

Ridgway Fire Protection District
Regular Meeting
September 16, 2024

CALL TO ORDER & ROLL CALL

Meeting called to order at 5:00 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, Terry Schuyler, and Adam Johnson; ex-officio board member Chris Bolane, RFPD Chief Chris Miller; RFPD attorney Bo Nerlin; Blair & Associates accountant Brian Blair; and Ouray County Plaindealer reporter Lia Salvatierra.

CHANGES TO THE AGENDA INCLUDING ADDITIONS & DELETIONS

The agenda item – Executive Session pursuant to C.R.S. 24-6-402(4)(a) regarding the purchase, acquisition, lease, transfer or sale of any real property, to discuss the District's ownership of Lot 26, Trail Town Subdivision – was struck from the agenda as the board discussed the topic in an executive session at the 9/9/24 special meeting.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

- ❖ MOTION by Kraft to approve the 8/19/24 minutes as amended to include, "Nerlin stated that Williams executed an engagement letter with Lyons Gaddis *per board direction*..." SECOND by Johnson. ALL IN FAVOR.

APPROVAL OF FINANCIAL REPORT

Approval of the August financial report was tabled until the next regular meeting on October 21st, 2024.

OLD BUSINESS

Board discussion of financing the 22327 Highway 550 Training and Maintenance Center with Community Leasing Partners

Nerlin noted that Blake Klaus with Community Leasing Partners has received the financials and loan application from the District, and he will complete his underwriting with the goal being that drafted documents will be available for review at the October 21st meeting. Nerlin also noted that Mr. Klaus does not have the final interest rate yet but is aware that the District wants to pursue the long-term loan option. Nerlin then proposed having a drafted resolution available that could be signed if the board agrees to the loan terms.

Continuing the discussion, Nerlin also suggested that the District set a date in June for the annual payment to be due. He also mentioned that there is an option for prepayment if/when the Trail Town lot sells in which the payment terms could be adjusted which would create a principal reduction and, as such, lower annual payments. Finally, he stated that if the District were to want to refinance in a few years down the road, there would be a loan origination fee. The board was generally in favor of the proceeding with the loan with Community Leasing Partners. No action was taken at this time. Mr. Nerlin will bring the loan documents and a drafted resolution to the next District meeting.

CHIEF'S REPORT

Chief Miller reported that the wildland team was on an assignment near Reno, NV for the past week but is currently on their way home as they were released from the fire early due to a heavy de-escalation of fire activity on the incident. He was unsure if the engine will list again this season as our engine boss has upcoming prior commitments. Our call volume has slowed down significantly over the past month. We continue to train at the training center weekly, and we have a regional extrication class being taught by Holmatro in a few weeks as well as a few members attending the Colorado Firefighter's Academy in Ignacio at the end of the month. Finally, our banquet is this Saturday.

NEW BUSINESS

Board review and discussion of 2023 audit as presented by Brian Blair of Blair & Associates

Due to technical difficulties, Brian Blair was unable to deliver his presentation. The Board discussed the 2023 Audit Report based on the documents provided by both LaSala and Blair.

- ❖ MOTION by Kraft accept the Audit from Blair Associates for fiscal year 2023. SECOND by Schuyler. ALL IN FAVOR.

Board discussion and consideration of the creation of a Ouray County Emergency Service Agencies

Consolidation sub-committee

Nerlin recommended that any further conversations regarding Emergency Services Consolidation be at committee level. Recommendations from the committees would then be presented in an open meeting. We would then move forth with gathering public engagement.

Nerlin then suggested that Chief Miller meet with all the County Emergency Services Chiefs and propose a structure for an emergency services consolidation subcommittee. Then each Chief would go back to their perspective boards and give them the details on a meeting schedule for the subcommittee and suggest that each board appoint one or two members to be part of the committee. After a throughout discussion, the board tasked Nerlin to meet with Chief Miller to propose options for a committee structure. Chief Miller will then relay those suggestions to the other Chiefs, and Nerlin will present it to the RFPD Board.

Board discussion and consideration of the creation of a 2025 Budget sub-committee.

The Board tasked Miller and LaSala with bringing a draft 2025 budget to the next regular meeting, in which they will have a preliminary discussion and then create a budget sub-committee.

Board discussion of operations at 22327 Highway 550 property

Chief Miller reported we are still waiting for the county to give us our permits for the training center building. He added, "We have everything we need for the CO itself, but there was some confusion about the special use and change of use permits...and the team is in a holding pattern, waiting for county approval." The board tasked Miller with following up with permits on the property.

Board review and discussion of proposed 2025 PSHCG Healthcare Plans

The Board reviewed and discussed the provided 2025 healthcare plans by the Public Sector Health Care Group (PSHCG).

- ❖ MOTION by Schuyler to maintain the employer-paid PSHCG health insurance plan (Plan A 1500) as well as any other PSHCG UHC PPO or Surest Medical Plan not to exceed \$793/month per employee with Metlife Dental Plan A and Metlife Vision Plan A also being employer-paid. Spousal, Children, and Family medical, dental, and vision plans as well as other ancillary plans are to be employee-paid. SECOND by Kraft. ALL IN FAVOR.

ADJOURNMENT

- ❖ MOTION by Johnson to adjourn to the 10/21/24 regular meeting. SECOND by Schuyler. ALL IN FAVOR.

Meeting Adjourned at 6:12 pm.

Respectively Submitted,
-Katy LaSala