

**Ridgway Fire Protection District**  
**Regular Meeting**  
**June 1<sup>st</sup>, 2022**

**CALL TO ORDER**

Meeting called to order at 5:40 pm by Board member, Christen Williams, at the Ridgway Fire Department located at 251 N. Railroad Street, Ridgway Colorado. Also, in attendance were Board member Mary Reinhardt, RVFD Chief Chris Miller, RFPD Administrator Katy LaSala (via Zoom), RFPD attorney Bo Nerlin as well as newly elected Board members Pam Kraft and Adam Johnson (via Zoom). Steve Duce was also in attendance.

Williams suggested moving New Business to the beginning of the agenda to complete the necessary procedures of adding new Directors to the Board.

**NEW BUSINESS**

**Introduction of New Board Members**

Pam Kraft and Adam Johnson were welcomed to the RFPD board by Williams and Reinhardt.

**Oaths of Office**

Reinhardt administered Oaths to Kraft and Johnson.

- ❖ MOTION by Kraft to appoint Steve Duce as the fifth Board Member to the Ridgway Fire Protection District Board of Directors. SECOND by Williams. ALL IN FAVOR.

Reinhardt then administered the Oath to Duce.

**Election of Board Officers**

- ❖ MOTION by Kraft for Christen Williams to accept the position of RFPD President. SECOND by Reinhardt. ALL IN FAVOR.
- ❖ MOTION by Reinhardt for Pam Kraft to accept the position of RFPD Vice President. SECOND by Johnson. ALL IN FAVOR.
- ❖ MOTION by Kraft for Mary Reinhardt to maintain the position of RFPD Secretary and Treasurer. SECOND by Duce. ALL IN FAVOR.

**FINANCIALS** (as presented by LaSala)

Per the previous Board's request, LaSala opened a new CD account at Citizen's State Bank (CSB) in the amount of \$150,000 that was transferred from the RFPD Alpine checking account. She and Reinhardt are the signers.

\$50,000 was transferred by LaSala from the RFPD checking account to the CSB savings account.

- ❖ MOTION by Reinhardt to remove Charles Mueller from and add Christen Williams to all RFPD Alpine and Citizen's State Bank accounts. SECOND by Kraft. ALL IN FAVOR.

We received the payments from the wildland team's severity assignment to Texas as well as the Duck Pond assignment. They are as follows:

- Texas Severity – received a payment of \$53,871.68 in which \$16,983 is income earned from B1211
- Duck Pond – received a payment of \$5,222.22 in which \$1,715.50 is income earned from B1211

We received \$11,063.38 from Atlantic Specialty Insurance to cover damages incurred to B1211 while on the Texas Severity Assignment. Chief Miller noted that we will most likely not have the truck repaired until after the 2022 wildland season as the damages are aesthetic only and the truck is in working order otherwise.

## **BILLS**

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

## **MINUTES**

❖ MOTION by Duce to approve the 4/19/22 Special Meeting minutes as presented. SECOND by Johnson. ALL IN FAVOR.

## **OLD BUSINESS**

### **District Restructuring Update**

RFPD legal representative, Bo Nerlin, explained to the new member details concerning why the RFPD and the RVFD are merging. Reinhardt questioned Chief Miller regarding the progress of creating new policies. Miller stated that the committee needs to meet again to move forward. Williams tasked him with scheduling a new meeting to discuss and update the policies.

### **OCEMS Lease Agreement**

Chief Miller and LaSala, once again, suggested that the Board consider removing the annual 2% increase in the OCEMS lease agreement that is paid to the RFPD by OCEMS in return for the RFPD/RVFD utilizing one of the bedrooms and bathrooms in the OCEMS wing for firefighters and trainers. Williams and Reinhardt notably supported the idea. Kraft requested that LaSala email the Board members a copy of the lease agreement and push further discussion to the next District Board meeting.

### **Generator**

Chief Miller stated that Cummins recently gave us a bid of roughly \$40,000 to repair the generator. However, he and the officers are looking into other more affordable options, which include possibly purchasing a used engine. He will have more information at the next District Board meeting.

### **Exterminator Suggestions**

LaSala explained that we hired Penguin Exterminators to assess the building. They placed traps and suggested they return every two months to check the traps and reassess. Consensus by the Board was that we can set traps ourselves and do not need to pay to have a company do it for us unless they provide services that we cannot do ourselves.

## **CHIEF'S REPORT**

Chief Miller reported that the wildland team has returned from a severity assignment in the Pikes Peak National Forest and is awaiting another assignment.

He also noted that we provided assistance on the Simms Fire with three trucks and five crew members, which the District will be compensated for. Unfortunately, and while on that fire, one of our firefighters suffered a blood clot, which is currently being addressed and compensated through workman's compensation.

Kraft asked if we have a means to track our wildland expenses. LaSala mentioned that we do have a "Wildland" section in our annual budget, and she provides notations in our bookkeeping software. However, she and Miller suggested that it would be nice to open a wildland checking account to better track spending. Kraft agreed and reiterated the importance of separate wildland expenditure tracking. Kraft also requested that LaSala pull a Wildland expenditures and income statement and provide it at the next District Board meeting.

## **OTHER NON-AGENDA BUSINESS**

### **Cleaning Conflict**

Reinhardt asked Nerlin if it is legal under Colorado Special District law for her to be compensated by the RFPD for cleaning the firehouse while also being a RFPD Board member. Nerlin stated that he believed she can be compensated for cleaning as she is considered a Contractor and not an employee.

### **Chief's Salary Request**

Chief Miller, once again, requested that the Board consider giving him an increased salary. Currently the Chief is only paid \$12,000 annually. He noted the increased responsibilities required of his position and he is no longer realistically able to juggle his volunteer position as Chief with his outside employment. Duce and Reinhardt both noted the increased difficulty in being a volunteer firefighter and fire Chief in today's world. Kraft suggested looking into grant options for increased funding. She also requested that Miller and LaSala research other local fire department salaries and add the Chief's salary request to the next District Board meeting agenda.

### **ADJOURNMENT**

❖ MOTION by Williams to Adjourn. Second by Johnson. ALL IN FAVOR

Meeting Adjourned at 7:15 pm.

Respectively Submitted,

-Katy LaSala