



**DEER MOUNTAIN FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT
REGULAR BOARD MEETING MINUTES
6181 COUNTY RD. 28, COTOPAXI, CO 81223
February 17, 2021 at 6:00 PM**

CALL TO ORDER: The meeting was called to order by Bill Mohr at 6:00 PM.

DIRECTORS PRESENT: Chairman, Bill Mohr - Vice-chairman, Sharon Zuidema - Treasurer, Sherry Hastings - Communications Director, Joe Watts

DIRECTOR ABSENT: Insurance Director, Carl Jones

PRAYER: Led by JR Niblett

PLEDGE of ALLEGIANCE: Led by Bill Mohr

OATH OF OFFICE: Sharon Zuidema administered the oath of office to Bill Mohr (*see attachments*)

CHANGES TO THE AGENDA - None

MINUTES: Sharon Zuidema

- Motion by Sharon Zuidema to approve the January 20, 2021 regular board meeting minutes.
Second by Joe Watts
Discussion: None Vote: Unanimous - motion carried

TREASURER'S REPORT: Sherry Hastings (*see attachments*)

- Treasurer's report

Checking account balance as of January 1, 2021	\$ 464,392.02
Month of January deposits	\$ 44,220.20
Income plus beginning balance	\$ 508,612.23
Expenses to date	\$ 31,625.72
Total checking account funds	\$ 476,986.51
Emergency Reserves	\$ 50,429.82
Capital Improvements	\$ 19,839.27
Engine Debit Account	\$ 4,013.34
Total funds available (1/29/2021)	\$ 551,268.94
- February 2021 Bills Report

Checking account balance as of February 1, 2021	\$ 483,539.91
Income thus far in February	\$ 36,545.36
Total income plus beginning balance	\$ 520,085.27
Total expenses to date	\$ 11,892.46
Current checkbook balance	\$ 508,192.81

Motion by Sherry Hastings to approve the January 2021 treasurer's report

Second by Sharon Zuidema

Discussion: Sherry Hastings provided an explanation of the difference between the treasurer's report and bill's pay. Questions about any current information can be answered directly. CORA requests should be submitted for any archived financial information.

Vote: Unanimous - motion carried

Motion by Sherry Hastings to accept the February 17, 2021 bill's report

Second by Bill Mohr

Discussion: None Vote: Unanimous - motion carried

- Wildland Income (*see attachment*) - All 2020 fire payments are complete. Engine 12 brought in \$79,679 and Engine 14 brought in \$189,333. Total truck income was \$269,012. The State of Colorado covers payroll, the additional 1% for processing, food, fuel reimbursement and hotels (if needed.) Firefighters receive 95% of their pay and the remaining 5% plus the per diem within 30 days. The state also provides an additional 10% to be used

for training, small equipment purchases, service and maintenance.

PUBLIC INPUT: Ginger Delker signed up (*see attachment*) to provide input. The topic of concern is DMFPD board communication with the taxpaying public about emergency medical services.

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT: Chairman, Bill Mohr

- There were no new EMS applications
- Discussion on the use of donated laptop computers to digitize and track department inventory. Bill Mohr recommended using Sharepoint. He will donate his time to set up and noted the cost would be \$25/month. Sharon Zuidema indicated that board members did not have information to review prior to the meeting and therefore could not discuss effectively. She recommended that more detailed information be provided. **ACTION ITEM for Bill Mohr.** Joe Watts suggested that the discussion be tabled.

VICE-CHAIRMAN'S REPORT: Sharon Zuidema

- Action Items from 1/19/2021 meeting
 - After contacting Patrick Smith, it was determined that Station 4 paperwork is in the board office.
 - The EMS staff schedule will be discussed in the fire chief's report. She reported that most small fire districts in Colorado and nationwide are in a crisis situation with staffing medical services.
- Communications with the community about board activities can be addressed (and misunderstandings minimized) with the website publication of meeting audio within five days of the meeting date. Motion by Sharon Zuidema for a four month (February through May) test of audio publication to the website. The audio will be replaced by the meeting minutes when approved. Second by Sherry Hastings
Discussion: A disclaimer, to be noted on the website, will assist with community questions and Sharon Zuidema would be the point of contact. Videotaping/streaming of board meetings is not viable because a videographer is not consistently available.
Vote: Unanimous - motion carried
- Federal/State reach-out regarding EMS situation - Sharon Zuidema has sought out guidance from SDA. The State Association of Fire Chiefs is researching a revenue stream for EMS. Rachel Vinson suggested the Civil Air Patrol. Sharon Zuidema is also looking into SIM (State Innovation Model) for resources.
- CORA requests - One received and completed within the timeframe allowed.
- Former website - GoDaddy will not be renewed.

