

Ridgway Fire Protection District
Regular Meeting
November 11, 2021

CALL TO ORDER

Meeting called to order at 5:32 by Board Chair Charles Mueller, at the Ridgway Volunteer Fire Department located at 251 N. Railroad Street, Ridgway Colorado. Also, in attendance were Board Vice Chair Ned Bosworth, Board Directors Mary Reinhardt, Eric Dickerson, and Christen Williams, as well as RVFD Chief Chris Miller and Administrator Katy LaSala.

FINANCIALS

BILLS

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

MINUTES

- MOTION by Mueller to approve the 10/6/2021 minutes as presented. SECOND by Reinhardt. ALL IN FAVOR.

OLD BUSINESS

2022 Budget Discussion

LaSala presented a draft of the proposed 2022 Budget and suggested the Board add \$18,000 to Capital Outlay – Equipment for a new brush truck as discussed below in New Business. After considering Chief Miller’s request, the Board approved the amendment.

- MOTION by Dickerson to adopt the RFPD 2022 budget as amended. SECOND by Reinhardt. ALL IN FAVOR.

District Restructuring

Chief Miller reviewed it with members of the RVFD at their meeting earlier in the month. LaSala and Chief Miller have a meeting with RFPD Attorney, Bo Nerlin on Friday 11/12/21. Miller, however, did request that we hire a lawyer to write our new bylaws for us. All the board members were in agreement that that is the best route to produce a professional and concise set of policies.

Bay Door Discussion

Chief Miller stated that Allison Construction has offered to look at the door and possibly give us a quote but not until 2022. Mueller was appreciative as he believes the previous quote of \$20,000 is high. Bosworth noted that amending a door in that fashion is no small feat and could be costly. No action was taken at this time.

Apparatus Registration Update

LaSala presented the title from Irwin, in which Mueller signed. She will take it up to the Ouray County Clerk’s Office this week to finish the registration process.

Chase Truck Purchase

Chief Miller requested that we purchase a Ford F550 Brush truck listed out of Cortez for \$43,000 rather than a chase vehicle. The engine will come fully equipped with all wildland equipment needed for the truck to go on assignments. The water pump needs to be replaced, and it will need to be painted. As an additional benefit to the RFPD, the current owner of the truck is also a NWCG certified engine boss (ENGB) who has offered to replace Steve Menz-as he has resigned-as our new ENGB for the next few years. He is willing to take \$25,000 now and the remainder in January of 2022.

- MOTION by Dickerson to purchase the Ford F550 Brush truck for the amount of \$43,000 by paying \$25,000 before the end of the 2021 budget year and the remainder to be paid in January 2022. SECOND by Reinhardt. ALL IN FAVOR.

Volunteer Personnel Increase Request

The board acknowledged the need to add personnel to the Department but was cautious of the cost. Chief Miller recognized that it costs on average around \$20,000 to bring a new member onto the fire department. This includes new turnouts, training, insurance, etc. Mueller suggested gradually adding more members in a staged process over the ensuing years. Dickerson questioned how many more people the Chief would like to bring on. Chief Miller suggested at least five to start, but also mentioned hiring five paid positions to run shifts at the station as an alternative option. It was also noted that the RVFD currently only has 26 personnel. Chief Miller suggested tabling the conversation until we reach 30. The board agreed. No action was taken at this time.

Mil-Levy Ballot Measure Discussion

While Williams did not have any updates, she did suggest we find people who would like to be part of a committee, possibly representatives from Ouray and Log Hill as well. Mueller suggested looking to how the Ridgway School recently accomplished a similar undertaking with their ballot measure and possibly hire a professional team. Dickerson agreed with Mueller. LaSala suggested asking our attorney to either donate or partially donate his expertise. All members were supportive of LaSala's idea. Williams will begin working on a plan and looking for people to make up a committee.

CHIEF'S REPORT

Chief Miller explained that he will reach out to the disgruntled homeowner regarding the burn training that we plan on conducting at his neighbor's house and try to ease his apprehensions. He also noted that the Ouray County Land Use Department has indicated that they will not attempt to stop the process of our burns as they have no legal authority to do so. Mueller added that if we burn during the cold months, the risk decreases exponentially.

Miller also mentioned that call volume is down. However, we did conduct an extensive extrication training on County Road 23 that involved three cars.

NEW BUSINESS

2021 Wildland Season Overview

LaSala presented a detailed report detailing the RFPD's 2021 wildland season income and expenditures. As the engine went on four assignments, the RFPD profited \$57,650.48.

OTHER NON-AGENDA BUSINESS

ADJOURNMENT

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

Meeting Adjourned at 6:23 pm.

Respectively Submitted,
-Katy LaSala