



**DEER MOUNTAIN FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT**  
**SPECIAL BOARD MEETING MINUTES**  
**6181 COUNTY RD. 28, COTOPAXI, CO 81223**  
**December 10, 2020 at 6:00 PM**

**CALL TO ORDER:** The meeting was called to order by Joe Watts at 6:00 PM.

**DIRECTORS PRESENT:** Vice-chairman, Sharon Zuidema (via phone) - Treasurer, Sherry Hastings - Communications Director, Joe Watts

**DIRECTOR ABSENT:** Insurance Director, Carl Jones

**PRAYER:** Led by JR Niblett

**PLEDGE of ALLEGIANCE:** Led by JR Niblett

**CHANGES TO THE AGENDA** - none

**Communications** - Joe Watts

- Motion by Joe Watts to end paid EMS staff and to go back to a volunteer status. DMPFD will pay for an ad to be placed in a local newspaper for 45 days to inform the public of this change/decision.  
Second by Sherry Hastings

Discussion: Joe Watts provided background information on EMS. Originally, Deer Mountain EMS was only volunteer staff. The department moved to paid staff when Joe Watts became chief. Paid EMS staff provides services in 12 hour shifts. Currently the biggest problem is funding. Joe Watts aided with equipping the department with vehicles for use in fighting wildland fires. The income from fighting wildland fires has funded EMS services. With the recent failure of the mill levy, this is no longer sustainable. He suggested another ballot initiative in the Fall of 2021. Staffing has become another challenge with fewer EMT staff residing in the district. It is hoped that current staff will remain through the next 45 days.

Sharon Zuidema suggests seeking out new EMS volunteers outside of the community. A legal review of the wording for the public notice to be published is needed. Joe Watts has a draft of the notice prepared for attorney, Dan Slater to review and approve.

Sherry Hastings provided financial information to support this change - see attached.

JR Niblett informed the board that the Fremont County commissioners are aware of this change. The ad will run for 5 weeks and payroll for EMS will end on January 17, 2021.

Vote: Unanimous - motion carried

**ANNOUNCEMENTS:**

- Next regular board meeting on December 16, 2020 at 6:00 PM

**ADJOURNMENT**

Motion to adjourn by Joe Watts

Second by Sherry Hastings

Vote: Unanimous - motion carried

Meeting adjourned a 6:28 PM

Respectfully submitted,  
Anita Gregg, secretary

*(Supporting documentation to these minutes available upon request.)*