

**The Rye Fire Protection District**

**MINUTES OF THE RYE FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT  
BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING  
Regular Meeting February 21, 2022**

Present Directors – Mr. John Schaiberger, Mr. Rich Simpson, Mr. George McGoff, Mr. Wally Rice

Absent Directors – Mr. Mike Graber

Others – Acting Administrative Chief Jim Beach

The meeting was called to order at 5:00 p.m. by Mr. John Schaiberger, who chaired the meeting. Meeting was held in-person at 4497 Bent Brothers Drive, Colorado City Colorado.

**Roll Call**

Roll call was taken, and present members were introduced.

**Approval of Agenda**

Mr. Schaiberger asked for any additions or changes to the meeting agenda.

Motion to accept the agenda as posted for February 21, 2022.

Motion: Mr. Rice  
Second: Mr. McGoff

Further Discussion: None.

Aye: Mr. John Schaiberger, Mr. Simpson, Mr. McGoff, Mr. Rice  
Abstain: None  
Nay: None

**Receive of Act on Board Correspondence**

Mr. Austin Clennin presented a \$500.00 check to the Department from a donor who wants to be anonymous. The donor recently moved to the area and wanted to express their support for Rye Fire.

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### Public Comments on Non-Agenda Items

None.

### Approval of Minutes

Minutes from Special Meeting of January 24, 2022. Mr. Rice noted that he was not present last month and did not vote on the movement of money to the ColoTrust Capital Account.

Motion to approve the minutes for the Special Meeting of January 24, 2022 with the removal of Mr. Rice's vote as noted.

Motion: Mr. Simpson  
Second: Mr. Schaiberger

Further Discussion: None.

Aye: Mr. John Schaiberger, Mr. Simpson, Mr. McGoff, Mr. Rice  
Abstain: None  
Nay: None

### Treasurer's Report

#### Accounts Receivable, Accounts Payable January 2022.

Mr. Mark Paolucci passed out the Fund Financial Statements. The statements note a February 28, 2022 date which Mr. Paolucci should be January 31, 2022. He noted that the dollar values noted will be similar, but not exact. Mr. Paolucci will send Beach the correct statements in the morning. It was noted that the current cash balance at Bank of San Juans was just over \$103,000 including a check that will be deposited tomorrow from Custer County. Mr. Paolucci asked if he could be E-Mailed the Statements by the 10<sup>th</sup> of each month by Custer and Huerfano for disbursements that will occur in that month. The COLOTrust accounts shown on the Balance Sheet are correct except for some interest that may have accrued in January. Mr. Paolucci noted that he did not get any statements from COLOTrust for January. Mr. Paolucci is having troubles accessing the COLOTrust Accounts and was asked to have Chief Bennett assist. For the Statement of Revenues, Expenditures and Change in Fund Balance Statement, the first set of three columns is for February and the second set of three columns is for January + February. The last two columns reflect the annual budget and amount unexpended. There was a lengthy discussion on how revenue is reported using Governmental Accounting Rules for items such as County Taxes. The financial records show revenue for the month even if it hasn't been dispersed to Rye Fire. The Proof of Cash Report for the G/L Account #1.1010 was reviewed showing the beginning amount and then deposits and then checks cleared. On a separate page, a listing of all uncleared checks were shown. The same report was reviewed for the

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G/L Account #1.1020. Employee Health Insurance Payments will be automatically paid starting in March versus current checks having to be written and sent early to prevent any delays.

Motion to approve the Treasurer's Report and Accounts Payable for January 2022.

Motion: Mr. Rice  
Second: Mr. McGoff

Further Discussion: None.

Aye: Mr. Schaiberger, Mr. Simpson, Mr. McGoff, Mr. Rice  
Abstain: None  
Nay: None

For the EMS Billings, Chief Bennett has been off sick with COVID, so no reports were presented.

### Capital Projects.

Acting Administrative Chief Beach presented a proposal a local painter for Station #1. This station will require some extensive work to repair the exterior. The Board noted that due to the dollar value, they asked Beach to prepare a scope of work and get several bids.

## Fire Chief Report

Statistics. In the Month of January 2022, Rye Fire responded to 66 calls for service of which 55 were EMS related and 11 were Fire related.

Administrative/Operations. Acting Administrative Chief Beach hasn't been able to get any information from the EMS Billing Company, so has reached out to Chief Bennett for assistance.

Included in the 2022 Budget was an 8% across the board pay increase for staff, which went into effect January 1<sup>st</sup> and was compensated in their February 1<sup>st</sup> check. Further incentives will be reviewed for implementation in the 2<sup>nd</sup> quarter of 2022.

