



# Pliocene Ridge Community Services District

Staff report for 2/1/2022 special meeting

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## AGENDA ITEM 1. ALLEGHANY FIREHOUSE IMPROVEMENT PROJECT

### Cost comparison to new firehouse

Shortly after our January 20<sup>th</sup> board meeting I contacted Matt of BRCO constructors and Mike Vukas our USDA rural development representative looking for recent firehouse construction projects. This was to get an idea of what a new firehouse would cost for comparison with this project.

USDA recently funded a new firehouse in Newcastle for 4.5 million dollars. The size is 6,950 square feet. This works out to \$647 per square foot.

Matt found a project on the contractor's exchange for 8.95 million dollars for a 9,000 square foot firehouse and metal building. This project works out to \$994 per square foot.

- Based on the footprint of the Alleghany Firehouse (including the footprint of the proposed walkway) 1,680 square feet at \$647 per square foot comes to approximately 1.1 million dollars.
- At \$994 per square foot it comes to approximately 1.7 million dollars.

We are not comparing “apples to apples” for several reasons such as: the project for the Alleghany Firehouse will not result in a NEW FIREHOUSE. I don't know if the other projects included tearing down existing structures or not. I do know that construction costs are typically higher for projects in Alleghany than in urban areas because of travel time to and from the job site. Prevailing wage rules are applied to all travel time to the worksite. These numbers do give us a “ballpark” idea of what the cost of a new firehouse would be.

BRCO constructors provided an estimate of \$200,000 for the Alleghany Firehouse Project last fall. I included a summary of the scope of the project on the meeting web page.

### Possible Funding Source

Mike Vukas called me after receiving my email because there is a “pot of money” available thanks to COVID that he thinks we could use for this project. It is called Emergency Rural Health Care. This money is intended for response to the pandemic and the original deadline to apply was last October but there is still money left.

The criteria that make the firehouse eligible for this money are:

1. The fact that the building is used for “food bank” distributions.
2. The fact that Sierra County Social Services has held vaccination (flu shot) clinics at the firehouse and they have done other outreach there including providing COVID-19 test kits.

I have reached out to the Sierra County Dept. of social services for a letter of support.

This grant provides 100% funding for disadvantaged communities like Alleghany. There is no match requirement. Mike encouraged us to submit our application as soon as possible. There is no guarantee that our application would be funded but I am willing to donate my time to give it a shot.

Because the grant provides 100% funding, I propose that if we do apply, we include some repairs to the existing structure in our application. (if it qualifies) Specifically, replacement of the rotted-out section of the west wall, screwing the tin roof back down and painting the front of the building. I asked Matt with BRCO if he could provide an estimate for this additional work. He said that he could get me something next week.

A different set of USDA rules kicks in for projects over \$250,000 so we probably want to stay below that threshold. If awarded, the project must be completed within 3 years.

\$200,000 is the threshold for formal bidding under The California Uniform Construction Cost Accounting Act (CUCCAC). It is best to assume that we would need to use formal bidding procedures for this project.

The job would also have to be registered with the Department of Industrial Relations.

## AGENDA ITEM 2. TITLE III FUND REQUEST

As noted at our January 20<sup>th</sup> meeting, the Title III money can be used for things other than water storage. The letter on this topic is included in the meeting documents.

As discussed last month, staff moved forward with getting a quote from Peter's Well Drilling for installing two 5,000 gallon tanks at the Pike Firehouse. Jim Buckbee met with Luke Hale of Peter's earlier this week. Luke is waiting for a price on some couplings but he said he should have the estimate to me by Monday (in time for our meeting).

Another idea is to request up to \$15,000 for a new firetruck for the Alleghany fire department, with the district committing to a 50% match for a total of up to \$30,000 for a new (used) firetruck. The district's match ability is thanks in-part to the AVFD non-profit's \$8,000 donation a few years ago.

Currently Alleghany's newest engine is call #7150 a 1981 brush truck (41 years old this year). The other engine is call # 7181 a structure truck vintage: 1975. The goal would be to find a newer structure truck to replace both 7181 and 7180, the 1968 International that was declared surplus last year.

Staff recommends requesting both items, one for each department and see what the Board of Supervisor's (BOS) say. If the BOS approves either or both requests there would still be the 45-day public comment period before the funds could be allocated.