

December 11, 2023

Rocky Ford, Colorado

The Board of Directors of the Rocky Ford Rural Fire Protection District of Otero County, Colorado met at the Rocky Ford Public Safety Building, Rocky Ford, Colorado, on December 11, 2023 at the hour of 5:00 P.M. The following persons were present, namely:

Present were Directors: Herman, Garcia, Weiss, Simmons, and Bond. Chief Ray Gonzales and budget officer Kelcie Proctor were also present. Visitors present were Jesse Smith and Seth Yeary.

Meeting was called to order at 5:00 P.M. at the Rocky Ford Public Safety Building by Director Herman.

The previous meeting minutes from November 11, 2023 were reviewed. A motion was made by Director Garcia and seconded by Director Simmons to approve the minutes as written. Motion Passed.

The monthly financials were then reviewed. First National Bank money market: \$56,987.41, Community Banks money market: \$103,128.85, Community Banks CD#5736: \$61,252.59, Community Banks CD#1301287: \$52,112.76, and First National Bank checking \$217,229.85. The total percent spent of budget income was 95.32%. A motion was made by director Garcia and seconded by Director Weiss to approve the monthly financials. Motion Passed.

The proposed budget for 2024 was approved on a motion made by Director Garcia and seconded by Director Bond. Motion Passed.

Director Bond made a motion to pay the monthly bills and pay Kelcie \$372.01 for fire deployment half percent admin fee. The motion was seconded by Director Simmons. Motion Passed.

Chief Gonzales then gave his report due to having to leave the meeting early. He is working on trying to streamline payments from the State for deployments. He is hoping to have it direct deposited into the bank account and not have to wait on receiving paper checks in the mail. A motion was made by Director Garcia and seconded by Director Bond to approve and give the go-ahead to receive payments via EFT and have Director Herman as the signor. Motion Passed. The City of Rocky Ford did write a check for bunker gear, just waiting to receive it. The district has a credit of \$1308 with ROI. No check will be issued as credit will be used for replacing gear when needed.

Seth Yeary then spoke about a 2017 F150 CSP vehicle priced at \$13,500.00. He would like to donate the money to the rural district to have the district purchase the vehicle and it be used for wildland assignments. A motion was made by Director Garcia to generously accept the donation from Seth Yeary and use it to purchase the 2017 Ford F150 CSP vehicle. The motion was seconded by Director Bond. Motion Passed.

The rural district is not receiving titles for vehicles from the County Clerk so chief will check on that issue. Engine 3 title was never processed. Fire Captain interviews are being conducted. The website has an estimated completion date of December 27th. It has been requested that the trucks have better operating fans. A quote was received from CoPro estimating a total of \$9315.00 for battery operated fans, not fuel. Seth then noted that there has been a rate increase to the vehicle types for fire assignments, so the district will be at an increased hourly rate.

Discussion of the pension board then took place. Director Weiss noted that a cost of living adjustment had been added to the pension checks and the board did not approve nor discuss this. He called FPPA and spoke with Sarah and she mentioned that FPPA does not do a payout for cost of living for volunteers. Director Herman will speak with Shelly on this matter.

Chief then gave a quick report on the quarterly timeline. The district has received \$730,283 for income and \$689,996 expenditures based on deployment revenues and all expenditures (with tonight's meeting included).

No new news on the public safety building.

No action taken on the mill levy / election.

The board then went into executive session at 5:56 p.m. with all board of directors present.

The board then exited executive session at 6:03 p.m. with all board of directors still present.

A motion was made by Director Garcia to pay bonuses as follows: Ray and Kelcie each receive \$2,000 and the full time employees receive \$1200.00. Motion was seconded by Director Bond.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 6:10 p.m. Director Garcia made a motion for adjournment and Director Weiss seconded. Motion Passed.

Secretary Rick Weiss