REGULAR MEETING
BOARD OF DIRECTORS
DE BEQUE FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT

DE BEQUE FIRE STATION
AUGUST 11, 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 6:01 p.m. on Monday, August 11, 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, 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:
Annette Tanner; Forest Matis, De Beque District Fire Chief; Lieutenant Triston Quigley; Fireman Tyler Sepsey; 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 14, 2025. Motion was made and seconded to approve the minutes for May 14, 2025 as amended (typo of a name). Motion passed.

FINANCE REPORTS
Financial Reports were presented to the BOD for June 2025. Discussion regarding the uptake in EMS runs for June and how the EMS billing works in conjunction with our EMS billing company, and the issues the District continues to have with the current EMS billing company. Motion was made and seconded to approve the finance reports through June 2025 as presented. Motion passed.

OLD BUSINESS:

1) **President Tanner asked the Fire Chief about and update on the squad truck. Chief Matis reported that we have ordered the truck due to tariff increases that will be in place soon that would make the truck more expensive if we waited until later to order.**

NEW BUSINESS:

1) Recent Fire Response/Fire Hydrant Issues
    a. Discussion ensued regarding recent fire responses and fire hydrant issues. Chief Matis and Lieutenant Quigley had a good meeting with the Town of De Beque (the Town)

officials. The Town would like to put us under a contract agreement with them to do all the flow testing for the Town. Chief Matis declined to commit to that contract and gave them information on the required testing the Town is required to provide. Chief Matis emphasized that our crew did a phenomenal job in their responses to the fires and noted that the Town is responsible for maintaining their hydrants and doing flow testing. Chief Matis also stated while it would have been helpful to have access to water flow from the Town hydrant that was not working, the malfunction did not create any type of delay in getting water on the fire due to the number of trucks on scene that contained water tanks. The response time to the fire was incredibly quick and efficient. There were huge security issues at the fire in Town; Chief Matis discussed with the Town regarding proper scene security needs for future incidents. That said, the De Beque community response and desire to help was fantastic and noted we need to get information to the community on best practices for helping as needed in future, we will possibly utilize Facebook for District factual information posts to communicate with the community better. Discussion ensued regarding risk management and possibilities of risk to the District regarding potential lawsuits following fire incidents.

   b. Public Comments. Annette Tanner commented that the press release (regarding the Town fire) was very well written.

2) Long Term Medical Leave (LTML) Policy
   a. A LTML policy was presented to the BOD for consideration, due to recent needs from some employees. The previous BOD voted to fund an LTML (FAMLI Alternative) account for certain types of LTML issues, which was then accounted for in the last two-year budgetary processes. Recently some District employees have requested LTML benefits. A District policy to utilize the accounts has never been set in place. Discussion ensued regarding the policies to be put in place.
   b. There were no public comments regarding the proposed LTML policy.
   c. Motion was made and seconded to approve Resolution 2025-14 LTML Policy for DFPD. Motion passed.
3) Tax Estimates for 2026 from Garfield and Mesa Counties. The District has received preliminary financial numbers for the tax base for the 2026 budget. Garfield County, our largest tax base, is reporting a decrease of 20% across the board for property taxes and 40% for Oil & Gas taxes. 97% of our tax base in Garfield county is Oil & Gas, so we can expect a 40% decrease in tax base funding for the 2026 budget. Our deployment income is critical to help finance this loss in tax-based funding. We are still working on PILT funding information, but we do not currently have any clear information.

PUBLIC COMMENTS (Non-Agenda Items). There were no public comments.

FIRE CHIEF REPORT:

1) Most subjects have been covered; however, Chief Matis may be out on deployment assignment for the September meeting. Discussion ensued regarding whether or not to move the regular BOD meeting. Consensus was to leave things as they are right now and re-evaluate as the meeting date gets closer.

CREW UPDATES:

1) No Crew Update Reports

BOARD COMMENTS:

1) Board President Tanner commented that he thought Chief Matis handled the Town fire crisis well and thanked him for his management of the incident.
2) Board Secretary Ramthun thanked the team for their response to the Kimball Creek area fire.

ADJOURNMENT:

Motion was made and seconded to adjourn the meeting. Motion passed. Meeting adjourned at 7:39 p.m.

Next regular meeting: Monday, September 8, 2025.

Approved by the De Beque Fire Protection Board of Directors on October 20, 2025.

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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.