



DEER MOUNTAIN FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT

REGULAR BOARD MEETING MINUTES

6181 COUNTY ROAD 28 - COTOPAXI, CO 81223
January 21, 2026 at 6:00 PM

CALL TO ORDER: JR Niblett

PRAYER: Laurie McKay

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE: JR Niblett

ROLL CALL: Anita Gregg, Recording Secretary

DIRECTORS PRESENT: Miriam Andolini (via phone), Laurie McKay, Nancy Mickelson and JR Niblett

DIRECTOR ABSENT: Forrest Nichols

PUBLIC INPUT SIGN UP: JR Niblett directed community members in attendance to sign up if they would like to comment.

MINUTES APPROVAL: **Motion** by JR Niblett to approve the minutes of the December 11, 2025 Special Board Meeting and the December 17, 2025 Regular Board Meeting. Second by L. McKay. Discussion: None. Vote: Unanimous; motion carried.

TREASURER'S REPORT: Nancy Mickelson (*supporting documentation*)

- December Treasurer's Report:

Checking account balances	\$ 147,906.55
Month deposits	\$ 17,380.51
Expenses to date	\$ 57,591.88
Total checking account funds	\$ 107,695.18
Total funds available (12/31/2025)	\$ 744,624.98
- Bills Paid Report:

Bills paid through January 21, 2026 \$ 33,104.12

Motion by N. Mickelson to approve the Treasurer's Report and the Bills Paid Report. Second by L. McKay. Discussion: The dates have been changed to reflect the entire calendar month of the Treasurer's Report. For bills to be approved for payment, the Bill's Paid Report date will remain on the monthly meeting date. Vote: Unanimous; motion carried.
- Resolution 20260118-01 DMFPD Board Meeting Dates was read. (*supporting documentation*)

Motion by N. Mickelson to approve Resolution 20260118-01. Second by L. McKay. Discussion: None. Vote: Unanimous; motion carried.
- Resolution 20260118-02 DMFPD 72-Hour Meeting Posting Sites was read. (*supporting documentation*)

Motion by N. Mickelson to approve Resolution 20260118-02. Second by JR Niblett. Discussion: None. Vote: Unanimous; motion carried.
- Resolution 20260118-03 DMFPD 24-Hour Agenda Notice was read. (*supporting documentation*)

Motion by N. Mickelson to approve Resolution 20260118-03. Second by L. McKay. Discussion: None. Vote: Unanimous; motion carried.
- The Boundary Map for the Fire District has not legally changed. ACTION ITEM for N. Mickelson to submit a letter to the Department of Local Affairs (DOLA) attesting that there has been no change. Additionally, the Service Plan needs to be submitted to DOLA. M. Widener will review and provide the Service Plan to the Board by January 31, 2026. ACTION ITEM for M. Andolini to meet with the Fire Chief to finalize. ACTION ITEM for N. Mickelson to assure submission of the Transparency Notice to DOLA by January 31, 2026.

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT: Miriam Andolini

- Thanked fellow Board members for filling in during her extensive absence due to jury duty and illness.

VICE CHAIRMAN'S REPORT: JR Niblett

- The building permit for an office in Building A has been issued by Fremont County. Construction assistance from the community will be needed.
- The reported missing equipment was a misunderstanding and has been located.

ASSISTANT TREASURER'S REPORT: Laurie McKay

- Resolution 20260118-04 for Financing the New Pierce Freightliner M2 4x4 Wild Land Truck was read. (*supporting documentation*)

Motion by L. McKay to approve Resolution 20260118-04. Second by M. Andolini. Discussion: Financing \$607,045 for 15 years at 5.294%. Vote: Unanimous; motion carried.

A Leasing Resolution is required by the bank with Board Chairman and Recording Secretary signatures. The financing contract will be posted for public review at the station.

- Resolution 20260118-05 for selecting an Investment Firm was read. (*supporting documentation*)
Motion by L. McKay to adopt Resolution 20260118-05. Second by M. Andolini. Discussion: The firm selected is local, smaller, and has been attentive and responsive. Funds can be transferred when the account is established. Withdrawals of funds when needed can be done quickly and easily. Vote: Unanimous; motion carried.
- The DM attorney's review of the finance contract is recommended. **Motion** by L. McKay to authorize the expenditures for attorney fees. Second by N. Mickelson. Discussion: The attorney has a part in certifying the contract and will review the content for legal accuracy. Vote: Unanimous; motion carried.
- Monthly financial reporting dates were reviewed. **Motion** by L. McKay to report financials, with the exception of the Bill's Paid Report, from the 1st to the 31st of the month. Second by JR Niblett. Discussion: This change will be clearer for the community. Report preparation is easier month-to-month rather than meeting-to-meeting and allows time to clarify any questions. Vote: Unanimous; motion carried.
- Moving forward, financials (Profit & Loss and Bill's Paid Reports) and resolutions will be posted on the DMFPD website. The change to on-call status for staffing on nights, weekends and holidays, and need for volunteers will be posted.

