

Ridgway Fire Protection District
Regular Meeting
June 17, 2024

CALL TO ORDER & ROLL CALL

Meeting called to order at 5:05 p.m. by Board Chair Christen Williams, at the Ridgway Fire Department located at 251 N. Railroad Street, Ridgway, Colorado. Also, in attendance were Board Members Jamie Gomez, Adam Johnson, and Pam Kraft; Ex-officio Board Member Chris Bolane, District Fire Chief Chris Miller, District Administrator Katy LaSala; and Ouray Plaindealer representative Mike Wiggins.

CHANGES TO THE AGENDA INCLUDING ADDITIONS & DELETIONS

No additions or changes to the agenda were made.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

❖ MOTION by Gomez to approve the 5/20/24 meeting minutes as presented. SECOND by Kraft. ALL IN FAVOR.

APPROVAL OF FINANCIAL REPORTS

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

OLD BUSINESS

Board discussion concerning and updates on the 22327 Highway 550 Training and Maintenance Center

Chief Miller stated that we hired an electrician and laborer as well as rented a skid steer to demolish and clean out the grow room within the main bay in the new building. The equipment and apparatus that was outside is now being stored in that bay.

Miller also noted that drainage from the neighbor's irrigation water is flooding into and compromising a large portion of the southside of the property. To temporarily amend the problem and divert the water, he has dug a trench to the river. He requested that we purchase a culvert to permanently fix the issue soon.

Chief Miller also presented a quote describing what he would like to accomplish in the building and at the property, which totaled \$44,000, beginning with bringing the building up to the County's code, which would cost an estimated \$7,000.

❖ MOTION by Johnson to authorize expenditures not to exceed \$7,000 to go towards getting the certificate of occupancy as per Ouray County standards

Chief Miller also discussed getting a "special use permit" with Brian Sampson from the Ouray County Planning Department. He stated that Mr. Sampson illuded that we do not need a "special use permit" and could get a "change of use permit," but it is not required. Board members mentioned that they would like to investigate getting a "change of use permit" as it is currently designated as a marijuana grow facility. No action was taken on the subject.

Additionally, Chief Miller and legal counsel, Bo Nerlin, discussed creating an RFP for the remaining excavation that needs to be completed on the property. As Mr. Nerlin was not in attendance at the meeting, the topic was tabled to the next meeting.

Furthermore, Chief Miller and Mr. Nerlin have a meeting with the finance institution in July to discuss the future loan for the property. Chief Miller was tasked with bringing the information he learns from the meeting to the next meeting. Williams stated that she would like to have the loan details finalized by September.

Discussion regarding a new name for the property was tabled to the next meeting.

Board discussion regarding any updates on the proposed subdivision of RFPD property - Lot 26-B1, Trail Town Subdivision – that is currently listed as for sale

Chief Miller noted that the parking issue with Greenwood's Restaurant has been mostly fixed. Chief Miller will remove any remaining large rocks and the training tower soon. The training tower will be moved to the Maintenance and Training Center. Further discussion of the Trail Town property was pushed to the next meeting.

Board consideration of revised contract between Ridgway Fire Protection District and Lyons Gaddis

The Board did not receive the amended contract from Mr. Nerlin but authorized Chief Miller to send it to the Ouray Volunteer Fire Department for review when he receives it. Chief Miller will also forward it to the Board for review and discussion at the next meeting.

Update and Board discussion concerning the lease agreement between Ridgway Fire Protection District and Shipley Holdings LLC, dba Alternative Power Enterprises

Chief Miller noted that a contract has been signed between both Alternative Power Enterprises (APE) and the RFPD. APE is leasing only the 60x60 outdoor space with two Conex containers for \$1,000 per month, a 1-year lease that began on 6/15/24. Furthermore, a \$2,000 deposit was also paid by APE. No action was taken by the board.

CHIEF'S REPORT

Chief Miller presented a report stating that RFD personnel have responded to twenty-one incidents since 5/1/24. Many of these calls were car accidents as well as mutual aid with the OVFD.

All twenty-one fire personnel that were taking the FF1 academy have passed the written and physical exams. They now need to complete the Hazmat portion of the academy in September to receive their FF1 certifications. Chief Miller hopes that with so many of our firefighters completing the certification, our ISO rating should be lowered, which, in turn, will lower our insurance adjustment.

Chief Miller stated that the new Officer QRV is still out of service as we are still waiting on parts and for it to be wrapped.

Finally, Chief Miller stated that he would like to enter into a contract with Orkin to "de-mouse" both the fire station in Ridgway and Training and Maintenance Center. The estimated cost is \$1,300 per year. No action was taken by the Board at this time.

NEW BUSINESS

Board discussion of the proposed request to the Colorado Department of Transportation regarding the possible implementation of safety improvements on Highway 550 between mile markers 112 and 114

Williams stated that the Ouray County Commissioners and CDOT personnel did have a discussion regarding safety of the stretch of road last week. She suggested that the RFPD coordinate with the County so that everyone is on the same page. She also warned against asking for a speed adjustment study as it occasionally results in having the opposite effect from what is wanted by the requesting organization. For example, if we would like the speed limit to be reduced in that section of road, the study may show that it should be increased. Kraft suggested that we ask for the State to remove the passing lanes and replace them with double-yellow lines through that section. Williams noted that the decision to create passing lanes is predicted based on line-of-sight and all organizations involved are very aware of the amount of accidents through that section of road. She also noted that there is discussion to widen the road as a possible solution. However, water surrounding the road is an issue. Bolane suggested that the RFPD support the idea of widening the shoulders. Williams said that she would make a formal request from the RFPD to remove the passing lanes in the section between MM 112 and 114. No other action was taken at this time.

Board consideration of Proposal for a Compensation Guidelines and Study by Graves Consulting

LaSala presented to the Board a proposal from Graves Consulting to complete a compensation study as was requested by the Board to have completed this budget year. Williams suggested that we do not have the study done this year but later in the future. Kraft and Gomez stated that they believe it is important to stand by our employees and do the study this year. However, Kraft would like to use a different company that focuses more on Special Districts rather than

Municipalities. Miller questioned her stating that there is minimal difference in staff operations between Special Districts and Municipalities. Williams tasked LaSala to ask Graves Consulting for a list of fire districts that they have worked with and also get a quote from a few different companies. Gomez tasked her to reach out to Chief Bennett who Telluride Fire is using for their compensation study. LaSala will bring her findings back to the next meeting.

ADJOURNMENT

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

Meeting Adjourned at 6:17 pm.

Respectively Submitted,

-Katy LaSala