

REGULAR MEETING  
BOARD OF DIRECTORS  
DE BEQUE FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT

DE BEQUE FIRE STATION  
APRIL 13, 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 6:18 p.m. on Monday, April 13, 2026.

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

**ROLL CALL/ESTABLISH QUORUM:**

Cynthia Farris, Absent; Dustin Koehler, Absent; 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; Captain 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.

**MINUTES:**

Minutes were presented to the BOD for consideration for the regular board meeting of March 9, 2026. Board Member Latham asked about the process of changing the lock boxes (town, business, and school). Keys are being updated and will get keys for us to put in our lock box, so we have access in the event of an emergency. A typographical correction was made to the date in the Call to Order section, changing the year from 2025 to 2026. Motion was made and seconded to approve the minutes for March 9, 2026 as corrected. Motion passed.

**FINANCE REPORTS**

Financial Reports were presented to the BOD for February 2026. Questions regarding property tax revenue received, the bulk of which we will receive in May for April’s payments. The deployment income for 2025 was accounted for last year (accrual based on when earned, not when received) but will be received this year. Some budgetary items, such as payroll and IT, are impacted by when finances are expended. The copier rental contract ends this month. We are in process of getting small printers to replace the copier, which will save money in the long term. Motion was made and seconded to approve the finance reports for January - February 2026 as presented. Motion passed.

**PUBLIC COMMENTS (Non-Agenda Items):** None.

**OLD BUSINESS:**

- 1) VOP Phone Update. The new phone system is in place and the phone lines have been pick-lined over from CenturyLink to internet-based phone service. It is working very well so far.
- 2) Wildland Fire Deployment Update. We are planning on June 1<sup>st</sup> for deployment to the Plumas (California) for deployment.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

- 1) Annual SDA Regional Meetings. The annual Special District Association local regional meetings are set for June. Meetings are located in different areas throughout the state and Board members are encouraged to attend. The local regional meetings are in Vail on June 17, 2026, and in Clifton on June 18, 2026.

**FIRE CHIEF REPORT:**

- 1) Wildland fire assignment going to a 40-hour workweek is in consideration.
- 2) Task Force Leadership training has been completed for Chief Matis and Lieutenant Voorhees.
- 3) Policy Manual is with the attorney for review.
- 4) We have hired six new employees for deployment. It is noted that they are also qualified to backfill here at the station as needed. We are, however, short on employees with Engine Boss qualifications. We are sending three of the new hires to BLM training classes in Parachute. One new hire is a paramedic, along with the other necessary qualifications.
- 5) Chief Matis is recovering from a second ankle/food surgery.
- 6) The Wildland Resiliency Code has been sent off to the State, Garfield County, Mesa County, and the Town of De Beque.
- 7) Wildland billing for 2025 is in progress. It continues to be a frustrating process.
- 8) BK Radios are programed and ready to go.
- 9) Rope training is being scheduled for an on-site training certification class. This is an in-house training only now, but we may put together a training class for others at a later date.
- 10) RT 130 and Pack Test training are complete.
- 11) We have a truck on the board for additional federal fire assignments (aside from the Plumas assignment).

**OTHER COMMENTS:** None

**BOARD COMMENTS:** Board Member Latham asked if our calls are up for the year. Chief Matis reported that the calls are up 35% from last year through March. We are in process of transitioning over to a new EMS billing company. Chief Matis reported that snowpack is low this year, resulting in the District asking constituents to keep their spring burning to morning hours (before 1:00 p.m.) if possible.

**ADJOURNMENT:**

Motion was made and seconded to adjourn the meeting. Motion passed. Meeting adjourned at 6:54 p.m.

**Next regular meeting: Monday, May 11, 2026.**

**Approved by the De Beque Fire Protection Board of Directors on May 11, 2026.**

**(Signature on Original Document)**

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.

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**This is an informational document designed to be accessible on our web site. Please contact the District office if you desire a copy of the signed document.**

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