

Meeting Minutes for
Rico Fire Protection District
Regular Meeting: August 24th, 2026

The regular Rico Fire Protection District Meeting was called to order at 7:02 p.m. by Chair Tyler Lapp.

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

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

Approval of Agenda: Maria Casanova moved to approve the agenda as written; Gregg Anderson seconded the motion. Approval was unanimous.

Approval of Minutes: Maria Casanova moved to approve the minutes for the July 20th 2026 regular meeting; Gregg Anderson seconded the motion. Approval was unanimous, with Sarah Eckles abstaining.

Public Comment: No public comment.

Approval of Financial Report and Accounts Payable: Additional bills: Sarah Eckles (\$1678.05 for 3 rooms at Tri-State); Todd Jones (\$2237.40 for 4 rooms at TSFA); Todd Jones noted an error in the General Fund balance in the Financial Report. Gregg Anderson moved to pay the bills as presented, plus the 2 additional; Sarah Eckles seconded the motion. Approval was unanimous. Kunz will revise the financial numbers for the September meeting. There was general agreement that Kunz should research a credit card for lodging so that RVFD members do not have to use personal cards.

Administrative Report (Administrator David Kunz): Kunz is researching alternative dual-band radios that will meet the spec for EMTS grant fulfillment. He has contacted a radio vendor out of Utah, and will also contact Rick Spencer of Cortez Fire who has an alternative source for communications equipment. All other 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.

CDPHE EMTS: Kunz applied for \$10,486.00 (50/50 match) in communications funding to replace/upgrade (4) mobile radios. RFPD has received a purchase order and is OK to fulfill. 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: (2) MVC's; (1) lightning strike; (1) SAR call; (1) medical call and (1) DOA patient.

Training: Fire Academy in Durango (October 8-11)

Equipment: Mancos F800 tanker runs and pumps well, and 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. Kunz has been trying to get the closing completed with Hailee Cotton, who lives in Rico. She has requested that the Board formally approve the purchase of the property: Resolution 2026-2 is later on the agenda.

Proposed new Fire Station Construction and Financing: Jones may contact Cruzan Construction, who completed the West Fork and latest addition to the Dolores Station.

Replacement of 924 (Brush Truck): Awards for AFG grant program to be announced by September 30th. Quotes for the Brush Truck may be complicated by the AFG requirement that apparatus meet NFPA standards.

New Business:

Resolution 2026-2: Authorizing the purchase of Lots 9,10,11,and 12, Block 2, town of Rico, County of Dolores, State of Colorado: Gregg Anderson noted that the language in the Resolution should be amended to refer consistently to Tyler Lapp as Board Chairman. With those changes, Anderson moved to approve Resolution 2026-2; Sarah Eckles seconded the motion. Approval was unanimous.

Additional Business: Chief Jones will price out a 8' x 20' shipping container for fireworks storage out of Dove Creek. He believes it will be \$3,500 delivered. The container could also serve as off-season storage for snow machines and ATV/dirt bikes.

The next regular RFPD meeting is scheduled for September 21st, 2026.

A motion to adjourn the regular meeting was made by Sarah Eckles at 7:40 PM; seconded by Gregg Anderson. Approval was unanimous.

The **RFPD Pension Board** convened at 7:41 PM. Present were Gregg Anderson, Maria Casanova, Sarah Eckles and Tyler Lapp, Chief Todd Jones and David Kunz.

Members confirmed that Benn Vernadakis met the terms for qualifying for RFPD pension: age, length of service and training hours. Gregg Anderson moved to approve Benn Vernadakis for pension payments starting in September, 2026; Tyler Lapp seconded the motion. Approval was unanimous.

Gregg Anderson moved to adjourn the Pension Board meeting at 7:48 PM; Maria Casanova seconded the motion. Approval was unanimous.

Chairman

Secretary