

Ridgway Fire Protection District

REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

March 23, 2026

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

CALL TO ORDER & ROLL CALL

Meeting called to order at 5:04 by Board Chair Christen Williams. Also, in attendance were Board Members Pam Kraft, Adam Johnson, Jamie Gomez, Terry Schuyler. Also present were Chris Miller (Fire Chief), Katy LaSala (Wildland Coordinator), Kayla Fairchild (District Administrator), Bo Nerlin (Legal Counsel), Chris Bolane (ex officio), and Charles Mueller (Ridgway Real Estate Broker).

CHANGES TO THE AGENDA INCLUDING ADDITIONS & DELETIONS

Board Chair Christen Williams recommends moving guest presenter Charles Mueller to the front of the agenda and delaying the executive session until the end of the meeting. Motion by Johnson. Second by Schuyler. ALL IN FAVOR

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

- ❖ MOTION by Schuyler to approve the February minutes as presented. SECOND by Williams. ALL IN FAVOR.

APPROVAL OF FINANCIAL REPORT

- ❖ District Administrator Fairchild provided an overview of key financial updates, including:
 - Receipt of rent payment from OCEMS
 - February Tax Distribution from the Ouray County Treasurer
 - Deposit placed to secure the new wildland apparatus
 - Notification that WESTCO Dispatch is considering increasing fees from \$5,000 to \$10,000 to support technology upgrades. Chief noted that fees from WESTCO have not increased in 10 years.
- ❖ MOTION by Schuyler to approve financials as presented. SECOND by Johnson. ALL IN FAVOR.

OLD BUSINESS

Authority Progress Update

- ❖ Chief Miller discussed the transition of RFPD and OCEMS to a unified shift schedule beginning April 1. He reviewed the shift structure and expressed optimism about improved interagency collaboration.

Training Center Revenue Discussion

- ❖ No updates were available. The Board requested this item be revisited at the April meeting.

Admin/Wildland Office Relocation

- ❖ Board members expressed interest in remodeling the Verizon room to serve as administrative office space.

Wildland EMS MOU

- ❖ Katy LaSala reported that Ouray County has not yet made a decision regarding the proposal. OCEMS Chief Nate McCullough will present the topic at a future county meeting.

Wildland Engine Purchase

- ❖ Katy LaSala and Chief Miller presented the board with two financing options for the new Wildland apparatus.
 - \$200,000 or \$225,000 loan options
 - 7-year or 10-year terms
 - Payments beginning January 2027 with no down payment
- ❖ Kraft inquired about early payoff penalties; none were identified. LaSala recommended the \$225,000 option to allow for necessary equipment purchases. The Board agreed to proceed with the \$225,000 loan over a 10-year term with no down payment. Chief Miller and District Administrator Fairchild will move forward with the loan documentation for the April meeting.

Board Meeting Location

- ❖ The Board agreed to maintain the current meeting location. Chair Williams requested holding occasional meetings at the training center to observe ongoing improvements.

CHIEF'S REPORT

- ❖ Chief Miller reported on the status of the new ladder truck. While transporting the vehicle, it broke down near Denver and was towed to Grand Junction. The truck requires a new transmission, with an estimated cost of approximately \$25,000.

NEW BUSINESS

UMB Card Resolution

- ❖ District Administrator Fairchild presented Resolution No. 2026-03 to add the new District Administrator to the UMB account.
- ❖ MOTION by Kraft to adopt Resolution No. 2026-03 Terry Schuyler seconds. ALL IN FAVOR

Wildfire Resiliency Code Adoption

- ❖ Legal Counsel Nerlin introduced the Wildfire Resiliency Code and associated mapping. He recommended postponing adoption until July, pending updated state mapping. The Board agreed to table adoption until additional information is available.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

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 possible sale of RFPD property located at Lot 26-B1, Trail Town Subdivision

- ❖ MOTION by Johnson to enter into 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 possible sale of RFPD property located in the Ridgway USA subdivision. SECOND by Shuyler. ALL IN FAVOR.

The Board entered executive session at 6:36PM and exited at 6:43PM.

ACTION FOLLOWING EXECUTIVE SESSION

- ❖ MOTION by Kraft to approve updated 6-month listing agreement with Charles Mueller and Kathy Redmond at Ridgway Real Estate for the property located at Lot 26-B1, Trail Town Subdivision. SECOND by Johnson. ALL IN FAVOR.

MOTION TO ADJOURN

- ❖ MOTION by Johnson to adjourn. Second by Schuyler. ALL IN FAVOR.

Meeting Adjourned at 6:45PM.

Respectively Submitted,
Kayla Fairchild
District Administrator