve the minutes for the January 20th, 2025 meeting; Sarah Eckles seconded the motion. Approval was unanimous.

Public Comment: No public comment.

Approval of Financial Report, Accounts Payable: Sarah Eckles moved to approve the financial report and pay the bills; Paul Ruud seconded the motion. Approval was unanimous.

Administrative Report: Kunz stated that he had spent a lot of hours doing compliance reporting for medical calls in the Imagetrend platform; working on the audit; and completing the EMTS grant application.

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, President Lapp will sign the agreement letter.

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.

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: (1) call, a 2-vehicle accident on Lizard Head with no injuries.

Training: In house training including CPR, airway and mega-code practice. RVFD will host the firefighter academy in April. Ice Rescue training in Dolores will be rescheduled; Avalanche rescue training will be in Silverton (March 7-9); Burn tower March 15.

Equipment: 928 is functional and will need decals. All AFFF foam will need to be removed from engine 921. The heater pipe on the addition is getting pushed over again by the snow; there is a newer direct-vent unit that the Town will donate. 800 mhz radios will be reprogrammed to new common frequencies in March.

Ownership/maintenance and liability of snowmobiles needs to be established – Chief Jones would prefer that DOCO SAR carry insurance and pay for maintenance while allowing RVFD to operate them on missions.

Old Business:

2025 Work Plan: Property transfer to be brought up at TOR March 19th meeting. Paul Ruud and Kunz will work through a replacement schedule for Department apparatus and vehicles.

Light Rescue Truck Project: Kunz stated that he sees two paths forward to secure the light rescue, either purchasing a new truck or looking for a used one. A new truck chassis is approximately \$80,000; the total build will likely be \$240k. Used truck chassis run \$150-\$220k, depending on age, condition and equipment. Concerns with used apparatus include: why is it for sale?; what additional equipment would it need/what taken off? Chief Jones expressed that any used Ford chassis should be from 2010-2017 and the motor be the 6.7 liter.

The District already has \$84,500 in outside funding committed toward the project in FY 2025. Kunz submitted the FY 2026 EMTS grant application for \$50,467.20. Regional hearings/evaluations for the grant occur in March; State reviews are in May; award notifications are made in June; RFPD must have an executed purchase order before proceeding with the project (probably August). The EMTS funding will run through 6/30/26; although extensions have been granted during the last few cycles due to build delays. Once the truck can be ordered, it will be an 18 month lead time until the truck would be delivered, so the potential delivery date could be into 2027. Kunz is also planning on applying to the Telluride Foundation for \$35k in capital funding in the 2026 cycle. There may be other grant sources to approach as well as private individuals, although any funding sources will be more competitive if Federal sources like FEMA AFG are no longer available.

2025 Election: Anderson's and Casanova's seats are up for 4 year terms. The election date is May 6. If there are fewer candidates than open seats the election would be canceled. Kunz has posted the Call for Nominations on the website and publicly. The deadline for submission of Self-Nominations is February 28th.

New Business:

Resolution 2025-2: Approval of Application for Exemption from Audit: the application was completed by Sorenen, Donley and Patterson CPA's of Grand Junction. Kunz emailed the revised/final draft of the application to Board members for review, along with the associated schedules. The Board had no corrections, questions or comments on the application. Sarah Eckles moved to approve Resolution 2025-2; Paul Ruud seconded. Approval was unanimous.

Land Use review: proposed RTA bridge at Lazy Rooster: Paul Ruud stated that the application was not complete and that the elevations are inconsistent; Chief Jones commented that runoff conditions were more important to plan for than flood conditions also that the clearance under the proposed structure would be inadequate for rafts. The Board agreed for Kunz to draft a letter for Lapp to sign and send to the County stating: "Conceptually, the Board is in favor of the access the bridge would provide to the west bank of the Dolores River; however, the drawings appear incomplete and the elevation numbers as called out are inconsistent. The District's primary safety concern is adequate clearance under the bridge for rafts during peak runoff".

The next regular RFPD meeting is scheduled for March 17th, 2025.

A motion to adjourn was made by Sarah Eckles at 8:11; seconded by Paul Ruud. Approval was unanimous.

Chairman

Secretary