



# DEER MOUNTAIN FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT

## REGULAR BOARD MEETING MINUTES

### 6181 COUNTY ROAD 28 - COTOPAXI, CO 81223

### May 20, 2026 at 6:00 PM

**CALL TO ORDER:** Miriam Andolini called the meeting to order at 6:01 PM.

**PRAYER:** Laurie McKay

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:** Miriam Andolini

**ROLL CALL:** Anita Gregg, Recording Secretary

**DIRECTORS PRESENT:** Miriam Andolini, Laurie McKay, Nancy Mickelson and Forrest Nichols

**DIRECTOR ABSENT:** JR Niblett

A quorum of the Board was noted.

**PUBLIC INPUT SIGN UP:** M. Andolini directed community members in attendance to sign up if they would like to comment.

**MINUTES APPROVAL:** **Motion** by L. McKay to approve the minutes of the April 15, 2026 Regular Board Meeting. Second by M. Andolini. Discussion: None. Vote: M. Andolini-YES, L. McKay-YES, F. Nichols-YES, N. Mickelson-ABSTAIN; motion carried.

- **TREASURER'S REPORT:** Nancy Mickelson - *supporting documentation*

April Treasurer's Report:

Month deposits	\$ 96,643.08
Expenses to date	\$ 91,574.96
Total checking account funds	\$ 83,851.04
Emergency Reserves	\$ 504,521.81
Capital Improvements	\$ 124,858.25
Wildland Account	\$ 25,926.88
Total funds available – including reserves (4/30/2026)	\$ 739,157.98

Bills Paid Report:

Bills paid through May 20, 2026 \$ 97,632.61

**Motion** by N. Mickelson to approve the Bills Paid Report and the April Treasurer's Report. Second by L. McKay.

Discussion: In six months approx. \$65,000 will be reimbursed from wildland. Vote: Unanimous; motion carried.

- The Payment Portal is available on the website on the Fire Department Page and on Quicklinks for community members to pay for services rendered and/or to donate funds. Action item for A. Gregg to move the link to the end of the top tool bar. Action item for N. Mickelson to provide verbiage about the fees involved when making payment through the portal. This information will be added to the website.
- Both L. McKay and N. Mickelson will be attending the half-day SDA Workshop in Buena Vista in June. The 2026 SDA Manual will be available.
- The costs for District expansion have not yet been determined. The Board has already voted on two properties coming into the district with the potential for additional annexed properties. Action item for M. Andolini to take on the District's expansion efforts and review required steps with the attorney. Suggested that a Boundary Committee should be formed to evaluate annexations into DMFPD in order to include citizen participation.
- Fremont County has not been enforcing zoning compliance due to limited time and resources. Non-enforcement is causing a burden to DMFD and to public safety. Submitting an official complaint is the only enforcement option.
- The DMFPD bank is providing improved service. The Money Market accounts are earning 3%.

**ASSISTANT TREASURER'S REPORT:** Laurie McKay

- \$50,000 has been transferred from the Emergency Account into the CSLIP Account earning 3.7%.
- A wildland crew is out again. The department should be ahead financially by approx. \$75,000 with wildland firefighting income. A Budget Amendment is needed because wildland expenses are over budget. These wildland expenses are tagged as reimbursable in the Profit/Loss Statement. Action item for N. Mickelson to inquire with the Deer Mountain Auditor about the timing of an amendment. The audit is likely at the July 2026 meeting.
- The plumbing work in Building A has begun and passed inspection. The bid for concrete work is the next step.

**CHAIRMAN'S REPORT:** Miriam Andolini

- After collaboration with DMFD leadership, a 2026 Service Plan is complete. In 2013, the Fremont County Commissioners did not grant permission to run EMS, only licensing for ambulances was granted. There was no service plan modification submitted to the County or any DMFPD Board Resolution. The FC Commissioners had their attorney review the new plan and have provided verbal confirmation that the 2026 Service Plan will be approved. Once adopted, the final draft supported by the exhibits will be sent to the FC Commissioners for their June 9<sup>th</sup> meeting. DMFD has the third largest number of calls

in Fremont County. Call volume increases 20% annually. This categorically comprehensive 2026 Service Plan supersedes any other plan and must be updated each year. The multiple aspects of the plan were described and reviewed.

**Motion** by M. Andolini to adopt the 2026 DMFPD Service Plan. Second by L. McKay. Discussion: Nothing further. A final draft will be sent to the Board. Vote: Unanimous; motion carried. - *supporting documentation*

**Motion** by M. Andolini to adopt Resolution 20260520-06 and was read into the record. Second by N. Mickelson.

Discussion: The Resolution will be posted on the website. Communications will be provided following presentation at the FC Board of County Commissioners. Vote: Unanimous; motion carried. - *supporting documentation*

- Note that DMFPD Survey results will be presented at the June meeting.

**VICE CHAIRMAN'S REPORT:** None

**COMMUNICATION/CONSTRUCTION:** Forrest Nichols

- A Social Media Policy is still a work-in-progress.
- New and/or repainted DMFPD signs are under consideration.

**STATION REPORTS:** Fire Chief Marcus Widener

- There have been 144 calls for the year. There were no training hours this month because of the weather. Training and demonstrations scheduled for the Open House on May 30, 2026.
- The state-leased fire engine has arrived. It will be in service as soon as compliant. The truck is insured for \$70,000.
- Two new firefighters (Walter and Rick) have volunteered.
- Wildland crew is out, currently in Oklahoma, thanks to the support of many. With the availability of the leased fire truck, there is a possibility of having two trucks and crews deployed to wildland fires.
- Thank you to Ginger Delker for her support of the department.
- After cleaning the exterior of Station 1 maintenance is suggested, specifically new paint in Spring of 2027. Action item for M. Widener to obtain a quote.
- Fire restrictions have been lifted due to the recent snow and rain with restriction reevaluation daily.
- Donated apple trees were planted; posts and fencing protecting the trees were donated; volunteers dug holes to plant the trees and all at no expense to the Fire Department. Thank you to all who assisted in the project.
- Current staffing issues in EMS are being addressed by training firefighter volunteers as drivers. Bill Delker has suggested a plan for volunteers to earn points. Action item for M. Widener to track points to earn a gift card award to cover fuel costs.
- This year, DMFD has responded with EMS mutual aid to Custer County a total of 21 times. DM has requested mutual aid three times. With the 20% annual increase in call volume, DMFD will be responding to three calls a day within six years. Each call takes approximately 2½ to 3 hours. Action item for M. Widener to send statistics to the Board.

**OLD OR UNFINISHED BUSINESS:** None

**PUBLIC INPUT:** None

**ANNOUNCEMENTS:** Miriam Andolini

- Next monthly Board Meeting on June 17, 2026 at 6:00 PM.
- Ginger Delker commented on the DMFD Open House on May 30. The Summer Yard Sales begin in June. Fall Open House anticipated at the Cotopaxi Station.

**VOTE TO ADJOURN:** Miriam Andolini

- **Motion** by M. Andolini to adjourn the meeting. Second by F. Nichols. Discussion: None. Vote: Unanimous; motion carried. The meeting was adjourned at 7:23 PM.

Respectfully submitted,  
Anita Gregg

*Supporting documentation:*  
*Profit & Loss Budget Performance*  
*Bills Paid Report*  
*2026 DMFPD Service Plan*  
*Resolution 20260520-06*