

Ridgway Fire Protection District

REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

June 8, 2026

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

CALL TO ORDER & ROLL CALL

Meeting called to order at 5:14PM by Board Chair Christen Williams. Board members in attendance were Jamie Gomez, Terry Schuyler and Chris Bolane (ex officio). Also, in attendance were Chief Chris Miller, Wildland Coordinator Katy LaSala, and District Administrator Kayla Fairchild.

CHANGES TO THE AGENDA INCLUDING ADDITIONS & DELETIONS

Board of County Commissioners requested review and signature of the termination agreement for the Ouray County Electronic Telephone Service Authority (OCETSA) by RFPD Board.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

❖ MOTION by Shuyler to approve the May minutes as presented. SECOND by Gomez. ALL IN FAVOR.

APPROVAL OF FINANCIAL REPORT

- ❖ MOTION by Schuyler to approve financials as presented. SECOND by Gomez. ALL IN FAVOR.
 - Williams requested staff to explore additional quotes for the District's vehicle insurance coverage to ensure competitive pricing.

OLD BUSINESS

Wildland Engine Purchase Update

- The Chief reported that the new wildland engine has been delivered. The newly acquired engine, along with the district's existing Type 6 engine, has been listed to assignment. An engine boss from Telluride will run one of the engines through the end of the month. Chief reported that the new engine performed well during transport and is operating as expected.

Authority Progress Update

- Administrator Fairchild provided an update regarding the June authority meeting. Barthold Lichtenbelt provided a presentation focusing on the long-term vision and organizational structure of the authority.

Wildland EMS Lease

- There were no important updates on the lease. Chief and LaSala will travel to Placerville on June 9th to have equipment inspected.

CHIEF'S REPORT

Chief Miller reported that the district experienced a busy operational month, including evacuation operations and extrication. The district responded to six incidents during the month of May. The most significant call was a hay fire on May 31st. Chief expressed his pleasure with how Tyler Ferguson led the response to the call.

NEW BUSINESS

Captain Position Structure

The board discussed the proposed Captain position, certification requirements, compensation structure and employee benefits.

Chief Miller recommended:

- Hiring Tyler Ferguson as a Captain on a provisional basis.
- Allowing up to 18 months to complete all required certifications.
- Establishing a starting salary at \$83,000, with salary adjustments as certifications are completed.
- Delaying adoption of the complete tiered pay structure until the Lieutenant tier has been finalized.

The board also discussed the district's employee insurance benefits. It was noted that health insurance is included as part of the position, and employees may elect to participate or decline coverage.

The board further discussed moving forward with hiring a Tier-5 employee under the proposed compensation structure.

- ❖ Motion by Schuyler to authorize Chief Miller to hire Ferguson on a provisional basis under the proposed employment terms. SECOND by Gomez. ALL IN FAVOR.

OCETSA Documentation

The board reviewed documentation related to the termination of OCETSA and transition. Although the agreement had been completed previously, Board signatures were required to finalize the governing documents.

- ❖ MOTION by Schuyler to accept termination agreement. SECOND by Gomez. ALL IN FAVOR

MOTION TO ADJOURN

- ❖ MOTION by Schuyler to Adjourn. SECOND by Gomez. ALL IN FAVOR

Meeting Adjourned at 6:13 p.m.

Respectively Submitted,
-Kayla Fairchild