

**Ridgway Fire Protection District**  
**Regular Meeting**  
**October 5<sup>th</sup>, 2022**

**CALL TO ORDER**

Meeting called to order at 5:30 pm by Board Chair, Christen Williams, at the Ridgway Fire Department located at 251 N. Railroad Street, Ridgway, Colorado. Also, in attendance were Board Vice-Chair Pam Kraft, Board Members Steve Duce and Adam Johnson, RVFD Fire Chief Chris Miller, District Administer Katy LaSala, and Ouray County Plaindealer Journalist Kylea Henseler. Board Treasurer, Mary Reinhardt was excused.

**FINANCIALS**

LaSala reported that, on behalf of the District, she has submitted invoices totaling \$220,200, with \$63,096 in equipment revenue, to the Department of Fire Prevention and Control (DFPC) for the wildland team's two previous assignments.

**BILLS**

❖ MOTION by Johnson to approve financials as presented. SECOND by Kraft. ALL IN FAVOR.

**MINUTES**

❖ MOTION by Kraft to approve the 9/7/22 minutes as presented. SECOND by Duce. ALL IN FAVOR.

**OLD BUSINESS**

**Policy Creation Update**

Chief Miller reported that he has not worked on any policy creation documents and does not plan on doing so until the winter. Johnson asked if we should schedule a workshop to complete the policies. Miller stated that he and his officers cannot attend any workshops pertaining to the issue until at least November. No action was taken at this time.

**2022 Election**

Kraft prepared a one-page letter that she would like to have mailed and emailed to our District constituents that highlights why the RFPD Board is requesting a tax increase. The other Board members were receptive to it with a few minor edits. Chief Miller supported it whole-heartedly to help answer the many questions that have been asked of him lately. Kraft will get the final draft to LaSala tomorrow, and LaSala will have a mailing service (paid for by the Committee to Support RFPD 6A) send it.

Kraft and Johnson will attend the Ridgway Town Council Meeting on Wednesday, October 12<sup>th</sup> to discuss the ballot initiative and answer questions from the public.

Johnson noted that the RVFD firefighters plan on canvassing the town of Ridgway on Saturday, October 15<sup>th</sup> to promote the ballot initiative.

**2023 Budget Discussion**

Johnson questioned whether we would receive funds from the increase in District mills in 2023 if approved by voters. LaSala noted that she has referred with the County Assessor, County Clerk, and our legal counsel regarding the question, and all three parties said that we will receive any increase in revenue due to the increased mill levy, if approved, in the beginning of 2023. This is the reason she has prepared two budget drafts: one with our current mills and the other with 7.591 mills.

Kraft and Williams requested LaSala research the purpose of the \$312,500 in Board Designated funds. She will speak with our accountants and attorney and bring an answer back to the Board at the November meeting.

Chief Miller stated that he plans on sending two trucks on wildland assignments in 2023, and as such, he recommended that we double the Government Reimbursement line item as well as adjust all relating Wildland line items. Williams and Kraft asked if we need to budget for additional wildland apparatus next year. Chief Miller said we can use the trucks we have and suggested budgeting for a new Wildland truck in 2024. Williams remarked that we should create a plan for what apparatus we will need soon and when we, ideally, would like to purchase them.

The 2023 Budget discussion will continue at the November Board meeting.

## **CHIEF'S REPORT**

Chief Miller noted that RVFD Firefighter Mike Trahan would like to schedule a press conference with all the Ouray County Fire Chiefs as well as the OCEMS Chief Paramedic to discuss why everyone is having a hard time getting and retaining volunteers. The Board was very receptive to the notion. Chief Miller will update everyone on any possible future events.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

### **Building Odor**

LaSala and Chief Miller explained that a few times a year, an awful sewer smell arises in the building and takes several days to dissipate. Miller guesses that it is happening when the Town pushes its sewer pumps up as the smell has also been known to occur in other town buildings. He has been in contact with a plumber who suggested the vents may not be long enough. Williams tasked Miller with hiring a plumber to thoroughly examine our plumbing system and have it fixed if possible.

### **RVFD/OCEMS Open House**

LaSala stated that the Open House will be held from noon to 5 pm on Saturday, October 22<sup>nd</sup> to show the public who we are, what we do, and to try to recruit new volunteers. The Board is invited and encouraged to attend.

### **2022 Appreciation Banquet**

LaSala noted that the Banquet, which is put on by the RFPD Board to show appreciation to our firefighters, will be on December 10<sup>th</sup>. The invitations should be in the mail soon.

## **OTHER NON-AGENDA BUSINESS**

## **ADJOURNMENT**

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

Meeting Adjourned at 7:00 pm.

Respectively Submitted,  
-Katy