

REGULAR MEETING
BOARD OF DIRECTORS
DE BEQUE FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT

DE BEQUE FIRE STATION
SEPTEMBER 13, 2022

MINUTES

CALL TO ORDER/PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE TO FLAG:

Pursuant to notice, the regular board meeting of the De Beque Fire Protection District was called to order by President Annette Tanner at 6:01 p.m. on Tuesday, September 13, 2022. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

ROLL CALL/ESTABLISH QUORUM:

Cynthia Farris, present; Melanie Hansen, absent (excused); Dustin Koehler, present; Maria Ramthun, present; Annette Tanner, present; A quorum was present and the meeting, having been duly convened, was ready to proceed.

OTHERS PRESENT: Kevin Watt; Forest Matis, De Beque District Fire Chief; Employee Blake Heym; Employee Tyler Sepsey; Secretary Kim Latham.

ADDITIONS OR DELETIONS TO AGENDA:

- 1) None

APPROVAL ITEMS:

- 1) Minutes from the August 9, 2022 Regular Board Meeting were presented. **Motion was made** by Board Member Farris and seconded by Board Member Koehler to approve the minutes for the August 9, 2022 Regular Board Meeting. **Vote:** Cynthia Farris, aye; Melanie Hansen, absent; Dustin Koehler, aye; Maria Ramthun, aye; Annette Tanner, aye. Motion passed.
- 2) Financial reports for July 2022 were presented to the Board and discussion ensued regarding additional income and expenses expected between now and the end of the 2022 budget year and where we are compared to the budgeted amounts. **Motion was made** by Board Vice President Ramthun and seconded by Board President Tanner to approve the financial reports for July 2022. **Vote:** Cynthia Farris, aye; Melanie Hansen, absent; Dustin Koehler, aye; Maria Ramthun, aye; Annette Tanner, aye. Motion passed.
- 3) Insurance Adjustments/Write Offs July 2022 were presented to the Board. **Motion was made** by Board President Tanner and seconded by Board Member Farris to approve the Insurance adjustments of \$2,097.12 and Write Offs of \$0.00 for July 2022. **Vote:** Cynthia Farris, aye; Melanie Hansen, absent; Dustin Koehler, aye; Maria Ramthun, aye; Annette Tanner, aye. Motion passed.
- 4) Employee Health/Dental/Vision proposal from CEBT was presented to the Board. The CEBT proposal premiums will be less through CEBT than through our current provider with better deductible benefits for the employees. **Motion was made** by Board President Tanner and seconded by Board Vice President Ramthun to accept the CEBT Health/Dental/Vision insurance proposal for 2023. **Vote:** Cynthia Farris, aye; Melanie Hansen, absent; Dustin Koehler, aye; Maria Ramthun, aye; Annette Tanner, aye. Motion passed.

PUBLIC COMMENTS: Kevin Watt was welcomed to the meeting.

OLD BUSINESS:

- 1) Web Page Update – We are in process of getting the new web page up and running. Target date is October 1, 2022.

NEW BUSINESS:

- 1) A preliminary draft budget for 2023 was presented to the Board for discussion. A Budget Workshop will be set for October 11, 2022 at 6:00 p.m. in conjunction with the next regular Board Meeting.
- 2) Financial Report Date Discussion – The EMS billing group is having trouble getting reports to us in time for the board meetings, which affects the financials each month. Preliminary financials will be presented to the Board each month, but voted reports will be the following month.

FIRE CHIEF REPORT:

- 1) Fire Chief Report
 - a. Fire Assignments – CA Severity assignment in California will be winding down and will probably end in the next two weeks, though it could go another two weeks beyond that. We have built a nice working relationship with Plumas National Forest, which could propel beginning permanent fire assignments next spring (March or April).
 - b. Ambulances – Both ambulances have been in repair shops and are back in service.
 - c. Brush 82 – Will need some rim repair work that will be built into next year’s R&M budget.
 - d. Ambulance build – Still working on the specs, should be ready to start production soon.
 - e. Budget – already discussed the budget. The Chief is working on long term salary schedules.
 - f. Tablets – Received grant money and purchased tablets for the apparatus vehicles.
 - g. PPE Grant – We were successful in obtaining a PPE grant from the state which will enable us to provide a second set of turnout gear, wildland clothing, and fire shelters.
 - h. Mesa County Chief’s meeting was cancelled last month.
 - i. Garfield County Chief’s meeting – not much new besides new reporting software that we already utilize.
 - j. New Infrastructure – There has been an increase in requests for area planning development reviews.
 - k. 2022 Calls – We are up 15% from last year’s call volume, and an increase in station walk-ins.
 - l. Local Fire Season – Colorado fires were pretty quiet this year. We had a multiple fire followed by a flash flood in August that trapped the crew on the other side of the flood. The crew did a great job in working through the situation.
 - m. Fire Danger Signs – We are looking at some adjustable Fire Danger Signs, adding one toward Wild Horse area and one here at the fire station, along with the two already in place.
 - n. Brush Truck – We need to start looking at replacement or remounting our existing truck as our next capital expense replacement item. A Type III truck would be optimal and will look into grant funding options. If we are going to have permanent Wildland Fire Assignments, we will optimally need to look at additional engines specifically for those assignments and at developing a specific Wildland Crew.
- 2) Crew Updates – No specific crew reports. Employees were tasked to put together their thoughts on a long term salary schedule that the Chief will take into advisement upon submitting an updated salary schedule to the Board.

BOARD COMMENTS: None

ADJOURNMENT: Motion was made by Board Member Farris and seconded by Board President Tanner to adjourn the meeting. **Vote:** Cynthia Farris, aye; Melanie Hansen, absent; Dustin Koehler, aye; Maria Ramthun, aye; Annette Tanner, aye. Motion passed. Meeting adjourned at 7:58 p.m.

Next regular meeting: October 11, 2022

Approved by the De Beque Fire Protection Board of Directors on October 11, 2022


Annette Tanner, President




Melanie Hansen, Secretary