

Ridgway Fire Protection District

REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

1.19.2026

Upstairs Common Room, Ridgway Firehouse, 251 N Railroad Street, Ridgway, Colorado

CALL TO ORDER & ROLL CALL

Meeting called to order at 5:00PM by Board Chair Christen Williams. Board members present included Christen Williams, Adam Johnson, Jamie Gomez, Pam Kraft, and Terry Schuyler via Zoom. Also present were Katy LaSala (Wildland Coordinator), Kayla Fairchild (District Administrator), Bo Nerlin (Legal Counsel), Chris Miller (Fire Chief), and Chris Bolane (ex officio).

CHANGES TO THE AGENDA

No changes were made to the agenda.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

- ❖ MOTION by Adam Johnson to approve the 12.15.2026 minutes as presented. SECOND by Jamie Gomez. ALL IN FAVOR.

APPROVAL OF FINANCIAL REPORT

The Board Reviewed the 2025 financial report. LaSala reported all the 2025 DFPC reimbursements have been paid in full. District saw a growth of \$171,000 from the prior year budget.

- ❖ MOTION by Jamie Gomez to approve financials as presented. SECOND by Adam Johnson. ALL IN FAVOR.

OLD BUSINESS

New District Administrator

- ❖ Board Chair, Christen Williams, formally introduced Kayla Fairchild as the incoming District Administrator.

New Apparatus Purchase

- ❖ Chief Miller reported that Captain Williams and Firefighter Derek Fleischer, who also serves as a mechanic, traveled to Alabama, New York, and Michigan to inspect several ladder trucks. Following their return, they provided a recommendation to the Board regarding the purchase that best meets the district's operational needs. After discussion, the Board directed District Administrator Fairchild to allocate \$75,000 from the RFPD Alpine Savings account toward the purchase.
- ❖ Nerlin introduced Resolution 2026-01 for the purchase of new apparatus for the Board to review.

Authority Progress

- ❖ Legal Counsel Nerlin provided an update on the regional authority progress discussions, including progress of governance and participation considerations. He reported that no January meeting was held, and the next scheduled meeting is February 5th, 2026.
- ❖ No action was taken.

Captain Position

- ❖ Captain position recruitment is progressing; Chief is targeting candidates with a strong training background. Chief stated that he has three interested applicants from the Grand Junction and Montrose areas.
- ❖ No action was taken at this time. Additional information and next steps in the hiring process will be brought forward for Board review at a future meeting.

CHIEF'S REPORT

- ❖ Chief reported significant recruitment success with 10 new volunteers joining since November, members joining have Wildland experience and EMS interest.
- ❖ Chief noted that training operations will shift to include a donated house from Storme Lowery for weekly training sessions on Wednesday's. Training will accommodate up to 18 people including new Ouray participants.
- ❖ EMS integration begins in April with combined crews operating on 48/96 hour shifts and will include daily training alternating between EMS and fire disciplines.
- ❖ Training center improvements include completing shipping container facility by April and conducting river excavation work in February to enhance the property.

NEW BUSINESS

Meeting Location

- ❖ Meeting location alternatives were discussed including the library, training center, Decker room, or SMPA conference room to accommodate future authority meetings and office relocations. No action was taken at this time.

Trail Town Lot

- ❖ Real estate contract with Ridgway Real Estate for the Trail Town Subdivision expired in December, requiring renewal discussion and exploration of price adjustments due to limited buyer interest.
- ❖ Ridgway Real Estate representative Charles Mueller and request that he attend the 2.16.26 board meeting to discuss further.

MOTION TO ADJOURN

- ❖ MOTION by Adam Johnson. Second by Jamie Gomez. ALL IN FAVOR

Meeting Adjourned at 5:57PM.

Respectively Submitted,
-Kayla Fairchild

The next RFPD Board meeting is scheduled for 2/16/2026.