REGULAR MEETING
BOARD OF DIRECTORS
DE BEQUE FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT

DE BEQUE FIRE STATION
DECEMBER 8, 2025

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, December 8, 2025.

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

ROLL CALL/ESTABLISH QUORUM:
Cynthia Farris, Present; Dustin Koehler, Present; John "Dick" Latham (came in at 6:15 p.m.), Present; Rebecca "Maria" Ramthun, Present via Zoom; 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 Triston Quigley; 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.

PUBLIC HEARING:
Motion was made and seconded to go into public hearing to discuss the 2026 budget. Motion passed. The final budget was presented for discussion. It was noted that we have taken a $1,200,000 deficit in tax income for the last two years, which will make the 2026 budget very tight, and will necessitate dipping into reserves in order to make our 2026 budget expenses, even with large wildland deployment income. Discussion ensued regarding the budget, wages, and future income projections from wildland deployment and income tax assessments. Chief Matis will look into securing a Safer Grant to establish a wildland deployment division program.

Motion was made and seconded to close the public hearing. Motion passed.

BUDGET/RESOLUTION APPROVALS:
Motion was made and seconded to approve Resolution 2026-01, Garfield County Mill Levy Certification. Motion passed.

Motion was made and seconded to approve Resolution 2026-02, Mesa County Mill Levy Certification. Motion passed.

Motion was made and seconded to approve Resolution 2026-03, to adopt the 2026 Budget. Motion passed.

Motion was made and seconded to approve Resolution 2026-04, to appropriate funds for 2026 budget. Motion passed.

Motion was made and seconded to approve Resolution 2026-05, to approve beginning. balance funds usage for 2026.

Motion was made and seconded to approve Resolution 2026-06, to approve the 2026 wage schedule.

MINUTES:
Minutes were presented to the BOD for consideration for the regular board meeting of November 10, 2025. Motion was made and seconded to approve the minutes for December 10, 2025 as presented. Motion passed.

FINANCE REPORTS
Financial Reports were presented to the BOD for October 2025. Motion was made and seconded to approve the finance reports for October 2025 as presented. Motion passed.

OLD BUSINESS:
1) One Billing Solutions for EMS billing was put on hold until March or April due to implementing a new EMS entry program.
2) General Liability Insurance
    a. 2026 general liability insurance proposal was presented to the BOD. Discussion ensued.
    b. We were able to put in a claim for the cyber-crime hacking issue. The agent originally told us we could not put in a claim because we denied terrorism coverage, but the terrorism coverage is separate from the cyber-crime coverage.
    c. There were no public comments.
    d. Motion was made and seconded to approve the 2026 general liability insurance proposal. Motion passed.

NEW BUSINESS:
1) No new business was presented to the BOD.
2) PUBLIC COMMENTS (Non-Agenda Items) There were no public comments.

FIRE CHIEF REPORT:
1) Chief Matis will have surgery in a few days and will need recovery time off until January 5, 2026, but will be available via phone and email.
2) The end-of-year items are being completed.
3) The training prop is ½ completed.
4) The new squad truck has arrived.
5) Brush 81 is having some R&M work done to level and lift it to help ensure better undercarriage clearance.
6) We will possibly get $10,000 in PILT monies from Mesa County. Garfield County is interested in pursuing possibilities to get PILT money as well, and discussion has begun regarding pursuing legislation for PILT funding disbursement to each district.

OTHER COMMENTS: None

BOARD COMMENTS: None

ADJOURNMENT:
Motion was made and seconded to adjourn the meeting. Motion passed. Meeting adjourned at 7:37 p.m.

Next regular meeting: Monday, January 12, 2026.

Approved by the De Beque Fire Protection Board of Directors on January 12, 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.