DEER MOUNTAIN FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT
REGULAR BOARD MEETING MINUTES
6181 COUNTY ROAD 28 - COTOPAXI, CO 81223
October 21, 2026 at 6:00 PM

CALL TO ORDER: Miriam Andolini called the meeting to order at 6:00 PM.
PRAYER: Laurie McKay
PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE: Miriam Andolini
ROLL CALL: Anita Gregg, Recording Secretary
DIRECTORS PRESENT: Miriam Andolini, Laurie McKay and Nancy Mickelson
DIRECTOR ABSENT: Forrest Nichols *(excused absence)*
There is a Board vacancy for the Vice Chairman position. A quorum of the Board was noted.

CHANGES TO AGENDA: Miriam Andolini
This item will remain on the agenda as per the DMFPD bylaws, however per CRS §24-6-402, this item "Changes to the Agenda" will no longer be facilitated at the meeting due to adherence of the 24-hour notice requirement for Open Meeting laws.

MINUTES APPROVAL:
Motion by M. Andolini to approve the minutes of the August 19, 2026 Regular Board Meeting. Second by N. Mickelson. Discussion: None. Vote: Unanimous; motion carried.
Motion by M. Andolini to approve the minutes of the August 27, 2026 Special Board Meeting. Second by L. McKay. Discussion: None. Vote: Unanimous; motion carried.

PUBLIC INPUT: None

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

August Treasurer's Report:

Month deposits	$ 26,177.22
Expenses to date	$ 125,639.12
Total funds available – includes all accounts (8/31/2026)	$ 846,525.66
Bills Paid Report:	
Bills paid through September 2026	$ 109,947.31

Motion by N. Mickelson to approve the Treasurer's Report and the Bills Paid Report for August/September. Second by L. McKay. Discussion: Includes wildland payroll. Vote: Unanimous; motion carried.

September Treasurer's Report:

Month deposits	$ 181,177.22
Expenses to date	$ 100,260.08
Total funds available – includes all accounts (9/30/2026)	$ 930,535.87
Bills Paid Report:	
Bills paid through October 21, 2026	$ 112,577.46

Motion by N. Mickelson to approve the Treasurer's Report and the Bills Paid Report for September/October. Second by M. Andolini. Discussion: Includes QuickBooks payroll, one half of the liability insurance and payroll that is broken out. Vote: Unanimous; motion carried.

- Liability Insurance Update – Nancy Mickelson
  Total premiums for all insurance coverage are $18,192 annually. A substantial decrease from $41,000 two years ago. Half of the annual premium was paid this month, and the second half will be paid in January 2027.

ASSISTANT TREASURER'S REPORT: Laurie McKay

- Auxiliary Update – The Deer Mountain Auxiliary is in compliance, and their 501(c)3 tax status is in good standing. All functions are legal under the umbrella of the Deer Mountain Volunteer Fire Department (both paid and volunteer). Their by-laws are under revision.
- District Signs Update – The new signs are completed with the new logo. Thank you to F. Nichols for design work and M. McKay for frame construction. The four new signs are ready for installation when locations are determined.

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT: Miriam Andolini

- Grant Updates – Deer Mountain is still in the running for the Assistance to Firefighters (AFG) grant. Progress has been made for the District's eligibility to take Qualified Charitable Distributions. $10,000 DAF Grant was received in August 2026.
- Measure 6A Committee Update – Thank you to the hard-working committee members working on the Ballot Measure 6A. Open Houses and Meet & Greets have been successful. Ballots are out.
- SDA Conference Update – Presentations/sessions provide useful content, and recorded sessions are available.
- Social Media Update – M. Andolini has been making updates on social media while F. Nichols is absent. The YouTube channel is growing.

VICE CHAIRMAN'S REPORT: Vacant

- No report.

