



REGULAR MEETING  
BOARD OF DIRECTORS  
DE BEQUE FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT

DE BEQUE FIRE STATION  
MAY 14, 2024

**MINUTES**

**CALL TO ORDER:**

Pursuant to notice, the regular board meeting of the De Beque Fire Protection District was called to order by President Tanner at 6:01 p.m. on Tuesday, May 14, 2024.

**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  
Firefighter Triston Quigley  
Firefighter Elijah Gerber

**ADDITIONS OR DELETIONS TO AND APPROVAL OF AGENDA:**

1) None

Motion was made and seconded to approve the agenda as presented.

Motion by:	Board Secretary	Melanie Hansen
Seconded by:	Board Vice President	Maria Ramthun
Vote:	Cynthia Farris	Aye
	Melanie Hansen	Aye
	Dustin Koehler	Absent
	Maria Ramthun	Aye
	Annette Tanner	Aye

Motion Passed.



**MINUTES/FINANCES:**

- 1) Minutes were presented to the BOD for consideration for April 15, 2024  
Motion was made and seconded to approve the minutes as presented.

Motion By:	Board President	Annette Tanner
Seconded By:	Board Member	Cynthia Farris
Vote:	Cynthia Farris	Aye
	Melanie Hansen	Aye
	Dustin Koehler	Absent
	Maria Ramthun	Aye
	Annette Tanner	Aye

Motion Passed.

- 2) Tax Distribution Update

Fire Chief Matis presented information to the BOD regarding the taxpayer distribution checks received in May for April. (Secretary Latham was unable to attend the BOD meeting tonight due to her granddaughter’s graduation ceremony). The District received \$2,656,789.49 combined from Garfield and Mesa Counties. Secretary Latham transferred \$1,700,000 to the ColoTrust Money Market account, leaving the remaining amount in the checking account to make the new fire engine truck down payment and the final purchase amount for the new ambulance, as well as monthly payables. We also need to replace the oven in the station’s main kitchen area.

**PUBLIC COMMENTS:** None

**OLD BUSINESS:**

- 1) Trane Heater/AC Update

The independent contractor came in and did an assessment of the Heater/AC unit. It was a very frustrating visit – it seemed like he was trying to sell us a new system rather than evaluate what we have. Chief Matis reported that he had further information from the contractor upon visiting with him post inspection. The contractor is skeptical about whether or not the repair for the current unit will work or be sustainable, which makes him question whether repairing the current unit is plausible. Our attorney believes it is quite possible we will be going to litigation over this. Discussion ensued regarding the feasibility of repairing the unit, putting in a whole new unit, or putting in a boiler and central air unit. It was noted that the architectural plan was different than that which was installed in the station, but the installed unit was an allowable substitution. Board Vice President Ramthun asked Fire Chief Matis to look into the costs of a boiler/central air with splitter unit and bring the estimates to the next BOD meeting.

- 2) Water & Sewer Update

Chief Matis reported that Board President Tanner and he again attended the De Beque Town Board meeting. The De Beque Board of Directors had a long executive session meeting, then ultimately decided to work with us in the manner of allowing us to work with Pine West Development to hook up to their sewer hookup or giving us a certain amount of time to complete the hookup, but they were not considering the amount of time we requested. The Town attorney is still pushing us a little bit; thus, our attorneys are addressing the issue.



There is a possibility of the District getting a percentage of tap fees for providing the line to the valley on the south side of the interstate. It is noted that the Town had engineering plans drawn up on behalf of the Fire District that we can purchase from the engineering company, but it was not done with our consent, and we are not under obligation to purchase the plans.

### NEW BUSINESS:

#### 1) Ladder Truck Disposal

There has been some interest in purchasing our ladder truck, but nothing has come to fruition. Chief Matis outlined three options he believes are available to us at this time:

- a. Keep the ladder truck for now.
- b. Drop the listing price we have currently listed (\$350,000).
- c. Go to govdeals auction, with a minimum acceptable price.

Discussion ensued. Motion was made and seconded to drop the price to \$250,000

Motion By:	Board President	Annette Tanner
Seconded By:	Board Member	Cynthia Farris
Vote:	Cynthia Farris	Aye
	Melanie Hansen	Aye
	Dustin Koehler	Absent
	Maria Ramthun	Aye
	Annette Tanner	Aye

Motion Passed.

#### 2) SB24-233

Governor Polis presented the SB24-233 bill to the House and Senate with the minimum time frame possible for input, which passed both the House and Senate in one night. The bill could affect Fire Backfill for Fire Districts, Tabor regulations, and impact our tax assessments back to 2022 rates, which will affect our budgets in the coming years.

#### 3) Annual SDA Conference

Annette, Forest, & Kim will go to Clifton; Maria will go to Vail.

### FIRE CHIEF REPORT:

- 1) The new ambulance is getting close to our targeted pick-up date. Chief Matis and Lieutenant Voorhees will fly out on June 17<sup>th</sup>, inspect the ambulance on the 18<sup>th</sup>, and drive it back home on the 18<sup>th</sup>.
- 2) Jesse completed Fire Officer I class; Eli passed HazMat and is working on Fire Fighter I certification; Triston is preparing for Fire Office I testing; Jason completed COTC; Chief Matis completed Fire Inspector I class.
- 3) Chief Matis will be developing fire inspection programs for all District businesses.
- 4) QA Update – New forms have been submitted and we are up to date.
- 5) Two of our medics are moving through the probationary process and will be fully released soon. Eli is fully released to treat in Mesa County.
- 6) Grant Closeout Update – we got the data together, and completed and submitted the close out report.
- 7) Crew Updates
  - a. Lieutenant Hughson – Chief Matis already reported on the classes and QA completions.



**BOARD COMMENTS:**

**ADJOURNMENT:**

Motion was made and seconded to adjourn the meeting.

Motion by:	Board Vice President	Maria Ramthun
Seconded by:	Board Secretary	Melanie Hansen
Vote:	Cynthia Farris,	Aye
	Melanie Hansen,	Aye
	Dustin Koehler,	Absent
	Maria Ramthun,	Aye
	Annette Tanner,	Aye
Motion Passed.	Meeting adjourned at:	7:08 p.m.

**Next regular meeting: Monday, July 8, 2024**

**Approved by the De Beque Fire Protection Board of Directors on June 10, 2024**



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**Annette Tanner, President**

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**Melanie Hansen, Secretary**

Board of Directors:

Board President Annette Tanner  
 Board Vice President Maria Ramthun  
 Board Secretary Melanie Hansen  
 Board Member Cynthia Farris  
 Board Member Dustin Koehler