

Ridgway Fire Protection District
Special Meeting
August 18th, 2021

CALL TO ORDER

Meeting called to order at 5:39 p.m. by Board Chair, Charles Mueller, at the Ridgway Volunteer Fire Department located at 251 N. Railroad Street, Ridgway, Colorado. Also, in attendance were Vice Chairman Ned Bosworth, Secretary/Treasurer Mary Reinhart, Director Eric Dickerson, RVFD Chief Chris Miller, RFPD Administrator Katy LaSala, and member of the public Christen Williams.

FINANCIALS

Reinhardt noted that several line items including Repairs and Maintenance, Building Supplies, and Equipment are all coming close to pushing over their budgets. Bosworth suggested that Chief Miller and LaSala keep a close eye on the budget throughout the duration of the year and not put more money into anything unnecessary. The remainder of the Board agreed.

BILLS

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

MINUTES

❖ MOTION by Reinhardt to approve the 6/2/21 minutes as presented. SECOND by Bosworth. ALL IN FAVOR.

OLD BUSINESS

District Restructuring

RFPD attorney, Bo Nerlin, was unavailable to create the necessary documents to move forward with the District restructuring. As such, further discussion will continue at the next RFPD Board meeting.

CHIEF'S REPORT

Chief Miller reported that we have had relatively few calls over the past couple of months. He reported that the Department of Fire Prevention and Control provided a beneficial pumps training in which a majority of our firefighters were in attendance. Additionally, we have two State trainings coming up including the Colorado Firefighter's Academy and the Fire on the Plains wildland training. Also, we will be watering the Ouray County Fairgrounds for the Labor Day Weekend Rodeo.

NEW BUSINESS

❖ MOTION by Mueller pursuant to Colorado Revised Statutes, Title 24, Article 6, Section 402 at subsection 4(e) to go into executive session for the purpose of determining a board director position relative to matters that may be subject to negotiations. SECOND by Bosworth. ALL IN FAVOR.

Normal Business resumed at 6:35 p.m.

Appointment of a New Board Member

❖ MOTION by Dickerson to appoint Christen Williams as the fifth Board Member to the Ridgway Fire Protection District Board of Directors. SECOND by Reinhardt. ALL IN FAVOR.

Election of Officers

- ❖ MOTION by Reinhardt for Charles Mueller to maintain the position of RFPD President. SECOND by Dickerson. ALL IN FAVOR.
- ❖ MOTION by Reinhardt for Ned Bosworth to maintain the position of RFPD Vice President. SECOND by Mueller. ALL IN FAVOR.
- ❖ MOTION by Mueller for Mary Reinhardt to maintain the position of RFPD Secretary and Treasurer. SECOND by Bosworth. ALL IN FAVOR.

Designation of Budget Officer

- ❖ MOTION by Mueller to appoint Katy LaSala as the 2021 budget officer. SECOND by Bosworth. ALL IN FAVOR.

New Apparatus Registration

LaSala explained that we are currently unable to register the 1999 Pierce Saber truck that we purchased in April of this year as the gentleman who sold it to us seemingly “skipped the title.” Chief Miller stated that he has contacted Mr. Irwin on several occasions regarding fixing the title so that we can register the truck in the RFPD’s name to no fruition. Mueller, with agreement of the rest of the Board, asked LaSala to contact the RFPD legal attorney to have him write Mr. Irwin a letter stating that we will pursue a lawsuit if he does not resolve the situation. LaSala will report back to the Board of any updates at the next RFPD meeting.

Automatic Mutual Aid with Ouray Volunteer Fire Department

Chief Miller would like to institute an automatic mutual aid policy for incidents that involve visible smoke or flames. LaSala noted that, in addition to the RFPD Board approval, the Ouray Fire Protection District as well as the Ouray Town Council will need to approve the policy. Then a Mutual Aid Agreement will need to be created and signed by all parties.

- ❖ MOTION by Mueller to proceed with the creation of an Automatic Mutual Aid policy in which the Ridgway and Ouray Fire Departments will automatically respond to incidents in each other’s districts and service areas that involve visible smoke or flames. SECOND by Reinhardt. ALL IN FAVOR.

Bay Door Discussion

Chief Miller has been investigating the possibility of raising the east facing middle bay door to better accommodate the ladder truck as it only currently has about a half inch of clearance when being backed in. He said that Stryker is the only company he could find that would give him a quote. Their quote came back at \$23,000. Mueller asked LaSala how much we have spent on the ladder truck thus far. She noted that we have put \$22,500 into repairs and maintenance since it was given to us. Mueller stated that he was not inclined to put more money into that truck. Bosworth also stated that the budget cannot support that high of a cost to amend the building at this point. Reinhardt suggested that we put it into the 2022 budget. She then also suggested that we contact retired RVFD firefighter, Greg Hunter, as he may know of someone who can perform the building amendment for a much lesser cost. She will contact Mr. Hunter and report back at the next RFPD meeting.

Rescue Tripod Purchase Request

Chief Miller requested that the District purchase a rescue tripod, which is a device that can be placed over manholes to help trapped victims. He noted that no other entity in Ouray County has this device, and the RVFD has a member who can certify our other firefighters in the use of the tripod. The cost for the equipment and necessary harness is \$2,100. While the members of the Board noted that the tripod would be a beneficial piece of equipment to the District, they denied the request to purchase it based on current budgetary constraints. They did, however, suggest bringing the proposal to the RVFD. Chief Miller said he would pursue the option of having the RVFD pay for the tripod.

OTHER NON-AGENDA BUSINESS

Dickerson mentioned that the owner of the County Road 5 training house would like us to reconsider our decision not to do a burn training exercise due to concerns and complaints made to the Ouray County BOCC made by a neighbor. Chief Miller noted that we are within our legal rights to do the exercise and do not have to abide by new policies instituted by Ouray County officials requiring a more in-depth permit process as they do not govern the Fire District operations. Reinhardt stated that we should attempt to work with the County, but if they are not receptive to working with the District then we should still do the exercise. Dickerson requested that Chief Miller correspond with the owner of the County Road 5 house to discuss options and give him assurances. Chief Miller will report back to the Board at the next RFPD meeting.

ADJOURNMENT

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

Meeting Adjourned at 7:05 p.m.

Respectively Submitted,

-Katy LaSala