

Ridgway Fire Protection District
Regular Meeting
April 15, 2024

CALL TO ORDER

Meeting called to order at 5:20 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 Adam Johnson, Pam Kraft, and Jamie Gomez; District Administrator Katy LaSala, District Fire Chief Chris Miller, and District Legal Counselor Bo Nerlin.

MINUTES

- ❖ MOTION by Johnson to approve the 3/18/24 minutes as presented. SECOND by Kraft. ALL IN FAVOR.

FINANCIALS

- ❖ MOTION by Kraft to close the CD 3038 account at Citizen's State Bank (CSB) at its maturity and deposit the fund's balance into the CSB Savings Account. SECOND by Johnson. ALL IN FAVOR.
- ❖ MOTION by Kraft to approve financials as presented. SECOND by Johnson. ALL IN FAVOR.

OLD BUSINESS

Designation of Ex-Officio Board Member

- ❖ MOTION by Johnson that the RFPD ratify and accept the recommendation from the Ridgway Fire Department members and appoint Chris Bolane as an ex-officio member to the RFPD board. SECOND by Kraft. ALL IN FAVOR.

Executive Session pursuant to C.R.S. 24-6-402(4)(b) and C.R.S. 24-6-402(4)(e) matters subject to negotiation and for the receipt of legal advice regarding the District's possible acquisition of real property.

- ❖ MOTION by Kraft to enter into Executive Session pursuant to C.R.S. 24-6-402(4)(b) and C.R.S. 24-6-402(4)(e) matters subject to negotiation and for the receipt of legal advice regarding the District's possible acquisition of real property.

The board entered into executive session at 5:40 pm.

The board exited executive session at 7:04 pm.

Website Accessibility

- ❖ MOTION by Kraft to designate Katy LaSala as the website accessibility officer. SECOND by Gomez. ALL IN FAVOR.
- ❖ MOTION by Kraft to accept the website accessibility policy as presented. SECOND by Gomez. ALL IN FAVOR.

CHIEF'S REPORT

Chief Miller presented a document containing the prior month's calls as well as goals for the upcoming month.

In discussion, Chief Miller noted that he and several officers traveled to Kansas to train on and pick up the Draft Commander. He also stated that many of the RFD firefighters, including himself and the officers, started the FF1 course through the pilot DFPC program. The new officer qrv was delivered to us last week. We still need to have radios installed and get it painted. We have initiated the special use permit for the training tower to be placed on the new property. Finally, we will be participating in a county interagency mock drunk driving accident on 5/3/24.

NEW BUSINESS

Resolution No. 2024-4, recognizing the District Chief's authority to certify third parties to prepare defensible space plans.

Nerlin stated that there are some local foresters in the area that would like to create private defensible space plans for private property, and there's a certification under the Colorado Common Interest Ownership Act that would allow for these local foresters to complete their private defensible space plans without having to go to their HOA for approval. Based on his review of the statute. The Fire Chief has the authority to grant this certification. After speaking with Chief Miller, he would like the board to officially recognize his authority as well.

Gomez noted that, because it is the West Region Wildfire Council and Spring Branch Forestry requesting the approval, he will abstain from the vote. He also wanted to clarify that both the West Region Wildfire Council and the Spring Branch Forestry are not in the business of grinding trees or conducting vegetation management work. They develop the plan for contractors to do the work.

❖ MOTION by Kraft to accept Resolution No. 2024-04, recognizing the District Chief's authority to certify third parties to prepare defensible space plans. SECOND by Johnson. ALL IN FAVOR.

OTHER NON-AGENDA BUSINESS

Dangerous Highway Review

Kraft requested that we create a letter to the Colorado Department of Transportation requesting that, between mile markers 112 and 114 on Highway 550, they review the area as it is arguably one of the most dangerous sections of roadway in Ouray County. She further suggested that we ask the other emergency agencies in the county (OCEMS, SO, Ridgway PD, etc.) to sign the letter. Williams stated that she will bring the issue to her boss at CDOT and ask what the proper procedure would be for us to initiate the conversation.

Firefighter Safety and Disease Prevention Grant

Chief Miller stated that we were awarded the 2023-2024 Firefighter Safety and Disease Prevention Grant from the DFPC to purchase a new turnout extractor. The grant is a reimbursement, and as such, we will need to purchase the extractor (\$15,000) and send them the receipt to be reimbursed. The Board was favorable to getting a new extractor. No action was needed or taken at this time.

ADJOURNMENT

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

Meeting Adjourned to the 4/22/24 Special Meeting at .

Respectively Submitted,

-Katy LaSala