

Ridgway Fire Protection District
Regular Meeting
December 7th, 2022

CALL TO ORDER

Meeting called to order at 5:33 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 Pam Kraft, Mary Reinhardt, Steve Duce, and Adam Johnson, Fire Chief Chris Miller, District Administrator Katy LaSala, RFPD Legal Counsel Bo Nerlin (via Zoom), and Ouray Plaindealer reporter Kylea Henseler.

FINANCIALS

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

MINUTES

❖ MOTION by Reinhardt to approve the 11/10/22 and 11/12/22 minutes as presented. SECOND by Kraft. ALL IN FAVOR.

OLD BUSINESS

Adoption of 2023 Budget

❖ MOTION by Reinhardt to adopt the RFPD 2023 Budget as presented. SECOND by Duce. ALL IN FAVOR.

FAMLI Program

❖ MOTION by Reinhardt to opt-out of the Colorado FAMLI Program and decline all participation. SECOND by Duce. ALL IN FAVOR.

OCEMS Lease Amendment

❖ MOTION by Duce to accept the RFPD-OCEMS lease agreement as presented. SECOND by Johnson. ALL IN FAVOR.

CHIEF'S REPORT

Chief Miller reported that November was busy as our firefighters responded to several incidents including providing mutual aid assistance to a structure fire at the Old Log Hill Village Clubhouse. He noted that the blue truck is being sent to Grand Junction to get wrapped. When it returns, it will become the new rescue truck for the winter as Rescue 1210 does not do well in winter driving conditions. He said that he is trying to get all major repairs done on the trucks that need it before the end of the year, but that may or may not happen due to time constraints.

NEW BUSINESS

Discussion Regarding Scheduling a Workshop to Begin Developing Job Descriptions & Qualifications for New Positions

Kraft suggested scheduling a workshop in January to begin developing job descriptions for new employees and suggested asking Telluride FPD Chief Bennett if he would join the workshop to give guidance. Chief Miller mentioned that he would like to hire four lieutenants in addition to a Chief, and that he has his officers currently working on creating job descriptions. He suggested also having a part-time Captain. Kraft recognized the benefits of having input from the current RVFD lieutenants but stated that the District needs to “do their part and do their research” in the creation of new employee positions. Duce questioned bringing in more people as it might hinder the ultimate goal. Johnson agreed with Kraft by saying that it would be good to “utilize Bennett and his experience,” but also agreed that it would be helpful to have input from the current RVFD officers. Williams suggested getting “skeleton” job descriptions from the RVFD officers and then have a workshop with Chief Bennett if he is available and the officers to discuss the pros and cons. Nerlin agreed with Kraft and suggested getting input from Montrose Fire District Chief, Tad Rowan as well, and then reviewing with legal counsel.

LaSala will reach out to Chief Bennett, and Miller will reach out to Chief Rowan to see if they would be available either 1/16/23 or 1/18/23 for a RFPD workshop.

FPPA Pension Changes

LaSala explained to the board that the State of Colorado mandates that any full-time firefighter who works over 1,600 hours annually must enroll in the FPPA's career pension plan at their time of hire. This plan is completely funded by employers and employees. Rates are determined by State statute and are as follows:

- Employee contributions consisting of 12% of their pensionable earnings
- Employer contributions consisting of 9.5% of the employee's pensionable earnings and increasing by .5% annually until it reaches 12%

The District and employees are also required to pay into a Death and Disability component, which is 3.4% of the employee's pensionable earnings. This can be split between the employer and employee however the District decides. Finally, contribution reports are required to be sent within 10 days of running each payroll. The Board asked LaSala to schedule a zoom meeting with an FPPA representative during the February regular meeting.

OTHER NON-AGENDA BUSINESS

Building Water Leak

LaSala and Miller explained to the board that a mouse chewed through the upstairs refrigerator ice-maker line, and water proceeded to dispense onto the floor, soaking through the floor and walls to the bay below. We do not have an estimate on the cost of the damage by the adjuster yet, but our insurance will cover the repairs minus the deductible. Serve Pro is currently conducting the flood mitigation. Miller will keep the board apprised of any progress.

ADJOURNMENT

❖ MOTION by Reinhardt to Adjourn until 1/4/23. Second by Duce. ALL IN FAVOR.

Meeting Adjourned at 6:37 pm.

Respectively Submitted,
-Katy LaSala