

REGULAR MEETING
BOARD OF DIRECTORS
DE BEQUE FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT

DE BEQUE FIRE STATION
MAY 10, 2022

MINUTES

CALL TO ORDER/ROLL CALL:

Pursuant to notice, the regular board meeting of the De Beque Fire Protection District was called to order by President Annette Tanner at 6:02 p.m. on Tuesday, May 10, 2022.

OPEN WITH PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE TO FLAG:

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

ROLL CALL/ESTABLISH QUORUM:

Cynthia Farris, not present at roll call, arrived at 6:20 p.m.; Melanie Hansen, present; Dustin Koehler, absent; Maria Ramthun, present; Annette 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 Jason Lee; Lieutenant Jesse Hughson; Employee Derek Campbell; Secretary Kim Latham.

ADDITIONS OR DELETIONS TO AGENDA:

- 1) Delete item six (6) – Election of New Officers
- 2) Change item seven (7) – From Volunteer Positions to Employee Positions

APPROVAL ITEMS:

- 1) Minutes from the April 12, 2022 regular board meeting were presented to the Board for discussion and approval. **Motion** was made by President Tanner and seconded by Secretary Hansen to approve the minutes for the April 12, 2022 regular board meeting. **Vote:** Cynthia Farris, absent; Melanie Hansen, aye; Dustin Koehler, absent; Maria Ramthun, aye; Annette Tanner, aye. Motion passed.
- 2) Financial Reports: Financial Statements for April 2022 were presented to the Board for discussion and approval. **Motion** was made by Vice President Ramthun and seconded by Secretary Hansen to approve the Financial Statements for April 2022. **Vote:** Cynthia Farris, absent; Melanie Hansen, aye; Dustin Koehler, absent; Maria Ramthun, aye; Annette Tanner, aye. Motion passed.
- 3) Expenditures (Check Listing) for April 2022 were presented to the Board for discussion and approval. **Motion** was made by President Tanner and seconded by Vice President Ramthun to approve the Expenditures for April 2022. **Vote:** Cynthia Farris, absent; Melanie Hansen, aye; Dustin Koehler, absent; Maria Ramthun, aye; Annette Tanner, aye. Motion passed.
- 4) Insurance Adjustments/Writes Offs for April 2022 were presented to the Board for discussion and approval. **Motion** was made by President Tanner and seconded by Secretary Hansen to approve write downs in the amount of \$0 and write offs in the amount of \$0 for April 2022. **Vote:** Cynthia Farris, absent; Melanie Hansen, aye; Dustin Koehler, absent; Maria Ramthun, aye; Annette Tanner, aye. Motion passed.
- 5) Appointment of Fifth (5th) Board Member: President Tanner made note that Board Member Farris was present at 6:20 p.m. **Motion** was made by President Tanner and seconded by Vice President Ramthun to appoint Cynthia Farris for a one-year term until the next election as the fifth member of the Board of Directors. **Vote:** Cynthia Farris, aye; Melanie Hansen, aye; Dustin Koehler, absent; Maria Ramthun, aye; Annette Tanner, aye. Motion passed.
- 6) Election of Officers – Deleted, will take place next board meeting.
- 7) Employee Positions:

- a. Volunteer Program: Chief Matis noted that the current Junior Fire Fighters are now over 18 and are ready to be moved from Junior Fire Fighters to another position. We are looking into adding volunteer positions, and the Junior Fire Fighters could be moved to volunteer status. We have had a few people interested in volunteer service in addition to the possibility of moving the Junior Fire Fighters to volunteer status. Generally, volunteers do not get paid an hourly wage, but would receive a stipend with FPPA pension benefits; however, FPPA has a moratorium on volunteer pensions at the current time. Chief Matis would like to look into stipend-based volunteer positions and pension options. Discussion ensued regarding insurance (we would have to cover with workmen's comp), training (we would need to set guidelines such as in house training, probably would not pay for outside training), the ability to send qualified volunteers on deployment assignments, and how to figure out how to pay volunteer pension. **Motion** was made by President Tanner and seconded by Secretary Hansen to leave it up to the Chief to develop a volunteer program and look into pension options. **Vote:** Cynthia Farris, aye; Melanie Hansen, aye; Dustin Koehler, absent; Maria Ramthun, aye; Annette Tanner, aye. Motion passed.
 - b. Staff: Chief Matis began discussion to inquire when the Board would like to start the hiring process for the three new staff positions needed to keep coverage at the station – now, or wait until next year with the increase of mill levy income. We are currently short staffed for complete full coverage. Questions regarding the amount we would need to add three employees and also order apparatus replacement (an ambulance is first on the list followed by some type of rescue pumper or fire engine). Chief Matis would like to hire with the minimum qualifications of at least one ALS and two BLS full time employees. **Motion** was made by Secretary Hansen and seconded by Board Member Farris to move forward in hiring three new employees full-time for one minimum requirement of ALS and two minimum requirements of BLS. **Vote:** Cynthia Farris, aye; Melanie Hansen, aye; Dustin Koehler, absent; Maria Ramthun, aye; Annette Tanner, aye. Motion passed.
- 8) Deployment: Chief Matis began discussion regarding the possibility of needing to send him on deployment assignments due to staffing issues and CDL requirements. We have only three employees who currently can go and only two employees with CDL qualifications - he is one of the CDL employees (though Lieutenant Lee is working on getting his CDL). Discussion ensued regarding coverage of chief duties in the event Chief Matis would need to be deployed, and payment compensation (if any, since he is on salary). Any compensation would be covered through the assignment billing and not at any cost to the District. The Board would like to avoid sending Chief Matis on deployment assignments, if possible, but leaves it up to his discretion. **Motion** was made by President Tanner and seconded by Vice President Ramthun that if Chief Matis is required to go out on fire assignment, we will compensate him over and above his current salary. **Vote:** Cynthia Farris, aye; Melanie Hansen, aye; Dustin Koehler, absent; Maria Ramthun, aye; Annette Tanner, aye. Motion passed.

