

Ridgway Fire Protection District

Regular Meeting Minutes

August 18, 2025

Upstairs Common Room, Ridgway Firehouse, 251 N Railroad St.

CALL TO ORDER & ROLL CALL

Meeting called to order at 5:45 PM by Board Chair Christen Williams at the Ridgway Fire Department, 251 N. Railroad Street, Ridgway, Colorado. Also present: Pam Kraft, Terry Schuyler, Adam Johnson; Legal Counsel Bo Nerlin; ex officio member Chris Bolane; and Chief Miller.

OATH ADMINISTRATION OF NEW BOARD MEMBER – JAMIE GOMEZ

As Mr. Gomez was not present, the administration oath his oath was moved to the next board meeting.

CHANGES TO THE AGENDA INCLUDING ADDITIONS & DELETIONS

By consensus, the Executive Session was moved to occur at the end of the meeting after completion of regular business items.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

❖ MOTION by Adam Johnson to approve the minutes of the previous meeting. SECOND by Pam Kraft. ALL IN FAVOR.

APPROVAL OF FINANCIAL REPORT

The Board reviewed the July financial report, including Department of Public Safety (aka the Department of Fire Prevention & Control) payments for wildland services. Noted that Vehicles & Equipment expenditures are at ~95% of budget, with a \$50,000 contingency remaining unspent.

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

OLD BUSINESS

Update on Authority Progress

Counsel reported a September 3 (1:30 PM) county-organized Zoom for attorneys and representatives of each authority to revisit proposed changes and discuss bylaws concepts.

Action: Nerlin will send the Zoom link to board members.

Action: LaSala will notice the meeting as an incidental board meeting if more than three members plan to attend.

Ongoing planning with Nate McCullough on authority structure, including command structure, approximate wages, scheduling, and training plans aligned to JPRs.

- Proposed model: One Authority Chief with station captains for districts and an Operations Chief initially, including start-up, three-year, and ten-year plans.
- Governance & finance: Initial formation via intergovernmental agreement approved by participating boards (no immediate voter approval required). Any future mill levy changes would require a vote.
- Potential consolidation benefits (not guaranteed): improved insurance ratings through increased staffing, full-time employees, shorter response times, and county-wide training standards.

Action: Nerlin to request an update from Scott regarding the property owners meeting and share with the Board.

SMPA Extra Service Meter

Discussion of options for the separate service meter currently costing \$54/month: retire at \$2,000 reinstatement fee, keep active at \$28/month with no usage, or repurpose.

Action: Terry Schuyler to negotiate with SMPA for a lower idle service fee (targeting ~\$20/month).

CHIEF'S REPORT

Chief reported 278 calls for service year-to-date: 186 EMS, 30 extrication, 17 false alarms, 30 fire, 2 hazardous conditions, 1 special duty, and 7 wildland. Average 3.6 responders per non-EMS call.

Wildland update: Approximately \$82,000 earned from a 17-day deployment to the South Rim Fire. Revenue projected to exceed \$100,000 this year.

Chief Miller noted that he would like to create a new administrative Wildland Coordinator position for billing and managing training and documentation.

Action: Miller tasked with creating a proposal to bring back to the next meeting.

Williams asked if an Alternative Power Representative has signed an updated lease agreement.

Action: Nerlin to send a new DocuSign link to Williams for the Alternative Power agreement or provide a paper copy at the office.

NEW BUSINESS

EXECUTIVE SESSION

- ❖ Motion by Kraft to enter into Executive Session pursuant to C.R.S. 24-6-402(4)(f) to discuss proposed compensation ranges for District employees. SECOND by Johnson. ALL IN FAVOR.

The Board entered Executive Session at 6:22 pm.

The Board exited Executive Session at 6:41 pm.

ADJOURNMENT

- ❖ MOTION by Kraft to adjourn. SECOND by Schuyler. ALL IN FAVOR.

Meeting adjourned at 6:43 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,

-Katy LaSala