



REGULAR MEETING
BOARD OF DIRECTORS
DE BEQUE FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT

DE BEQUE FIRE STATION
JULY 18, 2023

MINUTES

CALL TO ORDER:

Pursuant to notice, the regular board meeting of the De Beque Fire Protection District was called to order by President Annette Tanner at 6:08 p.m. on Tuesday, July 18, 2023.

OPEN WITH PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE TO FLAG:

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

ROLL CALL/ESTABLISH QUORUM:

Cynthia Farris, present; Melanie Hansen, present; Dustin Koehler, absent; Maria Ramthun, present; Annette Tanner, present; A quorum was present and the meeting, having been duly convened, was ready to proceed.

OTHERS PRESENT: Forest Matis, De Beque District Fire Chief; Lieutenant Jesse Hughson; Secretary Kim Latham.

ADDITIONS OR DELETIONS TO AGENDA:

- 1) None. Motion was made by Board Member Farris and seconded by Board Vice President Ramthun to approve the Agenda for the July 18, 2023 regular Board of Director's meeting as presented. **Vote:** Cynthia Farris, aye; Melanie Hansen, aye; Dustin Koehler, absent; Maria Ramthun, aye; Annette Tanner, aye. Motion passed.

MINUTES/FINANCIALS:

- 1) Minutes from the June 2023 Regular Board Meeting. Motion was made by Board Member Farris and seconded by Board Secretary Hansen to approve the minutes from the June 13, 2023 regular board meeting. **Vote:** Cynthia Farris, aye; Melanie Hansen, aye; Dustin Koehler, absent; Maria Ramthun, aye; Annette Tanner, aye. Motion passed.
- 2) Financial Reports:
 - a. Financial Statements for May 2023 were presented to the Board. Motion was made by Board President Tanner and seconded by Board Vice President Ramthun to approve the Financial Statements for May 2023. **Vote:** Cynthia Farris, aye; Melanie Hansen, aye; Dustin Koehler, absent; Maria Ramthun, aye; Annette Tanner, aye. Motion passed.
 - b. Insurance Adjustments/Writes Offs for May 2023 were presented to the Board. Motion was made by Board Member Farris and seconded by Board Vice President Ramthun to approve write downs in the amount of \$4139.00 and write offs in the amount of \$0.00 for May 2023. **Vote:** Cynthia Farris, aye; Melanie Hansen, aye; Dustin Koehler, absent; Maria Ramthun, aye; Annette Tanner, aye. Motion passed.
- 3) Secretary Latham presented some information on ColoTrust per the Board's request at the last meeting. It is noted that the local school (De Beque District 49 Jt) utilizes ColoTrust, and ColoTrust is the only financial investment entity in Colorado that is approved for government entities. We could be making double the interest through ColoTrust, and the money is guaranteed with no limit to the amount in the account, but the rate is flexible and not fixed, and it is not an FDIC guarantee. The Board requested more information on how the guarantee works, and also what WAM (Weighted Average Maturity) is.

PUBLIC COMMENTS: None



OLD BUSINESS:

- 1) Kitchenette Update: Kitchenette cabinets/counters have been ordered. We will install the cabinets and Home Depot will install the counters. We'll need to have an electrician come in to wire the appliances. We are still under budget for the donations toward this project.

NEW BUSINESS:

- 1) Fire Chief Matis presented a report to the Board regarding Engine 82 repairs that need to be completed. Engine 82 was being utilized at the Spring Creek Fire when some axle issues came about. There is a quote for over \$10,000 for repairs. The Board will need to approve the repair cost. Motion was made by Board President Tanner and seconded by Board Vice President Ramthun to approve Engine 82 repairs for up to \$12,000. **Vote:** Cynthia Farris, aye; Melanie Hansen, aye; Dustin Koehler, absent; Maria Ramthun, aye; Annette Tanner, aye. Motion passed.
- 2) We received an official employee complaint regarding the A/C situation at the station. We have been battling Heater/AC system issues since December. The current heat wave has made it very hot in the dorm rooms and the day room, which are the areas where the A/C is not working. Trane reports that parts are still on order. Chief Matis picked up several portable A/C units for cooling purposes until we get proper repairs made. Chief Matis will contact our attorney to have them contact Trane regarding getting this repair completed.

FIRE CHIEF REPORT:

- 1) The fire assignments will be billed shortly.
- 2) State 1 Fire Restrictions Friday (July 21st).
- 3) We continue to do local fire assignments for mutual aid.
- 4) We're looking at a Workmen's Comp review to compare policies.
- 5) Dispatch report was down, but now it's up again.
- 6) We had a local store fire, and we were able to use one of our certified employees for the investigation.
- 7) There was a fire fighter in another state who was shot and killed while responding to a fire. There have also been situations nationally where responders are being targeted. Highway calls can also be tenuous. We need to have a conversation on when we might need to arm our responders.
- 8) We had to cancel our jet ride day – we only had two RSVPs for the date. We will reschedule.
- 9) Enterprise Products would like to set a time to present us with a nice donation. We will put that on the agenda for the next meeting.
- 10) Crew Updates
 - a. Lieutenant Hughson's crew is back from California.
 - b. Home Depot will deliver the cabinets at the end of July. The water station will be in next week.
- 11) Trevor Lewis is back in the area, and we sent him on a fire assignment/deployment as a seasonal deployment employee. We can't put him in as a volunteer because of legal requirements to put him on our retirement plan that our retirement provider (FPPA) no longer allows. Discussion ensued on how DFPD can build the Junior Firefighter program and later utilize the students that participate. Chief Matis will develop a written Cadet program.

BOARD COMMENTS: Secretary Hansen suggested that we could utilize our new policy program to time stamp documents (such as the employee complaint) as to time of receipt and also the date of response.

Chief Matis commented on how we can support our community and youth. The local 4-H program might be a perfect opportunity in future years to purchase an animal at the fair and then have a community BBQ.

ADJOURNMENT: **Motion was made** by Board President Tanner and seconded by Board Secretary Hansen to adjourn the meeting. **Vote:** Cynthia Farris, aye; Melanie Hansen, aye; Dustin Koehler, absent; Maria Ramthun, aye; Annette Tanner, aye. Motion passed. Meeting adjourned at 7:48 p.m.

Next regular meeting: August 8, 2023.



Approved by the De Beque Fire Protection Board of Directors on August 8, 2023.

Annette Tanner

Annette Tanner, President



Melanie Hansen

Melanie Hansen, Secretary