

**Ridgway Fire Protection District**  
**Regular Meeting**  
**13 August 2019**

**CALL TO ORDER**

Meeting called to order at 5:34 pm by Board Chair, Charles Mueller, at the Ridgway Volunteer Fire Department located at 251 N. Railroad Street, Ridgway Colorado. Also, in attendance were Board Members, Paulette Crabb and Ned Bosworth; Chief Chris Miller; Katy LaSala (Administrator); Ridgway Fire Department (RVFD) Officers Ronald Williams, Tyler Ferguson, and Chris Kraft.

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

Note: Chief Miller excused himself when the RVFD Officers were speaking about Command Vehicle and during the entire conversation about the proposed Chief's salary.

RVFD Officers Williams, Kraft, and Ferguson stood before the Board to explain why they would like the Chief to receive an annual salary. Lieutenants Kraft and Ferguson emphasized that Chief Miller keeps the RVFD firefighters safe by requiring real-life exercises and extensive training opportunities. All three officers reiterated that he is very passionate about his position and takes several hours out of every work week to do fire department related work. Lieutenant Williams emphasized that a salary would also help to prevent the Chief from getting "burnt out."

The RVFD Officers also stood before the Board to explain why they would like the Chief to be compensated with a new Command Vehicle. All three stated that, on the calls that he responds to, Chief Miller is the first responder on scene about ninety percent of the time. Thus, they feel that he should have a vehicle that can get him to those incidents both quickly and safely and one that is able to suppress a fire if needed. Kraft further emphasized the importance of the image we present as a fire department. He stated that a newer, aesthetically pleasing, and capable vehicle is more likely to instill confidence among not only those we help at incidents but also our constituents.

**BILLS**

➤ MOTION by Crabb to approve bills as presented. SECOND by Mueller. ALL IN FAVOR.

**MINUTES**

➤ MOTION by Mueller to approve the June 11, 2019 minutes as presented. SECOND by Crabb. ALL IN FAVOR.

**OLD BUSINESS**

**RVFD 5-YEAR PLAN PROPOSAL**

Chief Miller did not have his 5-year plan in hand but said that he would email it to the board before the next meeting. He did indicate that he would like to sell the 2003 International Tender (T22) that was purchased in 2018 as he and the RVFD Officers believe it is not suited to the needs of the Department. He proposed that we have T22 appraised, sell it, and replace it with another tender truck that has a longer wheelbase. The Board granted his request to have T22 appraised, asked him to research other Tenders at a comparable value, and come back to them at the next meeting with more data.

Chief Miller also requested that he be able to amend his 5-year Proposal if the RFPD incorporates the Ouray County Extrication. The Board had no issue with that.

## **ANNEXATION PROTOCOL**

The Board and Chief Miller read through the document created by Board Member, Svenson. Few minor changes were decided and amended.

- MOTION by Mueller to ratify the Annexation Protocol as amended. SECOND by Bosworth. ALL IN FAVOR.

## **CHIEF'S SALARY PROPOSAL**

In addition to discussion with the RVFD Officers, the board examined the importance of certifications (i.e. Firefighter 1, Firefighter 2, etc.,) and if they should be tied to a Chief's salary. Crabb and Bosworth both stated that they would like to see a job description. Crabb also noted 2019 budgetary issues. All three Board members were favorably inclined but needed more information to decide.

## **NEW COMMAND VEHICLE**

In addition to considering the RVFD Officers comments, the Board discussed what the capabilities of a new Command Vehicle should be with Chief Miller. Miller stated that, in addition to having a water tank, he would like the truck to be lifted so that it can drive up our mountain "jeep" roads if we eventually annex all Ouray County extrications, be a 1-ton, and not be a dually. He would also like it to be capable of hauling cars for extrication trainings.

Crabb issued her concerns about the cost of a new truck as the "Equipment" line of the 2019 budget is reaching its limit. The other two members of the Board agreed with her.

The Board decided to hold a special meeting on Thursday, August 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2019 at 5:30 to finalize the matter of a new command vehicle and the Chief's salary proposal.

## **CHIEF'S REPORT**

Chief Miller reported that there was a 12-tree fire caused by a lightning strike at the Sleeping Indian Ranch on Saturday, August 11<sup>th</sup> during which Brush 21 overheated and now needs to be fixed.

He mentioned that there are many training opportunities arising soon – Ignacio, Salida, and Keystone. He also stated that he and his officers are in the process of creating a new training plan that resembles that of Estes Park Fire Department, which includes changing training days from one Saturday per month to every Wednesday evening.

Lastly, Chief Miller mentioned that OCEMS is going to drop their extrication with the county at the end of 2019. The City of Ouray was offered to take it over, but they declined. Ouray County offered us their equipment including a truck if we decide that we want to take it over. The Board did not take any action on the topic.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

### **ELECTION OF OFFICERS**

- MOTION by Crabb for Mueller to maintain the position of Board Chairman. SECOND by Bosworth. ALL IN FAVOR.
- MOTION by Crabb for Bosworth to be elected Vice Chairman. SECOND by Mueller. ALL IN FAVOR.
- MOTION by Bosworth for Crabb to be maintain the position of Treasurer/Secretary. SECOND by Charles. ALL IN FAVOR.

### **DESIGNATION OF BUDGET OFFICER**

- MOTION by Mueller to appoint Katy LaSala as the 2020 budget officer. SECOND by Bosworth. ALL IN FAVOR.

## **2020 BUDGET DISCUSSION**

Due to the length of the meeting, the Board decided to begin discussing the 2020 budget at the next RFPD meeting.

## **WINDOW CLEANING CONTRACT**

- MOTION by Mueller to accept the bid as proposed by Big Paw Services/Peter LaSala and contract with Mr. LaSala to clean the fire station windows twice annually. SECOND by Crabb. ALL IN FAVOR.

## **DISTRICT CONSOLIDATION DISCUSSION**

Chief Miller stated to the Board that the Ironton/Stapleton Law Firm is offering free initial advice and a complementary presentation in September or October. They will lay out the best options for consolidation or for creating a fire authority in addition to the process, costs, etc.

## **ADJOURNMENT**

- MOTION by Mueller to adjourn. Second by Bosworth. ALL IN FAVOR

Meeting adjourned at 7:07 pm.

Respectively Submitted,  
-Katy LaSala