



**DEER MOUNTAIN FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT
BOARD MEETING MINUTES
APRIL 15, 2020 @ 1800 HOURS**

CALL TO ORDER: JR Niblett called meeting to order at 6:00 PM.

PRAYER: Led by Patrick Smith

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE: Led by Robert Themel

CHANGES TO AGENDA: JR Niblett would like to add to New Business regarding a phone call from Sheriff Cooper regarding use of the empty bay in the Cotopaxi building.

MINUTES:

Approve minutes: March 18, 2020 Patrick Smith: **I motion** to approve the March 18, 2020 board meeting minutes. **Second:** JR Niblett. **Discussion:** None. **Vote:** unanimous-motion carried

TREASURER’S REPORT

Treasurer’s report: Sherry Hastings: **I would like to make a motion** to approve the Treasurer’s report for March. **Second:** JR Niblett. **Discussion-** none. **Vote:** unanimous- motion carried. (Attachment 1)

Bills Report: Sherry Hastings: **I would like to make a motion** to approve the Bills report for April. **Second:** Patrick Smith. **Discussion:** We have 0 income due to the virus. Sherry thanked everyone for cutting back on spending. For those who have not cut back on spending, a discussion will occur later. **Vote:** unanimous-motion carried

MARCH 2019 TREASURER’S REPORT	
March 1 st beginning checkbook balance	292,298.74
Month deposits	68,184.27
Income plus beginning balance	360,483.01
Total expenses to date	27,853.67
Total checking account funds	332,629.34
Emergency reserves	50,429.82
Capital improvements	19,839.27
Engine debit account	405.04
Total funds 3/31/2020	403,303.47
APRIL 2020 BILLS REPORT	
Beginning checkbook April 1, 2020	403,303.47
Total month income	0
Total income plus beginning balance	403,303.47
Total expenses to date	16,463.44
Checkbook balance to date	396,839.03

PUBLIC INPUT: 3 minutes/ No disrupting pursuant to CRS 18-9-108 & DMFPD Bylaws.

INPUT ONLY. If issue is not on this agenda, it may be placed on next meeting's agenda.

Linda Gallegos: Thanked the first responders: Shawn Logsdon and Jerry St. John for their response to her husband's recent emergency call.

Sherry Hastings also thanked Shawn and Jerry.

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

New Volunteer/EMS Applications: JR Niblett- no new volunteers this month

By law change complete tweak- JR Niblett- By law change is complete and has been posted.

Employee Handbook Changes- JR Niblett: **I would like to make a motion** to make corrections and tweaks to the employee handbook with the stipulation that the board will make the final decision.

Second: Patrick Smith. **Discussion:** none. **Vote:** unanimous-motion carried

Title to Engine 11- JR Niblett: The title to Engine 11 was lost. It should have been received last year. He has received a new title from the manufacturer. We still need to get the weigh bill and the license for it. We will then have everything transferred when Fremont city is re-opened.

VICE-CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

Burn Barrel/Red Flag Days: Patrick Smith: Answering service has been adjusted so that they can contact all officers excluding Adam Andersen that has Verizon. Adam Andersen will be copied by Patrick every time a burn notice is received. Red flag days are not kept up on by the answering service. Patrick will contact the service if there is a Red Flag Day. Jon Oldfield will be second in line if Patrick is unavailable. Jon will delegate a third person if necessary.

Communications as a department: Patrick Smith: Everyone feels like we need better communication; from the board down the line. We need to set up more parameters to make sure everyone is on the same page. Also, since there was a story in The Wet Mountain Tribune, **I would like to make a motion** to make a press release when the new board takes over in order to notify the community of the new board members. **Second:** JR Niblett. **Discussion:** JR asked what the cost would be. Patrick is asking Jordan to do it for free, but the cost is unknown. JR stated that if Jordan does not do the release for free, he would pay for it. **Vote:** unanimous- motion carried.

COMMUNICATIONS REPORT

Radio Communications Update- Patrick Smith requests a volunteer to go to building C to see if the batteries work and do an inventory if not already available. Robert Themel advised that there is an inventory. Patrick would like to have an inventory done again and a copy of the inventory. Robert will have by Wednesday 22.

