



REGULAR MEETING
BOARD OF DIRECTORS
DE BEQUE FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT

DE BEQUE FIRE STATION
MARCH 9, 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 6:00 p.m. on Monday, March 9, 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:

Forest Matis, De Beque District Fire Chief; Lieutenant Triston Quigley; Office/Finance Manager Kim Latham.

ADDITIONS OR DELETIONS TO AND APPROVAL OF AGENDA:

Additions to the Agenda were made to add two more resolutions. Res 2026-09 will specifically be for the Town of De Beque; Res 2026-10 will be specifically for Garfield County; and Res 2026-11 will be specifically for Garfield County, to enable resolutions to address each principality separately. Motion was made and seconded to approve the agenda as amended. Motion passed.

MINUTES:

Minutes were presented to the BOD for consideration for the regular board meeting of February 9, 2026. Motion was made and seconded to approve the minutes for February 9, 2026 as presented. Motion passed.

FINANCE REPORTS

Financial Reports were presented to the BOD for January 2026. Discussion ensued regarding specific expenses. It is noted that certain expenses are annual payments that are usually paid in full in January, which inflates the budget percentage at the beginning of the year but will level out as the year progresses. Also, most of the District tax income arrives in March, May, and July, which deflates income in the other months, but also levels out on a yearly basis. Motion was made and seconded to approve the finance reports for January 2026 as presented. Motion passed.

OLD BUSINESS:

1) WILDLAND RESILIENCY

- a. Discussion ensued regarding the State of Colorado’s requirement to adopt the current Wildland Resiliency and Enforcement Code by April 1, 2026. After conferring with our attorney, it was decided we need three resolutions: one for the Town of De Beque; one for Garfield County; and one for Mesa County.



- b. Public Comments - None
- c. Motion was made and seconded to adopt Resolution 2026-09 Wildland Resiliency and Enforcement Code for the Town of De Beque. Motion passed.
- d. Motion was made and seconded to adopt Resolution 2026-10 Wildland Resiliency and Enforcement Code for Garfield County. Motion passed.
- e. Motion was made and seconded to adopt Resolution 2026-11 Wildland Resiliency and Enforcement Code for Mesa County. Motion passed.

2) EMS BILLING UPDATE

- a. Finance/Office Manager Kim Latham updated the BOD on the progress to move to One Billing Solutions. Notice has been given to EMSMC that we are terminating our contract with them, and paperwork has been initiated with One Billing Solutions. One Billing Solutions will take over our account as of May 1, 2026.
- b. Public Comments – None.

NEW BUSINESS:

1) RADIOS FOR DEPLOYMENT

- a. Discussion ensued regarding the need for more radios for the deployment crew we are putting together. We are required to have one radio for each person on assignment.
- b. Public Comments – None.
- c. Motion was made and seconded to approve the purchase of new radios for the deployment program. Motion passed.

2) IT/NETWORKS UNLIMITED

- a. Discussion ensued regarding issues with the system Networks Unlimited is using for the District. It is a very robust platform but is crippling our computers and there are some issues with the EMS system. Purchasing all new computers to run the platform is not an option with this year’s budgetary issues. Chief Matis and Finance/Office Manager Latham are recommending that we do not renew the contract with Networks Unlimited. Other IT security companies have been contacted for quotes for IT/Email security.
- b. Public Comments – None.

3) VOP PHONE DISCUSSION

- a. We are currently using CenturyLink as our landline phone service but would like to upgrade to a VOP phone system. The cost would be similar, but the services would be much improved, with the ability to have more than one person on the phone line at the same time, which is our current situation. Board Secretary Ramthun asked if there were any restrictions on the type of lines that would be needed. Chief Matis informed the BOD that our current needs no longer require specific lines (such as copper). The District backup now goes through the internet. In addition, we have a backup generator for times when electricity is off. Motion was made and seconded to approve going from CenturyLink to Tuck Communications for a VOP phone system, including new phones. Motion passed.

PUBLIC COMMENTS (Non-Agenda Items)

FIRE CHIEF REPORT:

1) Chief Matis

- a. We have been requested to go back to California for deployment this season.
- b. The job posting is up for the deployment seasonal employee openings.



- c. IBC (International Building Code) is still in process.
- d. The District is assessing the deployment wage scale for this year. Chief Matis will present his recommendations to the BOD.
- e. There was a gas leak at the Mesa County Community Center. Upon response, it was discovered that the District key in the Knox Box for access no longer would allow access to the building. This was addressed with the Town administration, and the District now has a key for access.
- f. Chief Matis and Captain Quigley are enrolled for Fire Officer II classes in May.
- g. The Staff meeting went well, and morale is good.

OTHER COMMENTS: None

BOARD COMMENTS: None

ADJOURNMENT:

Motion was made and seconded to adjourn the meeting. Motion passed. Meeting adjourned at 7:11 p.m.

Next regular meeting: Monday, April 13, 2026.

Approved by the De Beque Fire Protection Board of Directors on April 13, 2026.

Michael Tanner, President

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.