

Ridgway Fire Protection District
Special Meeting
April 3rd, 2023

CALL TO ORDER

Meeting called to order at 5:34 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, and Adam Johnson; District Interim Fire Chief Chris Miller; District Administrator Katy LaSala; and RFPD legal representative Bo Nerlin.

MINUTES

- ❖ MOTION by Reinhardt to approve the 3/1/23 Regular Meeting minutes as corrected to omit the word “scenario” and to approve the 3/20/23 Special Meeting minutes as presented. SECOND by Johnson. ALL IN FAVOR.

FINANCIALS

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

OLD BUSINESS

Chief’s Contract

Discussion of the Chief’s Contract was postponed as a *uniform clause* needs to be included in the document. Nerlin will complete the additions and present the contract at the next meeting.

Member Survey Update

Johnson presented a draft survey for the Board to approve. He explained that the questions are based on topics that he believes need to be surveyed among the firefighters. Williams suggested presenting the survey to members at the 4/4 RVFD meeting to get as many completed as possible. Kraft suggested offering a “free beer” voucher from Colorado Boy to those willing to take the survey.

- ❖ MOTION by Reinhardt to adopt the survey as presented. SECOND by Kraft. ALL IN FAVOR.
- ❖ MOTION by Kraft to purchase Colorado Boy “free beer vouchers” as incentives for members to complete the survey; payment to be taken from the *Volunteer Appreciation* budget category. SECOND by Reinhardt. ALL IN FAVOR.

Building Repairs Update

ServePro Billing Dispute Update & Insurance Payout Timeline

Chief Miller noted that we received a check from our insurance company for \$36,319.12. The bid given to us by Dave Dorr is \$23,327.60. The invoices we have from ServePro total \$22,974.74. As such, the RFPD is responsible for \$9,983.22. As the ServePro invoice has been disputed by the RFPD board due to the questionable work they completed, Kraft and Williams asked Nerlin for his advice on what to do. Kraft suggested offering to pay a portion. Nerlin stated that, most likely, ServePro would look to sue the District for a breach of contract. He suggested that we put together a letter with a settlement offer. The Board tasked Nerlin with creating and sending a letter to ServePro in which the RFPD will offer to pay \$26,319.12 rather than \$36,319.12. Nerlin will advise the board of any progress at the next regular meeting.

Ladder Bay Door Bid

Chief Miller stated to the board that Dorr bid the alteration of the Ladder Truck Bay door at \$14,000, and as it is within the budget, we will be moving forward with that project as well.

New Alpine Cardholder Request

Chief Miller mentioned that he would like to get a debit card for our truck maintenance person, Nathan Judd. Kraft suggested dissolving all Alpine Bank Business Checking debit card accounts and opening a separate credit card account so

as to create limits on how much each user can spend, to which Johnson agreed. Williams suggested leaving the Administrator's and Chief's debit cards active with the understanding that they only be used in emergency situations. Kraft was not comfortable with that idea, stating that the use of only credit cards will limit the District's liability. It was decided to remove all debit cards from the Alpine Checking account.

- ❖ MOTION by Williams to open a credit card account with a requested \$10,000 credit limit and Katy LaSala, Chris Miller, Ronald Williams, Nathan Judd, and "future Captains" as authorized users. SO MOVED by Johnson. SECOND by Kraft. ALL IN FAVOR.
- ❖ MOTION by Reinhardt to add RFPD Engine Bosses, Mark Garcia and Cash House, as authorized users to the UMB credit card account, while also requesting an increase to a \$20,000 total credit limit on that account. SECOND by Kraft. ALL IN FAVOR.

NEW BUSINESS

Board Member Resignation & New Board Member Appointment

- ❖ MOTION by Reinhardt to accept the resignation of RFPD board member, Steve Duce. SECOND by Johnson. ALL IN FAVOR.

As Jamie Gomez was not in attendance, the Board moved his appointment to the next District meeting.

Fire Chief's Position Job Posting Discussion and Approval

- ❖ MOTION by Johnson to approve the Fire Chief's position job posting as presented. SECOND by Reinhardt. ALL IN FAVOR.

LaSala will email the job posting to the fire department members and post it in the office tomorrow, 4/4/23.

Fire Chief Hiring Committee

Williams stated that the hiring committee will review resumes, conduct interviews, and then make a recommendation for fire chief to the RFPD Board based on the interviewees' responses. After a recommendation is presented to the Board from the committee, the Board would then take that recommendation to the fire department members to get their approval. It will then be brought back to the RFPD Board, who will make the final decision. Nerlin suggested that the committee recommend more than one applicant if there are more than one. Additionally, that info needs to be made public. Williams recommended asking the following professionals to be on the committee: Telluride Fire Chief John Bennett, OCEMS Chief Paramedic Kim Mitchell, former Ouray Volunteer Fire Department Assistant Chief John Fidel, and Ouray County Sheriff Justin Perry. Nerlin suggested that Williams also be a member of the committee, to which she agreed. Williams will contact everyone and set up the initial meeting.

Discussion of Fire Chief Qualifications

Williams suggested that the Fire Chief should hold the following certifications or equivalent-

- FF2 which includes HazMat Awareness and Operations
- NIMS 100-300
- Fire Officer 1
- Proctor Certification

She also mentioned that, if the applicant does not hold these certifications, they provide real intent to train towards them.

OTHER NON-AGENDA BUSINESS

Kraft asked if the District should change our property/casualty insurance company and suggested using CIRSA at that is what the Town of Ridgway and, according to Chief Miller, as does the Ouray Fire Department under the City of Ouray. Nerlin noted that the Special District Association has a pool that they use. LaSala will investigate options and come back with her results at the next regular meeting.

ADJOURNMENT

❖ MOTION by Johnson to Adjourn until the April 17, 2023 Regular Meeting. Second by Reinhardt. ALL IN FAVOR.

Meeting Adjourned at 7:10 pm.

Respectively Submitted,

-Katy LaSala