PUBLIC COMMENTS: None

OLD BUSINESS:

- 1) Election Results: Board Member Farris wanted to say she thought the guys did a great job with putting those information sheets together, which she felt helped with the success of the passing of the mill levy.
- 2) Money Market Account Update: Secretary Latham presented to the Board a list of current money market/savings accounts in comparison to our current money market account. Discussion ensued regarding whether or not the companies are publicly traded banks, concerns that some are online and not physical banks; and that the banks are not locally operated banks. There is the possibility of moving the checking account to GVB to enable moving monies from savings to checking accounts easily and then put most of the checking money into the money market account for more returns (the checking account is non-interest bearing) and move monies as needed for accounting purposes. The Board directed Secretary Latham to find out if the \$200,000 FDIC coverage guarantee is on a per

account or per bank customer basis. Alpine Bank is changing their policies as of June 11th regarding arbitration vs. right to law suit. The board opted to opt out of the arbitration dispute resolution.

NEW BUSINESS:

- 1) Swearing In of Elected Board Members: Rebecca Ramthun, Cynthia Farris, Melanie Hansen, and Annette Tanner were sworn in as Board Members.
- 2) Hiring of Additional Staff: Already addressed under #7 of Approval Items
- 3) Community Gathering: Chief Matis would like to schedule a community strategic planning meeting to discuss with the community their thoughts and requests to move forward with the mill levy funding allocations. The meeting was set for June 14th at 4:00 p.m. to precede the regular board meeting.
- 4) A1 Estimate: Chief Matis reported on R&M estimates for toilette and urinal sensors in the men's bathroom in the crew quarters. The sensors are expensive to replace and all the building flushing devices will need to be replaced eventually – not the toilettes, just the flushing mechanisms. Chief Matis would recommend we go back to the old fashioned flushing mechanism vs. replacing the sensors as it is about half cost to do that.
- 5) Stryker Agreement: It's time to renew the Stryker Life Pac service agreement. It's around \$3000.

FIRE CHIEF REPORT:

- 1) Election: Already Discussed
- 2) Mesa County Chiefs' Meeting: Nothing to report. EMS resolution is still in progress.
- 3) Garfield County Chiefs' Meeting: Nothing to report – missed meeting due to election day.
- 4) Fire Season: Is upon us.
 - a. Nate went on a Duck Pond fire assignment in Gypsum.
 - b. Nate and Triston went on deployment to the Cerro Fire in New Mexico. They are back now.
- 5) R&M Update Engine 82: Pump test failed, so they had to get more parts in and redo.
- 6) R&M Update Ambulance 82: Still waiting on parts.
- 7) R&M Update Brush 82: Needs a clutch replacement.
- 8) Hiring: Already Addressed.
- 9) RT-130 Class: Good class turnout. Went well.
- 10) CDL: Jason is working on his CDL.
- 11) Call Report: April 2022 incidents were exactly the same as last year, which is an anomaly compared with the first three months of this year. Our calls are still up compared to last year.
- 12) Our projection system (in the conference room) is outdated and not functioning well. People using the conference room are having trouble connecting. The projector is okay, but the system won't connect correctly. Lieutenant Hughson presented a system for consideration. **Motion** was made by Vice President Ramthun and seconded by President Tanner to buy what is needed to fix the projector system. **Vote:** Cynthia Farris, aye; Melanie Hansen, aye; Dustin Koehler, absent; Maria Ramthun, aye; Annette Tanner, aye. Motion passed.
- 13) Crew Updates
 - a. Lieutenant Lee: Tyler is working on his task book. Not as much turnout for the S131-90 training class as anticipated. There were several scheduling conflicts that date, so we will reschedule training again.
 - b. Lieutenant Hughson: Jesse should be released to regular duty on the 23rd.
 - c. Lieutenant Voorhees: No report due to being on the Cerro Fire Assignment.

BOARD COMMENTS: President Tanner recommended anyone who is able to participate in one of the SDA regional meetings as they are a very beneficial. Annette would like to register for the Montrose meeting on Tuesday, June 14th; Kim and Forest will go to the Eagle meeting on Wednesday, June 15th. Others interested will let Kim know and she'll get everyone registered.

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

Next regular meeting: June 14, 2022

Approved by the De Beque Fire Protection Board of Directors on June 14, 2022

Annette Tanner

Annette Tanner, President

Melanie Hansen

Melanie Hansen, Secretary