COMMUNICATION/CONSTRUCTION REPORT: Forrest Nichols

- Absent - No report.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS: All Board Members

- Station 1 Updates – Laurie McKay *(supporting documentation)*
  - Building A: Following research/consultation with several air cleaning companies, three estimates have been prepared for diesel exhaust systems to filter air and vent outside. The required mechanical and electrical engineering proposal from CTA Engineering for submission to Fremont County is provided. Standard permit costs are included. Options were presented. Recommendation is for five Airhawk 3000 units through Salty Peaks Solutions pending approval and final engineering recommendation at a turn-key cost of $50,000. There is an annual maintenance cost for filters of $363 per unit. The lead time is 6 to 8 weeks after ordering. Sales tax will be removed from the cost estimate. A request for references is suggested.
    Motion by L. McKay to earmark $5,500 for complete mechanical and electrical engineering drawings with CTA Engineering Corp to submit to Fremont County for approval of an exhaust system. Second by M. Andolini. Discussion: Nothing further. Vote: Unanimous; motion carried.
    Motion by L. McKay to earmark $50,162.23 to move forward with an exhaust system installation of five Airhawk 3000XL units with Salty Peaks once it is submitted and approved by Fremont County unless there are any stipulations that cannot be met. Second by N. Mickelson. Discussion: Note that no further construction can proceed in Building A until installation of an exhaust system is completed. Vote: Unanimous; motion carried.
  - Driveway Update: Rocky Mountain Excavating will soon deliver road base to the driveway at Station One. Fremont County will blow out the driveway culvert next year. Some sand and patching materials have been donated.
  - Thank you to Michael Croge and Bill Delker for their volunteer support for projects. Thank you to Ginger Delker and team for her support of events that benefit the fire station.
  - Wildland Update: There are bills totaling $232,646 awaiting reimbursement review. One bill for $7,761 has just been completed and will arrive soon. To date Wildland income received is $415,682.63 and Wildland expenses are $322,495.69. Total profit to date is $93,186.94. Estimated that ±30% of total billed amounts will be income for this year's wildland fire season in the amount of approx. $160,000. Deer Mountain Wildland deployments have not gone out since 2022. Thank you to Marcus Widener and Matt Brown for coordinating this year's deployment of all Wildland trucks and crews.

- Station 2 Update – Miriam Andolini *(supporting documentation)*
  - Thank you to Bill Delker for his research work on Station 2. The fire station building is owned by DMFPD and the land is owned by Fremont County. The current lease will expire May 19, 2029. The renewal term will extend the use of Station 2 for 40 years at one dollar per year. It will commence on May 20, 2029 and expire on May 19, 2069. The renewal was read into the record.
    Motion by M. Andolini to accept and sign the new lease renewal agreement with Fremont County and to send the $40 check. Second by N. Mickelson. Discussion: Vote: Unanimous; motion carried.

- Annexation Project for Inclusions – Nancy Mickelson *(supporting documentation)*
  - The process for inclusion into DMFPD has begun through Resolution. The formal proposed resolution is drafted with exhibits and requires approval. A special board meeting will be held for a hearing on December 1, 2026 at 6:00 PM. A draft letter has been prepared by an attorney which must notify those property owners. The secretary of the district will mail notices to property owners and place a hearing notice in the local paper. Note a generous donation has come in from a resident in Spruce Basin that will cover costs.
    Motion by N. Mickelson to preliminarily approve the proposed resolution following clarification on the Board Secretary position and approved the drafted property owner letter with exhibits for inclusion. Total costs not to exceed $2,000. Second by L. McKay. Discussion: The notification should be sent to the newspaper on October 28, 2026 and the mailing must be completed by Thursday. Envelopes will be printed. Vote: Unanimous; motion carried.

STATION REPORTS: Chief Widener *(Moved to this point in the agenda because the chief has just returned from a call.)*

- Fire/EMS/Training/Runs - The station had 356 calls for the year. In 2025, there were a total of 306 calls.
- Updates:
- There have been two new volunteers. Background checks are in progress.
  - The Fire One class is going well with Deer Mountain, Howard and Wet Mountain Fire Departments. Likely five volunteers will be signed up for the EMT class in November.
  - #452 is down awaiting parts, #411 needs a valve kit and #412 needs work with repairs to be completed in-house. Additionally, the Chief's pickup truck has an oil leak.
  - Thank you to volunteers for keeping things running smoothly.
  - The new truck delivery is likely in January or February 2027. Pictures are available.

