

Ridgway Fire Protection District
Regular Meeting
June 2nd, 2021

CALL TO ORDER

Meeting called to order at 5:34 pm by Board Chair, Charles Mueller, at the Ridgway Fire Department located at 251 N. Railroad Street, Ridgway Colorado. Also, in attendance were Vice Chair Ned Bosworth, Treasurer/Secretary Mary Reinhardt, Directors Eric Dickerson and Gary Redmond, RVFD Chief Miller, and Administrator Katy LaSala.

FINANCIALS

BILLS

➤ MOTION by Dickerson to approve bills as presented. SECOND by Bosworth. ALL IN FAVOR.

MINUTES

➤ MOTION by Dickerson to approve the 5/12/21 minutes as presented. SECOND by Reinhardt. ALL IN FAVOR.

OLD BUSINESS

District Restructuring

LaSala presented the board with a schedule of events as proposed by RFPD Legal Counsel Bo Nerlin. It is as follows:

- Nerlin will draft a resolution to transfer the RVFD property to the RFPD and create a bill of sale for any and all fire protection property.
- The RVFD Officers will put together a Directives Manual based on the planned, but not implemented, 2018 draft of polices.
 - Within the directive will be a hiring/firing of the chief clause. Nerlin has suggested that the hiring process consist of the creation of a 6-member committee -
 - 3 RVFD officers
 - 2 RFPD Board Members
 - 1 officio nonvoting member who is a RFPD staff member; someone who takes notes and conducts and coordinates interviews.
 - The committee will give their recommendation to the Board who will decide whether to hire the selection.
 - The Board will have authority to fire the chief.
 - The directives manual will then be given to Nerlin to be put into a workable form.
- The Board will then sign the directives manual, and the process will be complete.

Mueller suggested and stressed the importance of further trying to bring members of the fire department on board before implementing any policies. Bosworth noted that in implementing the restructuring process, the board is legally bound to hire and fire the Chief. Miller suggested that we continue with the 'status quo' in which the department members choose the Chief, and then the Board can decide to hire him/her based on the department members' recommendation. It was decided to have all the RVFD officers attend the next RFPD Board meeting for further discussion.

Ouray County Extrication Acquirement

Mueller presented a letter to the Board in which he would like to have given to OCEMS Chief Paramedic Kim Mitchell. The letter describes the willingness of the RFPD to take over extrication in the County but also references the additional costs that would be put on the District and declines the proposal given to the RFPD in the May meeting of the RFPD purchasing the extrication truck and equipment for \$2,500. Dickerson asked LaSala and Miller their opinion on the subject. They both

agreed that they believe the District should accept the offer presented by OCEMS stating that the cost of the tools on the truck were worth around \$60,000. Reinhardt suggested a counteroffer of \$1,500. In the end, the Board's decision to decline the offer stood. LaSala will present the letter to Ms. Mitchell.

CHIEF'S REPORT

Chief Miller reported that the DFPC Burn trailer is in Ouray for a few weeks and available for our members to train in. Our Wildland team is available and awaiting an assignment. Miller has begun looking for a chase vehicle, but stressed that it is not a priority right now as we do not have a full crew for another engine yet. We had several extrication calls and one wildland incident in May.

NEW BUSINESS

Election of Board Officers

It was decided to hold the election at the July Board meeting.

County Demo Plan Requests

The County has implemented that all planned demo incinerations of property have a written plan given to Land Use before any demo permits will be approved. Chief Miller is against it as we as a District already adhere to NFPA guidelines with all our trainings and requesting for us to provided detailed plans is overkill. LaSala relayed that in her discussion with attorney Bo Nerlin, he agrees that it just causes more work and headache for everyone. Chief Miller asked Nerlin to write a letter to the County with our concerns that the Board will need to sign. Miller is also asking the Log Hill Board and Ouray City Council to sign as well. All Board members agreed with Chief Miller. No action was taken at this time. The Board will wait for a response from the BOCC in reply to our letter.

OTHER NON-AGENDA ITEMS

Director Redmond is moving out of the Ridgway Fire Protection District and is resigning as of the middle of June. The Board will begin looking for a new member to appoint.

ADJOURNMENT

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

Meeting Adjourned at 6:07 pm.

Respectively Submitted,
-Katy LaSala