



**DEER MOUNTAIN FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT
REGULAR BOARD MEETING MINUTES
6181 COUNTY ROAD 28, COTOPAXI, CO 81223
January 17, 2024 at 6:00 PM**

CALL TO ORDER: The meeting was called to order by G. Abel at 6:08 PM.

DIRECTORS PRESENT: Gretchen Abel, Nancy Mickelson and Cathy Mask (via phone)

DIRECTOR ABSENT: Rose Abel

PRAYER: Led by David Nowlan

PLEDGE of ALLEGIANCE: Led by G. Abel

MINUTES APPROVAL

- Motion by G. Abel to approve the December 13, 2023 Regular Meeting Minutes and the December 19, 2023 Special Meeting Minutes. Second by N. Mickelson - Discussion: None - Vote: Unanimous, motion carried.

ANNOUNCEMENT: A Preliminary 2024 Budget Workshop is scheduled for Wednesday, January 24 at 12 noon.

TREASURER'S REPORTS: G. Abel

December Treasurer's report

Checking account balance as of December 1, 2023	\$ 488,416.87
Month of December deposits	\$ 9,694.18
Income plus beginning balance	\$ 498,111.05
Expenses to date	\$ 48,670.36
Total checking account funds	\$ 449,440.69
Emergency Reserves	\$ 62,429.82
Capital Improvements	\$ 324,839.27
Engine Debit Account	\$ 6,655.78
Total funds available (12/30/2023)	\$ 843,365.56

Motion by G. Abel to approve the December Treasurer's Report.

Second by N. Mickelson - Discussion: None - Vote: Unanimous, motion carried.

January 2024 Bill's Paid Report - (see attachment)

Checking account balance as of January 1, 2024	\$ 489,440.69
Income thus far in January	\$ 4,296.00
Total income plus beginning balance	\$ 453,736.69
Total expenses to date	\$ 28,249.61
Current checkbook balance (1/17/2024)	\$ 425,487.08

Motion by G. Abel to accept the January Bills Paid Report.

Second by N. Mickelson - Discussion: None - Vote: Unanimous, motion carried.

YEARLY RESOLUTIONS - (see attachments)

Resolution 20240117-01 Resolution For Supplemental Budget And Appropriation

Motion by G. Abel to approve Resolution 20240117-01.

Second by N. Mickelson - Discussion: None - Vote: Unanimous, motion carried.

Resolution 20240117-02 Deer Mountain Fire Protection District 2023 Board Meeting Dates

Motion by G. Abel to approve Resolution 20240117-02.

Second by N. Mickelson - Discussion: None - Vote: Unanimous, motion carried.

Resolution 20240117-03 Deer Mountain Fire Protection District 72 Hour Meeting Posting Sites

Motion by G. Abel to approve Resolution 20240117-03.

Second by N. Mickelson - Discussion: None - Vote: Unanimous, motion carried.

Resolution 20240117-04 Deer Mountain Fire Protection District 24-Hour Agenda Notice

Motion by G. Abel to approve Resolution 20240117-04.

Second by N. Mickelson - Discussion: None - Vote: Unanimous, motion carried.

Deer Mountain Fire Protection District Current Boundary Maps public notification.

Motion by G. Abel to approve the boundary change.

Second by N. Mickelson - Discussion: Maytag Ranch is again assigned to receive DMFPD services. -
Vote: Unanimous, motion carried.

Board of Directors Office Supplies

Motion by G. Abel to approve funding for stamps, envelopes, paper, toner etc. not to exceed \$500.

Second by N. Mickelson - Discussion: None - Vote: Unanimous, motion carried.

- **CHAIRMAN'S REPORT:** None
- **VICE-CHAIRMAN'S REPORT:** R. Abel - None
- **CGC REPORT:** C. Mask - None
- **ASSISTANT TREASURER'S REPORT:** N. Mickelson

At this time, there is no DMFPD dedicated funding for EMS. The Service Plan requires review and inclusion of EMS. Additionally, the mill levy increase is needed to support EMS.

Motion by N. Mickelson to create a committee of citizens of Deer Mountain to review and change the Service Plan and financial support of EMS. **ACTION ITEM** for N. Mickelson to form a committee.

Second by G. Abel. - Discussion: Anyone interested in participation can notify the board. - Vote: Unanimous, motion carried.

- **PUBLIC INPUT:**

Rick Cleveland

- The interim chief - R. Cleveland did not appoint; the board did not vote; therefore D. Nowlan has been impersonating a fire chief. (Noted by Board: Following the chain of command and legal advice, D. Nowlan is interim chief.)
- Reapplying staff - Do they have to qualify with a background check and physical? (Noted by Board: Yes.)
- Fire Chief salary - R. Cleveland made \$28,392 annually or \$14.79/hr and did not complain. He provided the board with salary range information from nearby fire departments that pay substantially more.

Pam Cleveland - Commented that her husband had the department on track and moving forward. She expressed disappointment that the board did not support him. Suggested the department is in decline.

STATION REPORTS: D. Nowlan

Fire/EMS: Responded to a total of 26 calls. 18 EMS calls, 3 MVA, 1 Fire, 2 Smoke investigations, 1 Fire alarm, 1 Suspicious package, 10.5 EMS training hours and 48 Firefighter training hours

New Hires/Volunteers: Two new EMS staff and four new firefighters.

Motion by G. Abel to approve JR Niblett as the new interim DMFD Fire Chief as of January 22, 2024.

Second by N. Mickelson - Discussion: D. Nowlan has recommended JR Niblett return until a new Fire Chief is hired. A signed contract with JR Niblett is required. **ACTION ITEM** for G. Abel to secure a signed contract. - Vote: Unanimous, motion carried.

Alison Newlen: Fundraising for EMS is still a work in progress.

OLD UNFINISHED BUSINESS: Burn Notice

Following the area Office of Emergency managers meeting, a formal DM Burn Notice policy & procedure will be compiled. Currently, DMFD guidelines for residents are to: call the department, provide name and address, inform neighbors, provide size of burn and materials to be burned, monitor fire, supply water and tools. Burn only under appropriate weather conditions, with surrounding area mitigation and extinguish before dark. Large fires require a burn permit from the Dept of Ag. DMFD guidelines are consistent with other departments. Note that the county sheriff is fire marshal and has final determination. Continued **ACTION ITEM** for D. Nowlan to complete a DM Burn Notice Policy.

ANNOUNCEMENTS: G. Abel

- Next regular board meeting is scheduled for February 21, 2024 at 6:00 PM.

ADJOURNMENT:

- Motion by G. Abel to adjourn the meeting at 6:36 PM. Second by N. Mickelson. - Discussion: None - Vote: Unanimous, motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,
Anita Gregg, recording secretary

Supporting documents available:

- *Check Detail*
- *Resolution 20240117-01*
- *Resolution 20240117-02*
- *Resolution 20240117-03*
- *Resolution 20240117-04*
- *Boundary Map notification*