

Ridgway Fire Protection District
Regular Meeting
December 8th, 2020

CALL TO ORDER

Meeting called to order at 5:31pm by Board Chair, Charles Mueller, at the Ridgway Volunteer Fire Department located at 251 N. Railroad Street, Ridgway Colorado. Also, in attendance were Directors Gary Redmond and Eric Dickerson as well as RVFD Chief Chris Miller and Administrator Katy LaSala. Attending via zoom were Vice Chair Ned Bosworth, Director Mary Reinhardt, RVFD Captain Tom Sisler, RVFD Deputy Chief John Robinson, RVFD Lieutenant Chris Kraft and RVFD Firefighters Jesse LaSala and Adam Kunz.

FINANCIALS

BILLS

- MOTION by Mueller to approve the bills as presented. SECOND by Dickerson. ALL IN FAVOR.

MINUTES

- MOTION by Dickerson to approve the 11/10/20 minutes as amended to fix a grammatical error. SECOND by Reinhardt. ALL IN FAVOR.

OLD BUSINESS

Administrator Salary Increase Request

Mrs. LaSala excused herself for the discussion. As was decided in the 12/1/20 Workshop, the Board explained that LaSala will receive an increase of \$5,000 to her salary, bringing it to \$35,000 beginning on January 1, 2021. To compensate for that \$5,000, the Board requested that LaSala-as the budget officer-find line items in the 2021 budget in which to take an equal amount from to balance the budget, to which she complied. Chief Miller and his officers questioned the decision to take money from the budget to give the administrator a salary increase. With further clarification, the Board explained their position, and the decision stood.

2021 Budget

- MOTION by Bosworth to adopt the 2021 budget as presented. SECOND by Reinhardt. ALL IN FAVOR.

Tender 1212 Sale

Mueller noted that we received a check from East Orchard Mesa Fire Protection District for \$85,500 and thanked everyone who was involved in the sale.

CHIEF'S REPORT

Ladder Truck Update

Chief Miller explained that it needs a new pump but is otherwise fixed.

Tender 1212 Replacement Plan

Chief Miller stated that no plan is in place yet, but the officers will discuss it at their next meeting.

NEW BUSINESS

Wildland Wage Dispersal Amendment

- MOTION by Reinhardt to ratify the prior approval by Mueller to pay wages owed to RFPD firefighters for 2020 assignments that had not yet been reimbursed to the RFPD by the State of Colorado as of 12/8/20. SECOND by Dickerson. ALL IN FAVOR.
- MOTION by Mueller to pay all remaining Wildland Firefighter wages from 2020 assignments before reimbursement from the State of Colorado is received. SECOND by Reinhardt. ALL IN FAVOR.

OCEMS-RFPD Lease Amendment

LaSala suggested that the Board continue with the same terms for the 2021 lease as were instituted for 2020, which was to release the 2% increase in rent from OCEMS in return for the RFPD having access to one of the EMS rooms. Mueller suggested splitting the difference for the year by having OCEMS pay only a 1% increase in rent or simply ask for the already agreed upon 2% bump with the allocation of the room. Dickerson agreed. Mueller will call the County to discuss options.

Other Discussions not Included in the Agenda:

Ouray County Prior Request for RFPD to take over Extrication

Mueller referred to Chief Miller on his opinion regarding the matter. Miller explained that we are already essentially doing it, just without the County Extrication truck and tools, but he believes that the best agency should do what is needed. Lieutenant Kraft suggested we should do what is best for the County. LaSala questioned whether we can do it without the County Extrication truck. Miller explained that we need the truck because it is located close to Red Mountain Pass. Mueller expressed concern regarding funding, especially regarding the asking cost of the truck by the County. Miller suggested we wait until we get through the 2021 wildland season to see where our finances lie. Mueller suggested offering to take over extrication, but not purchase the truck and tools. Rather, they would be a gift from the County. LaSala suggesting leasing the truck and tools at no cost to the RFPD. Both Bosworth and Mueller agreed that the commissioners should be approached after the new year. Chief will have OCEMS Chief Kim Mitchell bring the issue up to the County Administrator, and Mueller will create a proposal and deliver it to Mitchell.

ADJOURNMENT

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

Meeting Adjourned at 6:33pm.

Respectively Submitted,
-Katy LaSala