

Ridgway Fire Protection District
Regular Meeting
April 13th, 2021

CALL TO ORDER

Meeting called to order at 5:30 pm by Board Chair, Charles Mueller (via Zoom), at the Ridgway Volunteer Fire Department located at 251 N. Railroad Street, Ridgway Colorado. Also, in attendance were Vice Chair Ned Bosworth, Board Directors Mary Reinhardt and Eric Dickerson, and Administrator Katy LaSala.

FINANCIALS

BILLS

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

MINUTES

- MOTION by Bosworth to approve the 3/9/21 minutes as presented. SECOND by Dickerson. ALL IN FAVOR.

OLD BUSINESS

Ouray County Extrication

Chief Miller was not in attendance to give an update. Mueller also had no updates. The discussion was pushed to the next District Board meeting.

RFPD Restructuring

Mueller and LaSala held a Zoom meeting with RFPD legal representative, Bo Nerlin, earlier in the day to discuss restructuring the District and relayed to the rest of the Board that the move will decrease the liability on both the District and the Ridgway Volunteer Fire Department (RVFD) members. The structure and chain of command of the RVFD members would not change. Mueller added that he would like the RVFD members to be made aware of the possible change and would prefer that they be on-board with it before we implement anything. No action was taken at this time as the Board will wait for Mr. Nerlin to present the District Restructuring concept to the RVFD members at the RVFD May meeting. Further discussion will be held at the next District Board meeting.

Revenue Increase Options

In response to Chief Miller's dialog at the previous meeting concerning the current and future demands of the Chief's position in relation to his limited salary, the Board thought it important to discuss revenue increase options. Reinhardt remarked that the average Fire Chief makes \$80,000 annually. Dickerson, along with the rest of the Board, noted that at this time we do not have it in the budget to offer the Chief a larger salary. Reinhardt countered that the current and future increases in residential housing within our district will continue to add more demands of fire services. Thus, a paid Chief is needed. She further suggested that we put a mill levy increase request on the 2022 election ballot. Dickerson agreed. Mueller also acknowledged that the additional revenue that will be brought in from our wildland team this year and in the future may provide a partial solution. Dickerson and Mueller suggested that the Board require that the Chief Miller obtain the necessary certifications required of a professional Fire Chief to be completed within an allotted amount of time, and the Board will work on finding the means to bring in more revenue to cover a Chief's Salary. No action was taken at this time.

CHIEF'S REPORT

LaSala presented the Chief's Report on behalf of Chief Miller-

Due to a complaint from a neighbor, we did not do a live burn training on the County Road 5 house. It is important to note, that we are in legal compliance with Colorado statutes that would allow us to preform the burn. However, the decision was made by Chief Miller and his officers not to do the training to prevent public discord.

We will be involved in the Before Prom Mock Car Accident hosted by the Ouray County Emergency Management on May 14th. The exercise will begin at 9:15 am at the Fairgrounds. The Board is invited to come watch in the grandstands if they would like.

We completed several trainings in March including burning piles and a field on County Road 24 and carrying out several training days in the County Road 5 house. Our wildland team (Menz, Carver, and B Kunz) attended a two-week wildland burn exercise in Nebraska. K LaSala and Carver also completed an Emergency Medical Responder course taught by OCEMS.

The RVFD held its annual elections at its May meeting. In addition to Chief Miller, Captain Sisler, and Lieutenant running uncontested and remaining in their respected positions, Adam Kunz was elected to be the third lieutenant.

Finally, the RVFD voted on a new logo design as the number 21 on the old logo is no longer representative of the numbers assigned to us in 2020 by WestCo Dispatch.

NEW BUSINESS

UMB Credit Card Program

The Board signed and adopted a resolution for the RFPD to obtain a credit card account with UMB to be used by the Wildland team while on assignment.

OTHER NON-AGENDA BUSINESS

Meeting Day Change Request

Due to competing meeting dates with OCEMS, LaSala made a request to the Board that the RFPD change its scheduled meeting days to one of the following-

- 1st Wednesday of the Month
- 1st Thursday of the Month
- 2nd Wednesday of the Month
- 2nd Thursday of the Month

After a discussion, it was decided to change the meeting days to the second Wednesday of each month at 5:30 pm. A resolution will be drafted and brought to the next meeting to be signed and adopted. LaSala will then resubmit our Transparency Notice to the necessary parties.

- MOTION by Mueller to reschedule the May RFPD meeting from May 11th to May 12th at 5:30 pm. SECOND by Bosworth. ALL IN FAVOR.

ADJOURNMENT

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

Meeting Adjourned at 6:25 pm.

Respectively Submitted,
-Katy LaSala