

REGULAR MEETING  
BOARD OF DIRECTORS  
DE BEQUE FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT



DE BEQUE FIRE STATION  
JANUARY 12, 2026

## MINUTES

### CALL TO ORDER:

Pursuant to notice, the regular board meeting of the De Beque Fire Protection District (DFPD) was called to order by Board President Tanner at 6:00 p.m. on Monday, January 12, 2026

**OPEN WITH PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE TO FLAG:** The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

### ROLL CALL/ESTABLISH QUORUM:

Cynthia Farris, Present; Dustin Koehler, Absent; John “Dick” Latham, Present; Rebecca “Maria” Ramthun, Present; Michael 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 Nate Voorhees; Secretary Kim Latham.

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

No Additions or deletions to the Agenda were made. Motion was made and seconded to approve the agenda as presented. Motion passed.

### MINUTES:

Minutes were presented to the BOD for consideration for the regular board meeting of December 8, 2025. Motion was made and seconded to approve the minutes for December 8, 2025 as presented. Motion passed.

### FINANCE REPORTS

Financial Reports were presented to the BOD through November 2025. Discussion ensued regarding capital expenditures for the engine purchase as well as wildland deployment billing. The state has yet to pay anything toward the billing for 2025 wildland deployment, which is about \$1,000,000. Insurance payments for GL and WC will be paid this month. Motion was made and seconded to approve the finance reports through November 2025 as presented. Motion passed.

### PUBLIC COMMENTS (Non-Agenda Items) – No Public Comments

### OLD BUSINESS:

#### 1) DISTRICT POLICY UPDATE DISCUSSION

- a. Discussion ensued regarding the updated district policies. The policy is prepared and ready to be sent to the attorney for final review.
- b. Public Comments – None.



## **NEW BUSINESS:**

- 1) RESOLUTION 2026-07 – Approve 2026 BOD Meeting Schedule
  - a. The 2026 BOD meeting schedule (the 2<sup>nd</sup> Monday of each month) was presented to the Board for discussion and approval.
  - b. Public Comments – None.
  - c. Motion was made and seconded to approve Resolution 2026-07, the 2026 BOD meeting schedule. Motion passed.
- 2) RESOLUTION 2026-08 – Approve 2026 Recurring Accounts Payable Schedule
  - a. A 2026 recurring accounts payable list was submitted to the BOD for pre-payment approval.
  - b. Public Comments – None.
  - c. Motion was made and seconded to approve Resolution 2026-08, 2026 recurring accounts payable schedule. Motion passed.
- 3) APPROVE BLAIR & ASSOCIATES FOR 2025 AUDIT
  - a. Discussion ensued regarding Blair & Associates proposal for the 2025 audit.
  - b. Public Comments – None.
  - c. Motion was made and seconded to approve Blair & Associates for the 2025 audit process.
- 4) 2024 IFC FIRE CODE DISCUSSION/APPROVAL
  - a. Discussion ensued regarding the State requiring every station, municipality, department, and county has to approve the Wildland Resiliency Code by this spring. With that, Garfield and Mesa Counties have decided to also update to the 2024 IFC (International Fire Code), which will necessitate our District to also update to the 2024 IFC in order to be on the same page as both counties; otherwise, we would be working with different standards than the counties' requirements.
  - b. Public Comments – None.
  - c. Motion was made and seconded to table the vote until the February 9, 2026 meeting to allow time to hold a Public Hearing before the February regular meeting. Motion passed.
- 5) 2026 WILDLAND FIRE SEASON – Approval to Hire Seasonal Employees
  - a. Chief Matis has been researching the viability of sending two trucks out to California during the next wildland deployment season. The Chief believes manning two crews full-time would not be viable due to staffing constraints, but he will start the process of hiring seasonal employees to cover the deployment season with plans to send a second truck as needed pending the ability to maintain coverage for the District here at home. The District is preparing for a very dry summer season locally.
  - b. Public Comments – None.
  - c. Motion was made and seconded to approve the hiring of up to six seasonal employees to staff wildland deployments for the summer season. Motion passed.

## **FIRE CHIEF REPORT:**

- 1) End of year employee reviews have been completed.
- 2) There was a 40% increase in EMS calls from 2024 to 2025.
- 3) Squad 81 has been picked up and is in process of getting outfitted.
- 4) SERFA Agreement has been updated.
- 5) Annual meetings for mutual aid are coming up. Lieutenant Voorhees will attend with the Chief, and possibly Lieutenant Hughson and Captain Quigley could also attend.
- 6) The Regional Chief meeting is set for January 13, 2026. One of the discussion will be PILT funding.
- 7) The new reporting system has been implemented per state requirements.

- 8) The training prop is fully built and is in use.
- 9) The next staff meeting will include Wildland Deployment coverage for 2026.



**OTHER COMMENTS:** None

**BOARD COMMENTS:** The Christmas party was nice.

**ADJOURNMENT:**

Motion was made and seconded to adjourn the meeting. Motion passed. Meeting adjourned at 7:20 p.m.

**Next regular meeting: Monday, February 9, 2026.**

**Approved by the De Beque Fire Protection Board of Directors on February 9, 2026.**

---

**Michael Tanner, President**

---

**Maria (Rebecca) Ramthun, Secretary**



Board of Directors:

- Board President Michael Tanner
- Board Vice-President Dustin Koehler
- Board Secretary Maria (Rebecca) Ramthun
- Board Member Cynthia Farris
- Board Member Dick (John R) Latham

It is noted that Board Member Cynthia Farris is also on the Board of Directors for the Town of De Beque. It is noted that the dual Board positions might be considered a conflict of interest in the event of interaction between the De Beque Fire Protection District and the Town of De Beque.