Included in the 2022 Budget were new Class B Uniforms (daily uniforms) for all staff. All staff will be fitted and expected to arrive by the end of February. This will ensure constancy amongst all staff, including new hires.

New gear racks for 24 staff were installed at Station 2 to replace the old wooden racks that were installed about 20 years ago.

New LED light strips are being installed. About 50% complete with the installation. Installation is being completed by Chief Christian.

A total of 35 attended the 2021 Emergency Responders Dinner held at the Roundtable Restaurant at Hollydot Golf Course. Each responder received a safety light that will be worn during emergencies that provides flashing lights as a safety device from the Board.

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The replacement Medical Coordinator for Rye Fire search continues. The Medical Coordinator is who all Rye Fire EMS personnel operate under their license. This person provides review of Trip Sheets, periodic continuing educations, review of protocols, and waivers. Interviews were held this month.

The RFPD Website is being upgraded to allow posting of public announcements.

Prevention. We continue to post monthly Facebook safety tips.

We continue to provide Mitigation Assessments for homeowners throughout the District.

We are continuing our reading program for Rye Elementary. This program is to read and do coloring projects with kids. The program targets pre-k to second grade. We visit the school every Tuesday with three (3) visits in January.

We are working with the third-grade class in preparation for our annual Fire Chief for a Day which will be in early April.

Training. Training has been ongoing with miscellaneous fire training, and vehicle operations. New NFPA Fire training materials will be ordered in January and training will commence the first of February for those new individuals who are not FF1 certified. EMS training is ongoing to maintain continuing requirements. Rye Fire is being offered many training opportunities from other Pueblo and Custer County Agencies with staff signing up for the training.

Other Updates:

- Fire Hydrants. The hydrants in Colorado City are on hold due to cold weather.
- Records Retention. Sandy McGoff to meet with members of the Board and/or Staff to discuss. More information to be provided at next months meeting.

## Old Business

### Fires in Region and Staff Updates

No new fires. Chief Bennett is working on paperwork for Interagency Personnel. Acting Chief Beach noted that we are actively looking for staff including ALS.

### 2021 Audit Cycle.

Acting Administrative Chief Beach will reach out for a date from Garren, Ross & DeNardo, Inc.

### Election Update.

The dates for the upcoming election were discussed by DEO Jim Beach who noted that only one (1) person had submitted their name thus far. DEO Beach noted that if there were not more applications for Directors than openings by the last deadline (February 28, 2022 4:00 PM) that the election can be cancelled and those individuals are elected by acclamation.

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It was noted by Mr. Graber, who could not attend, that term limitations for Board Members is a State Law, but can be eliminated if approved by the voters at a regular election. The deadline for finalizing the ballot is March 3, 2022 and is unclear if this is too late to be included in the ballot.

Motion to investigate with Legal Counsel whether the Term Limit Eliminations can be included in the May 3, 2022 Election.

Motion: Mr. McGoff  
Second: Mr. Rice

Further Discussion: None.

Aye: Mr. Simpson, Mr. McGoff, Mr. Rice  
Abstain: Mr. Schaiberger  
Nay: None

Mr. Simpson asked DEO Beach to verify with the Pueblo County Clerk if the election can be cancelled if there are not more applications than positions available. He noted that last election Rye Fire was forced to hold the election with less applications than positions.

## New Business

### Communication From Fire Chief

Mr. Schaiberger noted that certain communication by the Fire Chief should be copied to the Board Chairman. This includes any communication pertaining to government entities and items that require the Board to be informed.

## Executive Session

Mr. Schaiberger noted that the Board will go into Executive Session per C.R.S. § 24-6-402(4)(f). The topic of the Executive Session will be Personnel Matters. The Executive Session will not be open to the public. No adoption of any proposed policy, position, resolution, rule, regulation, or formal action shall occur at this Executive Session.

Motion to go into Executive Session at 6:59 PM.

Motion: Mr. Simpson  
Second: Mr. Rice

Further Discussion: None.

Aye: Mr. Schaiberger, Mr. Simpson, Mr. McGoff, Mr. Rice

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Abstain: None  
Nay: None

Discussion was Personnel Matters.

Motion to adjourn Executive Session was made at 8:20 PM.

Motion: Mr. Schaiberger  
Second: Mr. Stimpson

Further Discussion: None.

Aye: Mr. Schaiberger, Mr. Simpson, Mr. McGoff, Mr. Rice  
Abstain: None  
Nay: None

Following Executive Session, the Board returned to regular session and the room was opened back up to the public.

## Adjourn

Motion to adjourn was made at 8:21 P.M.

Motion: Mr. Rice

Dated this 21<sup>st</sup> day of February 2022.



Submitted by Jim Beach, Acting Administrative Chief