

REGULAR MEETING
BOARD OF DIRECTORS
DE BEQUE FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT



DE BEQUE FIRE STATION
FEBRUARY 9, 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, February 9th, 2026.

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

ROLL CALL/ESTABLISH QUORUM:

Cynthia Farris, Absent; Dustin Koehler, Present; 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 Jesse Hughson; Finance/Office Manager 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 January 12, 2026. It was noted that the minutes for January 12, 2025 correctly included a public hearing and resolution for the February 9, 2026 meeting, but the need for both was eliminated and not included on the Agenda for the February 9, 2026 meeting. Motion was made and seconded to approve the minutes for January 12, 2026 as presented. Motion passed.

FINANCE REPORTS

Financial Reports were presented to the BOD for December 2025 and for the entire year of 2025. Motion was made and seconded to approve the finance reports for January through December 2025 as presented. Motion passed.

PUBLIC COMMENTS (Non-Agenda Items) - None

OLD BUSINESS:

- 1) Wildland Billing Update - 2025
 - a. Discussion ensued regarding the status of the 2025 Wildland billing. Billing on our end is complete, and the state is finally reviewing the billing submissions from last year.
 - b. Public Comments – None

2) Wildland Deployment Update - 2026

- a. Discussion ensued regarding the 2026 Wildland deployment season. There is a slight increase in truck per hour income. Some input was received regarding the possibility of going to a 40 hour workweek for deployment wages (vs. the current normal 96-120 hour workweek). Most departments have gone to a 40 hour work-week schedule. The Chief will look into the pros and cons of going to a 40 hour workweek for deployment and will approach the BOD with the direction he would like to pursue.
- b. Public Comments – None



NEW BUSINESS: - No new business to discuss.

FIRE CHIEF REPORT:

- 1) Fire billing is complete and is in review process with the State (of Colorado).
- 2) The policy manual is with the attorney for review, in part making policy more general and separating SOGs from policy.
- 3) Plans Review is in process (county).
- 4) Sewer update – the process continues; the front apron bore is complete.
- 5) A staff meeting is set for February 12th; Wildland assignments, expectations, and seasonal hiring will be included as well as general operations and general maintenance.
- 6) The Mesa County Chiefs’ meeting is reviewing mutual aid agreements and fire investigation group. No PILT update yet.
- 7) Annual EMS rate review is in progress. Chief Matis is in favor of not raising rates this year.
- 8) Employee training is in progress. DFPD might host some S-130/190 classes.
- 9) Squad 81 is fully in service; Squad 82 will remain in service and will be used for attending training, meetings, and running errands.
- 10) Fire Chief will attend both county annual operating procedures and plans meetings this month.
- 11) 2024 IFC code adoption is on hold pending county and town adoptions of the code. Our attorney emphasized that we do not need to hold a public hearing to adopt the code. Garfield and Mesa Counties are adopting different codes, so we will again have to use two different codes for compliance.
- 12) Wildland Resiliency Code adoption is in process. We will need a separate resolution for each county due to different county approaches for this subject. This will need to be completed at the next Board of Directors’ meeting to ensure the code is in place by the April deadline.
- 13) The seasonal hiring brochure is out (for Wildland coverage). We have had some applicants already.

OTHER COMMENTS: None

BOARD COMMENTS: None

ADJOURNMENT:

Motion was made and seconded to adjourn the meeting. Motion passed. Meeting adjourned at 7:22 p.m.

Next regular meeting: Monday, March 9th, 2026.

Approved by the De Beque Fire Protection Board of Directors on March 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.