

Ridgway Fire Protection District
Special Meeting
March 20, 2023

CALL TO ORDER

Meeting called to order at 5:32 pm by Board Chair, Christen Williams, at the Ridgway Public Library located at 300 Charles Street, Ridgway, Colorado. Also, in attendance were RFPD Board Members Pam Kraft, Mary Reinhardt, and Adam Johnson; RFPD interim Fire Chief Chris Miller; RFPD Legal Counsel Bo Nerlin; District Administrator Katy LaSala; as well as Special District Association Executive Director Ann Terry.

In choosing to respect Miss Terry's time, Williams moved the Board Member Responsibilities Discussion to the beginning of the meeting and the discussion of the Fire Chief Contract with legal counsel, Bo Nerlin, to the end of the meeting.

Board Member Responsibilities Discussion with Special District Association (SDA) Executive Director, Ann Terry

Ann Terry met with the board to train and discuss the powers and responsibilities of special district board members and, as such, presented an outline for reference. She explained that the SDA serves to provide Special Districts resources, education, and advocacy.

Terry explained that it is best practice for the Board to hire the Fire Chief and then have the Fire Chief create job descriptions for and hire all other positions including firefighters and the administrator. Further, Terry explained it is the responsibility of the Board to create policies and for the Fire Chief to implement the policies.

Williams asked about how to train incoming Board members. Terry suggested having a "Board Social" and/or a "Meeting Orientation" that describes the different aspects of what the board does (budgets, calendar, current happenings, mill levies, etc.) and serves to build comradery. She also suggested the Board hold trainings with legal counsel and send them to the SDA workshops and Annual SDA Conference in Keystone.

Terry and the Board also discussed best practices for interagency communication as well as the importance of the open records act.

OLD BUSINESS

Resolution to Cancel the 2023 Election

**Immediately following the regular board meeting on 3/1/23, Mike Trahan withdrew his 2023 self-nomination form, making the number of candidates equal to the number of offices to be filled.*

- ❖ MOTION by Johnson to adopt the Resolution to Cancel the 2023 Ridgway Fire Protection District Election as presented. SECOND by Reinhardt. ALL IN FAVOR.

Seasonal Employee Contract

When discussing the proposed the Seasonal Employee Contract, Kraft asked whether the District had provided a contract for our seasonal wildland employees in the past to which LaSala stated "no." Nerlin suggested that the Board accept and implement the contract for liability purposes.

- ❖ MOTION by Kraft to adopt the seasonal employee agreement as presented specific for wildland employees. SECOND by Reinhardt. ALL IN FAVOR.

Fire Chief Contract

EXECUTIVE SESSION

- ❖ MOTION by Kraft to move into Executive Session regarding personnel matters concerning a person or position to be discussed, except if the employee who is the subject of the executive session has requested an open meeting; or if the personnel matter involves more than one employee, all of the employees must request an open meeting. 24-6-402(4)(f), c.r.s. SECOND by Johnson. ALL IN FAVOR.

Members of the Ridgway Fire Protection District Board entered into executive session at 6:59 pm.

Members of the Ridgway Fire Protection District Board exited the executive session at 7:24 pm.

NEW BUSINESS

New Alpine Cardholder Request

Discussion of the New Alpine Cardholder Request was pushed to the next District meeting.

OTHER NON-AGENDA BUSINESS

ADJOURNMENT

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

Meeting Adjourned at 7:25 pm until the 4/3/23 Special Meeting.

Respectively Submitted,

-Katy LaSala