

Ridgway Fire Protection District
Special Meeting
August 23rd, 2022

CALL TO ORDER

Meeting called to order at 5:37 pm by Board Chair, Christen Williams, at the Ridgway Fire Department located at 251 N. Railroad Street, Ridgway, Colorado. Also, in attendance were Board Members Mary Reinhardt, Steve Duce, and Adam Johnson, RFPD Administrator Katy LaSala, RVFD Chief Chris Miller, and RFPD Legal Counsel Bo Nerlin.

MINUTES

❖ MOTION by Johnson to approve the 8/9/22 Special Meeting minutes as presented. SECOND by Reinhardt. ALL IN FAVOR.

BUSINESS

Proposed Mill Levy Question

LaSala stated that Magellan Strategies would like to hold a Zoom presentation to discuss the results of the ballot measure survey. She also suggested inviting the RVFD volunteers. Optimal dates were discussed. LaSala will reach out to Magellan and let everyone know the date and time.

LaSala presented the results of the ballot measure survey. Overall, 77% of the 216 respondents stated they would likely vote for a 4 mill levy increase in the November election. Johnson was “relatively encouraged” by the results, as was mirrored by all other board members. Johnson noted the positive responses were also encouraging for hiring staff, the connection of the severity of the drought as well as the increase in residences, but he also observed a few negative/opposed responses stating that they would be willing to vote for a lesser mill increase. Williams suggested we do more research into the reasoning of the negatives. Discussion ensued regarding the proposal of a 4 mill increase. Johnson suggested that 2 mills might be enough. Duce had concerns about asking for a mill levy increase at all. Williams and Reinhardt were satisfied with 4 mills. LaSala noted that Kraft, who was not present, also believes 4 mills is suitable.

Nerlin suggested the Board sign a resolution to adopt the ballot language at the next regular district meeting on 9/7/22 so that the district can legally prepare advertising materials beforehand, which they will not be permitted to do after the ballot language is adopted. The Board agreed and directed Nerlin to draft a final ballot question and resolution at 4 mills to be presented at the 9/7/22 district meeting.

LaSala was directed to create banners and flyers to be utilized and handed out during the Labor Day Parade. Reinhardt and Johnson will also set up a tent during the Ouray County Rodeo on Monday, September 5th, to pass out flyers and answer questions from the public. Williams also suggested having a presence at the Farmer’s Markets. LaSala will look into it.

❖ MOTION by Williams to nominate Katy LaSala as the Designated Election Officer for the 2022 November Election Mill Levy Ballot Initiative. SECOND by Johnson. ALL IN FAVOR.

OTHER NON-AGENDA BUSINESS

Miller noted that he has been working with a representative from the Department of Public Safety regarding our ISO classification. While we won’t have the results for several months, he stated the findings were looking favorable for our district. No action was taken at this time.

ADJOURNMENT

❖ MOTION by Reinhardt to Adjourn. Second by Duce. ALL IN FAVOR

Meeting Adjourned at 6:23 pm.

Respectively Submitted,
-Katy