COMMUNICATIONS REPORT: Joe Watts - Nothing new to report. Still working on radio batteries.

INSURANCE REPORT: Carl Jones, absent - Sherry Hastings reported that Pinnacle Insurance is auditing DMFPD.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

- Station 3 update - JR Niblett: No progress. Still awaiting legal advice.
- Station 4 update - JR Niblett: County advised that the adjacent property owner must remove the fence. This information is based on the land survey. Motion by Joe Watts to give JR Niblett the permission to work with attorney Dan Slater to send a letter to the property owner to comply within two months. **Action item for JR Niblett.** Second by Sherry Hastings
Discussion: Land and sub-station building are paid for and the project is stalled due to the placement of the fence and perhaps trailer home, dependent on actual address, of the neighboring property owner. The board is seeking forward motion on station 4. Noted that eminent domain does not apply to a road or easement.
Vote: Unanimous - motion carried

STATION REPORTS: FIRE & EMS: JR Niblett

- EMS training hours & runs: 6 runs with 21 hours of EMS training
- Fire training hours & runs: 12 calls with 54 hours of fire training
- Wildland update: All day refresher course is planned on February 27 at Deer Mountain beginning at 9:00 AM. BLS (Basic Life Support) school will be offered by REACH and AMR on March 20 at Deer Mountain.
- EMT contract: Staff member, Howard Dixon, is attending EMT school at a cost of \$2560. A formal contract stating terms has been drafted and signed - *see attachment*.
Motion by Sharon Zuidema to accept contract
Second by Bill Mohr
Discussion: None Vote: Unanimous - motion carried

- Two inquiries into employment with EMS. Discussion comments/suggestions summarized below:
 - The current EMT wage is \$13/hr; current EMS drivers are paid \$12.32; and no benefits provided.
 - Deer Mountain and surrounding small departments are all struggling with providing medical services.
 - Local staffing and staffing on nights and weekends is a problem
 - \$600,000 required annual to fully staff EMS 24 hours a day and 7 days a week
 - Recommendation of partial coverage only for times when, historically, the number of runs are high
 - Volunteer services will not work because volunteers are at risk for litigation
 - Required training for EMS is ongoing and mandatory
 - Deer Mountain covers liability insurance
 - REACH (flight) insurance is an option for the community
 - Communication about medical services can be improved by the board, community members and Oversight Committee
 - If another mill levy is attempted, the communications should be simple to understand
 - Mill levy requests are based on a 10 year projection
 - Pay for training or send to free trainings to attempt to retain local medical staff
 - Continued dependence on income from wildland fires to fund EMS has not changed
 - \$141,000 budgeted this year; what services, if any, are available for this amount?
 - Dual role as firefighter and EMT could be considered

ACTION ITEM for JR to draft a recommendation to pay a truck maintenance contractor to provide services.

JR Niblett suggests the purchase of another tender truck. Cost is \$160,000. There are two brush engines (a type 4 and type 6) available to go out. There is one truck available for parts only.

ACTION ITEM for the board to place new truck purchase on the March 2021 agenda and a recommendation for the sale of a truck

OLD OR UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

- Auxiliary - Ginger Delker reports that we are now open for business.
 - Volunteers are needed for about 3 hours a month. Upcoming auxiliary meetings on Thursday, February 25 at 6:00 PM and Sunday, February 28 at 4:00 PM.
 - Concessions to resume for Bingo
 - Easter Egg Hunt tentatively scheduled on Saturday, April 3 from 3:00 to 4:00 PM
 - Lunches provided for firefighter trainings
 - Requests that the library be open Monday through Friday from 9:00 AM to 4:00 PM. Per JR Niblett, the library will remain closed by the Office of Emergency Management. Additionally, the department has no one available to open up.
 - Cars in the back of the station are for training purposes.
- Bingo - Starts up again on March 5. Jackpot is \$250.

NEW BUSINESS:

- Oversight Committee - Rachel Vinson requests truck information. **ACTION ITEM for Joe Watts** to provide her the information - what types and where located. Rachel Vinson requests communications on board decisions. **ACTION ITEM for Rachel Vinson** to define the Oversight Committee and make a recommendation on need. Sharon Zuidema offered to post on the website a question to the community about the need for Oversight Committee continuance with Rachel Vinson as the point of contact.
- **ACTION ITEM for Sharon Zuidema** to form a focus group/study committee to review input on EMS and make a recommendation to the board.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

- Next regular board meeting on March 17, 2021 at 6:00 PM

ADJOURNMENT

Motion to adjourn by Bill Mohr

Second by Sherry Hastings

Vote: Unanimous - motion carried

Meeting adjourned a 8:14 PM

Respectfully submitted,
Anita Gregg, secretary

(Supporting documentation to these minutes available upon request.)