

REGULAR MEETING
BOARD OF DIRECTORS
DE BEQUE FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT

DE BEQUE FIRE STATION
June 8, 2021

MINUTES

CALL TO ORDER/ROLL CALL:

Pursuant to notice, the regular board meeting of the De Beque Fire Protection District was called to order by President Annette Tanner at 6:01 PM on Tuesday, June 8th, 2021. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Roll Call: Cynthia Farris, present; Melanie Hansen, present; Dustin Koehler, absent; Marge Mackey, present; and Annette Tanner, present. Marge Mackey moved to excuse Dustin Koehler from the meeting. Annette Tanner seconded the motion. **Vote:** Cynthia Farris, aye; Melanie Hansen, aye; Dustin Koehler, absent; Marge Mackey, aye; Annette Tanner, aye. Motion passed. A quorum was present and the meeting, having been duly convened, was ready to proceed.

Others present: Mike Harvey, De Beque District Fire Chief; Michael Santo, Labor Attorney; Forest Matis; Jason Lee; Patrick Cole; Jessie Hughson, Kim Latham.

ADDITIONS/CORRECTIONS OR DELETIONS TO THE AGENDA:

- 1) Delete the Financial Report presentations as they were not available.
- 2) Board Vacancy add as item #4 under Old Business

APPROVAL ITEMS:

Minutes from the May 11th, 2021 regular board meeting were discussed by the board. Motion was made by Cynthia Farris to approve the May 11th, 2021 board meeting minutes pending some typo corrections. Melanie Hansen seconded the motion. **Vote:** Cynthia Farris, aye; Melanie Hansen, aye; Dustin Koehler, absent; Marge Mackey, aye; Annette Tanner, aye. Motion passed.

PUBLIC FORUM: Annette Tanner asked the public for comments. No comments

OLD BUSINESS:

- 1) Secretary/Accounting position. Kim Latham has been chosen for the new secretary/accounting position. Annette Tanner reported on the issues and costs associated with getting Quickbooks Enterprise transferred over from Quickbooks Online. Motion was made by Marge Mackey to approve Kim Latham for the secretary/accounting position. **Vote:** Cynthia Farris, aye; Melanie Hansen, aye; Dustin Koehler, absent; Marge Mackey, aye; Annette Tanner, aye. Motion passed.
- 2) Interim Fire Chief position. Discussion ensued regarding whether the Board needed to schedule an Executive Session to discuss the details pertaining to hiring Forest Matis as the Interim District Fire Chief pending the retirement of current District Fire Chief Mike Harvey. Forest declared that he was willing to discuss the issues in open meeting and not have the Board schedule an Executive Session. Discussion ensued regarding Forest's wages on the salary level vs. hourly level wages. Forest asked for compensation based on the current De Beque Fire District Chief's wages, prorated to his (Forest's) anticipated 30 hours a week schedule. Savings to De Beque Fire Protection District would include no benefits as those will continue with Forest's current position at the Grand Valley Fire Protection District. After discussion, motion was made by Melanie Hansen to approve the Interim Chief position for Forest

Matis at an annual salary exempt (without benefits) position of \$68,778. Cynthia Farris seconded the motion. **Vote:** Cynthia Farris, aye; Melanie Hansen, aye; Dustin Koehler, absent; Marge Mackey, abstain; Annette Tanner, aye. Motion passed. The details will be revisited in 90 days to see if any adjustments are needed. Forest noted to the Board that he has been pulled from accepting any out of area assignments with the Grand Valley Fire Protection District so that he will not leave the area through that employment. Annette clarified that Forest's position will start with the exit of current Chief, Mike Harvey. Until that time, Forest will continue on his regular work shift.

- 3) Line Personnel position. Patrick Cole reported on the progress of hiring new line personnel. Interviews are currently being set up and are in progress. After that is completed, the applicants will be narrowed down to those who will come in for computer and physical testing. The onsite testing should be completed a week or so after the interview process and a pool of potential employees will be drawn from the list for employment possibilities. Forest will be involved in that process as the incoming Interim Chief. One full time ALS and two potential part time positions that may eventually turn into full time positions are the target number.
- 4) Board Vacancy (added item at meeting). Marge Mackey resigned her position as a board of director member of the De Beque Fire Protection District. Marge left with thanks from the Board for her many years/terms of service to the District. There was only one application for the Board vacancy, Ms. Maria Ramthun. Motion was made by Annette Tanner to approve Maria Ramthun to the vacant Board member position, pending verification of voter registration/property owner information that would make her eligible for the position. Melanie Hansen seconded the motion. **Vote:** Cynthia Farris, aye; Melanie Hansen, aye; Dustin Koehler, absent; Annette Tanner, aye. Motion passed.

Annette presented Chief Mike Harvey with a gift and thanks for his many years of service to the De Beque Fire Protection District.

NEW BUSINESS:

- 1) LifePak 15 service life. Fire District Chief Mike Harvey presented information that some of the LifePak 15's are past their life expectancy and will need to be budgeted for replacement in the future at about \$30,000 each. We will apply for grants for help on the cost.

FINANCIAL REPORT AND UPDATES: No reports available.

FIRE CHIEF REPORT:

Fire Chief Mike Harvey presented his monthly report to the board. Jason completed his fire instruction class and is preparing to take the written test. Incident responses are starting to increase going into the summer months. Nothing new with the QA meeting. A1 will be in tomorrow (June 9th). The solar panel upstairs will need to be replaced as something broke the safety glass. Fire packs for Joe Diedrich and Ryan Rose should be in any day. They still desire to be on the active shift list, but are unavailable right now. Update on the VHF radio upgrades. Nothing new with Mesa County. Garfield County is building a nice new training facility in Carbondale. The EMS Resolution that governs EMS in Mesa County has been updated for clarification purposes on special events and is ready for ratification. New uniforms came in today (June 8th). The roof in the housing unit was destroyed (blown off) by a wind storm. We are looking for a company to complete the repairs – most companies are three months out. The destroyed portions are going to be salvaged.

BOARD COMMENTS:

Cynthia Farris reported that the De Beque Town Hall has requested we communicate with them regarding any precipitous events up valley that might affect the fires, burn scars, and any fires that might be coming our way, because people come into the Town Hall to get information. Jesse did put an update about current local fires on

Facebook and shared a map showing fire areas there. It was suggested that Jesse post things on the Fire District Facebook page and then cross reference it to the town's Facebook page, then the town personnel can pick up the information there. The town personnel can also look at the Fire District Facebook page to get information to share.

ADJOURNMENT:

Annette Tanner moved to adjourn the June 8th, 2021 board meeting. Melanie Hansen seconded the motion. .
Vote: Cynthia Farris, aye; Melanie Hansen, aye; Dustin Koehler, absent; Annette Tanner, aye. Motion passed.

Next regular meeting: **June 13, 2021**

Approved by the De Beque Fire Protection Board of Directors on June 13, 2021.



Annette Tanner, President



Melanie Hansen - Secretary

