

Ridgway Fire Protection District
Regular Meeting
September 7th, 2022

CALL TO ORDER

Meeting called to order at 5:31 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 and Adam Johnson, RFPD District Administrator Katy LaSala (via phone), RVFD Fire Chief Chris Miller, RFPD Legal Attorney Bo Nerlin (via Zoom), Ouray County Plaindealer reporter Kylea Henseler.

FINANCIALS

Approval of the August 2022 financials were pushed to the next District Board meeting.

MINUTES

❖ MOTION by Reinhardt to approve the 8/23/22 Special Meeting minutes as presented. SECOND by Johnson. ALL IN FAVOR.

OLD BUSINESS

Reinhardt Cleaning Contract

❖ MOTION by Williams to hire Mary Reinhardt as a housekeeping contractor with the RFPD with the acknowledgement that Miss Reinhardt must recuse herself from any present and future conversation on the issue. SECOND by Johnson. ALL IN FAVOR.

OCEMS Lease Amendment

Nerlin presented a draft of the amended RFPD/OCEMS lease agreement, which lessens the OCEMS lease amount to \$24,000 while also allowing the RFPD to utilize one of the bedrooms and bathrooms as needed. He then requested that the Board allow him to present the agreement to the Ouray County Attorney's Office as well as the County Manager with the proposed terms and then bring it back the Board for final approval. LaSala stressed the need to have it signed by all parties before January 1, 2023. Johnson asked if anyone had discussed the lease agreement with OCEMS Chief Kim Mitchell. LaSala stated that she had spoken with Chief Mitchell and that OCEMS is happy with the proposal while also noting that the County is discussing building a new facility that will ultimately house OCEMS. The board took that into consideration but decided to further discuss it if/when the construction of the new facility is approved by the County. The Board approved Nerlin's request to present the amended lease agreement to the Ouray County officials and made a note to add the discussion to the December RFPD Board meeting.

Ballot Initiative

Johnson noted that the survey the District hired Magellan Strategies to present to our constituents showed very positive results and is encouraging.

Nerlin presented the ballot language proposal. Discussion ensued regarding the number of monies we need to list on the ballot language. It was decided to list the number at \$400,000, which is estimated and based on the increase in mills to 7.591.

❖ MOTION by Reinhardt to accept ballot language to request a tax increase of 4 mills bringing the total mills to 7.591, not to exceed \$400,000 in additional revenue during the first fiscal year. SECOND by Johnson. ALL IN FAVOR.

CHIEF'S REPORT

Chief Miller noted that we have had fewer calls during the last month, but those we have had have been predominately car accidents. We have the annual Colorado Fire Academy training in Ignacio coming up at the end of the month. He ordered the new extrication tool, which should be here in November.

Miller requested authorization to purchase a 1997 4,000-gallon tender to be used on wildland assignments as well as at home. He stated the truck will need additional modifications and has 4,000 miles on a rebuilt manual transmission but will make more money than the Type 6 Engine we already send. LaSala noted that the tenders do not get called as often and thus, won't make us as much money. Chief Miller disagreed. Reinhardt noted that less and less people these days know how to operate a manual transmission. Johnson and LaSala noted the age of the truck. LaSala further questioned the legitimacy of asking our constituents to support a tax increase with one of the reasons being we want to purchase new apparatus and then turning around and purchasing a 25-year-old truck. Chief Miller noted that it's a business, the truck is in good shape, and purchasing a truck for a low price makes more sense than purchasing a new truck for over \$200,000. Further, he stated that the more money the District can raise on its own by sending more trucks on wildland assignments, the less money we need to request from our constituents. Reinhardt questioned where we will store it as our bays and outside parking areas are full. LaSala noted that as the Designated Election Officer and "face" of the ballot initiative, she would not promote the purchase of this truck. Johnson suggested getting a second opinion on the mechanical reliability of the truck, possibly from Board member Steve Duce.

Nerlin suggested holding a special meeting next week to discuss the topic further. Chief Miller stated that the seller needs to know our decision immediately. It was decided to hold a special meeting at 6pm on Thursday, September 15th, 2022.

NEW BUSINESS

Designation of 2023 Budget Officer

❖ MOTION by Reinhardt to designate Katy LaSala as the 2023 RFPD Budget Officer. SECOND by Johnson. ALL IN FAVOR.

ADJOURNMENT

❖ MOTION by Johnson to Adjourn. SECOND by Reinhardt. ALL IN FAVOR

Meeting Adjourned at 6:34 pm.

Respectively Submitted,
-Katy LaSala