HAM Radio Repeaters: Patrick Smith: Two (2) people donated repeaters. We will have a duplexer that has been tested and fixed. We are now setting up an installation date with CenturyLink who has volunteered their services to install on the existing antenna.

State Website Update: Patrick Smith: I attended a two-and-one-half-hour course with Mr. Chung to learn how to build the state website. Front page is done. Because it is more time intensive than he planned, Patrick has asked Richard Chung and Sharon Zuidema to help as she is a trained IT person. **I Patrick Smith make a motion** to give Sharon Zuidema permission to have authorized access to the application and site administration effective April 15th 2020, according to the Security Policy Agreement provided by the State website project manager, Richard Chung and to also take over the position of Entity Project Manager upon taking her position on the board of directors at the May board of directors meeting and taking the oath of office. I also motion for Sharon Zuidema to have access and site administration to the DMFPD.net website effective April 15th, 2020. According to post as voted by the board and information as it is approved by the board. (Attachment 2). **Second:** JR Niblett.
Discussion: none. **Vote:** unanimous- motion carried.

INSURANCE

Insurance Updates, Virus: JR Niblett: one of the risk managers may be here the first or second week of May in order to view some of the property.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Oversight Committee- Rachel Vinson: not in attendance. No other business

Station 3 Update: Robert Themel: Station 3 and 4 are at a standstill due to the COVID. No new updates.

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STATION REPORTS: FIRE & EMS

Fire training hours & runs: Robert Themel: 5 runs and 65 hours of training

EMS training hours & runs: Robert Themel: 7 runs and 50 hours of training. Med 1 is still set up for respiratory response. COVID has slowed all other calls.

Wildland update: Jenn Judd: There have been a few fires that have occurred, but did not require anything more than mutual aid call. We have two (2) crews ready to go on Type III to go out, awaiting a call. Tender is also ready with one (1) person to go out. The system is still having glitches; communication is still directly from Pueblo. All pack tests are done, with one retest needed because of a medical call during the pack test.

Urinalysis: Jenn Judd: almost everyone has been tested. She is still awaiting a few that could not get in due to the shutdown. As soon as the testing sites reopen, they will test. All who have taken the UA have passed. Jenn stated that all employees are testing. Sherry asked if Jenn knew why one of the tests was charged extra. Jenn will need to contact them because nothing special was done, so the cost should be the same. Sherry has the code if Jenn needs it to contact the company.

OLD OR UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Mill Levy: JR Niblett did not receive a call to add the levy to the ballet. He will have to wait until tomorrow, Thursday, to take it down to Canon City due to the limited staffing.

NEW BUSINESS

Transition to new board members: Patrick Smith: By doing the website in advance, this should make the transition to the new board easier. He asked if there was anything else the board would like to do for the new board. He believes there is nothing more to do as everything is in order. He stated that he appreciates everyone's hard work.

Advertisement for Fire Chief: JR Niblett: The add went out for new fire chief in Westcliffe and Canon. We have 30 days to wait by law.

Sheriff's agreement: JR Niblett: He has not been able to take the agreement down to be signed by the Sheriff due to limited staffing. The Sheriff is to call JR when he is available to sign. The agreement is to allow the Sheriff to write citations. JR found that the agreement does not need to be signed because the fire Chief and officers can write tickets according to Dan Slater. Sherry asked how much court would cost if a ticket needed to be enforced. JR assured Sherry that the court costs are paid by the person who receives the ticket. JR: **I would like to make a motion** to allow me to investigate in house ticketing, and report back to the board. **Second:** Patrick Smith. **Discussion:** Patrick asked if the tickets had to be given by either the sheriff OR the department. JR stated that yes, the chief could write a ticket that had to be paid or appear in court. Sherry asked who is allowed to write the tickets. JR stated that the Fire Marshal, Fire Chief, and Officers are able to write tickets. Training is required. We already have tickets printed. **Vote:** unanimous- motion carried.

