

Ridgway Fire Protection District
Regular Meeting
February 11, 2020

CALL TO ORDER

Meeting called to order at 5:36 pm by Board President Charles Mueller. Also, in attendance were RFPD Directors Paulette Crabb, Mary Reinhardt, Chief Chris Miller, and local real estate developer, Jack Petruccelli.

Agenda amended to allow for New Business item to be moved to the top of the agenda:

Potential Offer on Trail Town Property

Petruccelli presented a contract offer for the district's Trail Town lot, 26B1. in the amount of \$250,000, with 25% down and owner financing for three years at 5% interest. The offer is made in tandem with an offer on neighboring lot 26B2 and would be contingent upon final approval by the Town of Ridgway for a conditional use permit for 26B2. A discussion followed regarding potential positive impacts to the Ridgway community.

FINANCIALS

BILLS

- MOTION by Reinhardt to approve bills as presented. SECOND by Crabb. ALL IN FAVOR.

MINUTES

- MOTION by Crabb to approve the 12/10/2019 minutes with the following amendments: board members present included *Eric Dickerson and Ned_Bosworth* and a typo in the sewer discussion, substituting “*is*” for “*as.*” SECOND by Reinhardt. ALL IN FAVOR.

OLD BUSINESS

Extrication

Mueller reported that he had a follow-up discussion with the county regarding their extrication proposal and clarified with them that it was not in the district's 2020 budget. A discussion followed regarding the timing of potential district- wide consolidation and ended with the affirmation that taking on extrication is not out of the question in the future.

EMS Lease

Mueller reported that the lease is currently awaiting review by the District's attorney, as well as review by the county attorney, but he anticipates that it will be approved.

Deeply Digital

Chief Miller reported that the roof is no longer leaking. Due to snow and ice he has not yet been able to complete a roof inspection.

Siren Update

Chief Miller reported that the siren cannot be turned down. A new, less intrusive siren would cost approximately \$10,000 plus installation costs. No further action will be taken at this time.

CHIEF'S REPORT

- Tender 22 is listed for sale and there are two parties potentially interested.
- Chief Miller is applying for two grants:
 - **Fire Prevention Control Grant** in the amount of \$15,000 which would allow for replacement of the tanks (SCBA) and helmets. These items are outdated, with 8 of the tanks currently out of service and the remaining tanks in marginal condition.
 - **BLM Grant** is a new grant in which the BLM will be retiring old vehicles and gifting them to fire departments in need of a specific vehicle.
- The Prom Mock Accident (a county-wide training) is scheduled for April 17 at the Fairgrounds.
- The department will have 2-4 trainings in April using a single-wide trailer donated by a friend of Adam Johnson.
- Regarding potential sale of the Trail Town property, Chief Miller states that he is fundamentally opposed to a sale because if a wildland fire crew becomes possible, the District will need housing for the crew and equipment.

NEW BUSINESS

2020 Election

- Motion by Mueller to designate Katy LaSala as the Ridgway Fire Protection District's 2020 election official. SECOND by Reinhardt. ALL IN FAVOR.

Mil Levy & De-Brucing

The need for a mil levy increase, as well as De-Brucing, was discussed. Because mil levy increases historically do not pass in presidential election years, the consensus was to postpone the proposal for 2021 or 2022. It was noted that the District's mil levy is low in comparison to other departments. LaSala has been in communication with JD Reed Law, who represented Telluride and Montrose in their mil levy increase and De-Brucing. Per JD Reed, freezing the current assessment rate and increasing the mil levy can be one ballot issue. Mueller, LaSala, and Chief Miller will be meeting with JD Reed on July 12 for further clarification.

District Consolidation

Potential consolidation of the departments is still under consideration. However, complexities of the process make it unlikely that this can happen soon or if it will happen at all. Solid work by a committee not yet formed, efficacy of such a decision, as well as extensive campaigning are prerequisite.

Real Estate Offer

- After extensive discussion, Crabb MOTIONED to designate Mueller as the District representative in the real estate proposal, with Mueller updating the board following the preliminary review. SECOND by Reinhardt. ALL IN FAVOR.

ADJOURNMENT

- MOTION by Mueller to Adjourn. SECOND by Reinhardt. ALL IN FAVOR.

Meeting Adjourned at 6:38 pm.

Respectively Submitted,

-Paulette Crabb

(Typed by Katy LaSala)