REGULAR MEETING
BOARD OF DIRECTORS
DE BEQUE FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT

DE BEQUE FIRE STATION
AUGUST 10, 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 6:01 p.m. on Monday, August 10, 2026.

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, 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 July 13, 2026. Motion was made and seconded to approve the minutes for July 13, 2026 as presented. Motion passed.

FINANCE REPORTS
Financial Reports were presented to the BOD for January – June, 2026. The bad debt expense is write-offs due to the issue with the EMS billing company not billing and too much time has gone by to bill at this point. It was noted that the county 2027 tax estimates should be available toward the end of August, at which time budgetary work will begin. Discussion ensued regarding the timing on payments from the wildland billing and the lag between the receipt of the tax monies in the spring, and about the $300,000 payment for the new fire truck. Motion was made and seconded to approve the finance reports for January – June, 2026 as presented. Motion passed.

PUBLIC COMMENTS (Non-Agenda Items)

OLD BUSINESS:
1) None

NEW BUSINESS:
1) None

FIRE CHIEF REPORT:

1) The Mesa County Chiefs' meeting was uneventful. The (Colorado) State has a fire investigation program that they are implementing for fire districts that will cost us nothing, but they will investigate along with each District's investigation team.
2) The Regional Fire Chief meeting included area water availability and fire danger. There was a sky crane that went down in Utah which killed two fire team members. The District is supporting the fire teams directly involved with the incidents.
3) The Teams are doing well. We are still on deployment up in South Dakota and will probably be kept up there until rain or snow comes to ease the fire danger.
4) Chief Matis will be going to Washington on Tuesday, August 11th, to go on ambulance deployment for two weeks. The Chief will maintain close contact with the office while up there and Lieutenant Voorhees will be in charge at the station while the Chief is absent. Chief Matis was released on August 5th for full duty/no restrictions.
5) The District responded to the fire in Battlement Mesa last week as a mutual aid resource.

OTHER COMMENTS: None

BOARD COMMENTS: None

ADJOURNMENT:
Motion was made and seconded to adjourn the meeting. Motion passed. Meeting adjourned at 6:38 p.m.

Next regular meeting: Monday, September 14, 2026.

Approved by the De Beque Fire Protection Board of Directors on October 20, 2026.

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Michael Tanner, President

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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.