NEW BUSINESS AND SPECIAL ORDERS: All Board Members

- Proposed Budgets – Nancy Mickelson *(supporting documentation)*
  Three budgets have been prepared in a revised format.
  1. Proposed Amended 2026 Budget

2. Proposed 2027 Budget (with current mill levy)
3. Proposed 2027 Budget (with increased mill levy if 6A passes)

The Budget Hearing Workshops are scheduled for December 9 at 9:00 AM (2026 Proposed Amended Budget) and at 11:00 AM (2027 Proposed Budgets) and will be noticed in the newspaper on October 26.
Motion by N. Mickelson to approve the Proposed Amended Budget for 2026 and the Proposed Budgets for 2027 with notification 30 days in advance of the December 9, 2026 Budget Hearing Workshops at 9:00AM and 11:00AM. Second by L. McKay. Discussion: Vote: Unanimous; motion carried.

- New Collection Company Agreement – Nancy Mickelson *(supporting documentation)*
  Another collection company will pursue the costs for delinquent Emergency Medical Services. Deer Mountain will state that there will be no small claims court collection process. ACTION ITEM for M. Widener.
  Motion by N. Mickelson to engage in a business/associate agreement with BS Services for collection of EMS delinquent payments with notification of the exclusion of court processes. Second by L. McKay. Discussion: Vote: Unanimous; motion carried.
- Gift Cards for the Volunteers – Chief Marcus Widener
  Motion by M. Andolini to approve $2500 to purchase $100 gift cards for volunteers as a year-end thank-you on behalf of Chief Widener's request to assist volunteers that serve the department. Second by N. Mickelson. Discussion: Funded from the Employee and Volunteer Expenses budget. Vote: Unanimous; motion carried.
- New T-shirts with the New Logo – Chief Marcus Widener
  Motion by N. Mickelson on behalf of Chief Widener's request to purchase t-shirts for the entire department in the amount of $2500 that have the new Fire Department logo. Second by L. McKay. Discussion: Funds have been budgeted under Employee and Volunteer Expenses and Wildland. Additionally, shirts for fire department supporters may be pursued. Vote: Unanimous; motion carried.
- Excused Meeting Absences – Miriam Andolini
  The DMFPD By-Laws outlines meeting absences both excused and unexcused. Forrest Nichols has been absent for two meetings. These are excused for health reasons.

EXECUTIVE SESSION: Miriam Andolini
Motion by M. Andolini to move to Executive Session pursuant to CRS §24-6-402(4)(F) for Discussion of Department Personnel Matters for the Annual Performance Review for Chief Widener as per his Employment Contract. Second by L. McKay. Discussion: Chief Widener was thanked for allowing this to be moved due to last month's meeting cancellation. Vote: Unanimous; motion carried.

The Board moved to an Executive Session at 7:42 PM.
The Board moved back into Regular Session at 8:06 PM.

- **Motion** by N. Mickelson to approve the Annual Increase of 4.22% for Chief Widener as per his Employment Contract and Annual Performance Score. Second by L. McKay. Discussion: Nothing further. Vote: Unanimous; motion carried.

ANNOUNCEMENTS: Miriam Andolini
- Halloween Trunk or Treat on October 30, 2026
- Election Day is November 3, 2026
- Monthly Board Meeting on November 18, 2026 at 6:00 PM

VOTE TO ADJOURN: Miriam Andolini
- **Motion** by M. Andolini to adjourn the meeting. Second by L. McKay. Discussion: None. Vote: Unanimous; motion carried. The meeting concluded at 8:07 PM.

Respectfully submitted,
Anita Gregg

Supporting documentation:
Profit & Loss Budget Performance
Bills Paid Report
Engineering Proposal
Diesel Exhaust System Quotes (3)
Draft Inclusion Letter
Proposed Amended Budgets
BS Services Agreement