Statement: Sherry Hastings: My Dearest Deer Mountain Fire Fighters, EMTs, Board Members and Community, it saddens me at what is going on. I have done my best to leave names out of my statements as to not embarrass anyone. I did not feel that it was necessary to call out anybody's behavior. Sadly, I was wrong! I was told that when Joe Watts left, all of this would stop; you lied to me. Since Joe left, things only got worst. I was told that when a certain board member left, things would get better; once again I was lied to. Things did not change! I was told that if a certain web site did not exist, things would get better; again, I was lied to. Maybe I should not use the word lied to, maybe the correct word should be misinformed. As a board member, we are held to different standards. We are asked to refrain from certain things but in a statement, we do not refrain. The lies, rumors, embellishment on things must stop. You are better than this. You are not Ben, or are you? You are doing the same things that you hated the most about this site; twisting of words, inaccurate facts. Some of you might be wondering what I am talking about. So, let me enlighten you! IC Themel has decided to step down as IC, the rumor that Joe Watts is going to be Chief, that everyone is walking out, Joe is going to fire everyone, we are folding. Please tell me how we went from Robert deciding to do what was best for him and his family to: WE ARE FOLDING. The only true thing that I said was Robert Themel has decided to step down. Yes, I know where all the embellishments came from. This behavior must stop. Everyone must stop adding their own twist to what they hear, stop twisting someone else's words. If you feel you must repeat what you hear, please repeat it in the same manner in which you heard it. Why must you stir the pot and cause more drama? As a board member I spend more time putting out fires than I do on anything else. As you should have noticed, I have only used two names in my statement. These are the two people that everyone seems to think it's ok to bash. Well, since it seems you have no regards for their reputations nor the reputation of DMVFD/EMTs, why should I care if I use your names in a

statement. I will no longer hold my tongue, I will from this day forth call you out for your behavior. Stop the rumors, stop the embellishing and twisting what you hear. Thank you for your time.

JR Niblett: I put out an email when Robert stepped down. He was not forced to step down. The rumors have got to stop. The other rumor was that JR had immediately hired Joe Watts. JR assured that he is unable to do this or anything unilaterally.

JR Niblett: would like to thank Patrick for the work he has done. He appreciates everything he has done. Patrick states that he will still be here to help if needed.

JR Niblett: Asked what the feeling of the board was regarding the use of the community center for the use of checkers by groups. The law says that we can't currently gather. He would rather follow the law. He has no problem with allowing the use of the library for borrowing a book to take home.

Sherry Hastings: I think that until this is over, people should be gathering at their homes. If for example Loaves and Fishes donates food, and people come to pick up food, that benefits the entire community. Social gatherings should not be held here, they need to happen in their homes.

Community question: Jon- asked if we would be held liable if they were to become sick. The board answered that, yes, we may be held liable.

Jerry St. John added that this building is the restroom of the EMTs and fire fighters. There is no way for them to know if they are infected following a call. There is a danger to the women that are gathering. Sherry noted that they are a danger to the EMTs as well, because there is no way to know of their infection status.

Community Center JR Niblett: **I make a motion** to close the community center to everyone except to hold board meetings and for community food disbursement until the Governor lifts the ban. **Second:** Sherry Hastings. **Discussion:** none. **Vote:** unanimous- motion carried.

Sheriff: JR Niblett: received a call from the Sheriff regarding the use of the building in Cotopaxi station 2. They would like to park one of their vehicles in a bay. They will change locks and provide keys. Robert will change the lock out per Sherry's instruction early next week. JR will get with the captain and allow access. We have been assured that at any time, if we need the building back, they will move out, no questions asked.

Statement: Robert Themel: I would like to inform you that this is my official two-week notice. I will no longer be running the ambulance or responding to calls after 1 May, 2020. Robert has taken an offer to advance his education. He offered his resignation and thanked Joe Watts, JR Niblett, Patrick Smith, Sherry Hastings, and the community for the opportunity to entrusting him with his care. He thanked the fire fighters and EMTs. He will assist in the transition as well as return to the department following his training to assist in picking up shifts. He will try to make sure the transition goes as smoothly as possible. He offers his assistance even if it's years down the road.

ANNOUNCEMENTS: JR Niblett: next regular board meeting is May 20, 2020 at 6:00 PM. We will take our oaths again.

VOTE TO ADJOURN: JR Niblett: **I motion** to adjourn the meeting. **Second:** Patrick Smith. **Discussion:** none. **Vote:** unanimous- meeting adjourned.

(Supporting documentation to these minutes available upon request.)