COMMUNICATION/CONSTRUCTION REPORT: Forrest Nichols, no report

- Noted by JR Niblett that he and F. Nichols have met to review station buildings.

PUBLIC INPUT: (*supporting documentation*)

1. James Schenatzki commented on the inability for the community to communicate with the Board of Directors. Suggested that the Facebook page, the website, and three minutes of public input are not effective. He was directed to email: Board@dmfpd.org. Commented on the need for involvement on any mill levy increase before June 2026. He was invited to participate on that committee.
2. Ginger Delker commented on a building use request for a Fremont County Sheriff candidate campaign meeting. The request was denied until clarity is received.

STATION REPORTS: Chief Widener

- Fire/EMS/Training/Runs – There were 70 hrs. of training. 306 calls in 2025. Calls are increasing from prior years of approx. 270 total calls. Thus far in January, the department is averaging a call a day.
- Division Fire Prevention and Control Update - Met with Joe Lobiondo about a pending lease agreement for a fire truck.
- Personnel: Hiring, Volunteers and Training - Jasmine Purcell has left the department for continuing education opportunities and family reasons. Lydia Yoder has joined as an EMT Basic.
- Hearing for volunteer annexation of properties – **Q:** What needs to be done to annex the two properties off of Hwy 12?
A: Notification via US Mail must be sent to all property owners within a one-mile radius of the properties requesting annexation into DMFPD stating that they volunteer to come into this fire district for services.
- Price for Treat but no Transport – Following discussion on the fire department's considerable costs of treatment (staffing, time, fuel, insurance, paperwork, supplies etc.), JR Niblett made a **Motion** to charge \$250 per treatment call without transport. Second by L. McKay. Discussion: Nothing further. Vote: Unanimous; motion carried.
- Ambulance Fees for Transport – M. Widener indicated that DM ambulance fees are average (\$1000 for base transport). Medicare/Medicaid pays only \$337. Any increase in fees was tabled until February.
- Update on water tanks in District – Water tanks are vital. Area tank inspections have revealed missing/stolen fittings. The department is replacing parts at a cost of \$40/each. Without proper fittings, fire departments cannot access these water sources. Tanks will be checked monthly. The FC Sheriff will be notified of any stolen parts.
- Listing of engines for deployments – Two wildland trucks and one tender are listed ready for deployment.
- Wildland refresher for department – Training provided by Wet Mountain FD on February 21. The Pack Test (to complete a 3-mile walk over level terrain in 45 minutes or less while carrying a 45-pound pack) will take place on February 22. ACTION ITEM for M. Widener and M. Andolini will meet about committees and grants for in-house wildland gear.
- Grant update, John Decker – The NFIRS (National Fire Incident Reporting System) Report containing specific numbers needed for the grant application has been obtained. M. Andolini will provide updated financial information. In the future, there will be additional, complex EPA emission requirements that will significantly increase the cost of a new fire truck. Commented that the recent truck purchase was cost effective for the department.

OLD OR UNFINISHED BUSINESS: None

ANNOUNCEMENTS: JR Niblett

- DMFS Event Updates – Ginger Delker
January 31 - Pancake Feed.
February 28 - Italian Lunch.

March 20 - Fire Extinguisher Check.

- The next monthly Board Meeting is on February 18, 2026 at 6:00 PM.
- A reminder to check on the safety of neighbors during severe winter weather.

VOTE TO ADJOURN: JR Niblett

- **Motion** by JR Niblett to adjourn the meeting. Second by N. Mickelson. Discussion: None. Vote: Unanimous; motion carried. The meeting was adjourned at 7:15 PM.

Respectfully submitted,
Anita Gregg

Supporting documentation:

Profit & Loss Budget Performance

Bills Paid Report

Resolution 20260118-01

Resolution 20260118-02

Resolution 20260118-03

Resolution 20260118-04

Resolution 20260118-05

Sign in Sheet