



DEER MOUNTAIN FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT

REGULAR BOARD MEETING MINUTES

6181 COUNTY ROAD 28 - COTOPAXI, CO 81223

July 15, 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, Nancy Mickelson and Forrest Nichols

DIRECTOR ABSENT: JR Niblett

A quorum of the Board was noted.

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

MINUTES APPROVAL: **Motion** by M. Andolini to approve the minutes of the June 17, 2026 Regular Board Meeting. Second by N. Mickelson.

Discussion: None. Unanimous; motion carried.

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

June Treasurer's Report:

Month deposits	\$ 69,743.50
Expenses to date	\$ 81,841.40
Total checking account funds	\$ 53,995.73
Emergency Reserves	\$ 456,820.17
Capital Improvements	\$ 125,473.20
Wildland Account	\$ 16,815.56
Investment	\$ 50,218.62
Total funds available – includes all accounts (6/30/2026)	\$ 763,687.05

(Board member, JR Niblett arrived.)

Bills Paid Report:

Bills paid through July 15, 2026 \$ 69,665.47

Motion by N. Mickelson to approve the Treasurer's Report and the Bills Paid Report. Second by L. McKay. Discussion: This month's report includes - reimbursable wildland expenses, investment income and the final engine payment. Vote: Unanimous; motion carried.

ASSISTANT TREASURER'S REPORT: Laurie McKay - All items are under old/unfinished business.

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT: Miriam Andolini

- Proposed properly balanced government budgets for 2027 are needed. One for the mill levy amount that we currently receive and one for the proposed increased amount on the ballot. N. Mickelson reviewed the accurate budget process. Information to be included for the community in FAQ for the election.
- The voter registration list can be obtained from Fremont County for \$25. Option for DMFPD to mail outreach information directly to voters about the upcoming ballot measure.
- A P&L for 2025 election expenses related to the budget is needed. The anticipated budget for the 2026 ballot measure will be estimated. The January 2026 P&L has election expense information - approx. \$12,000 to Fremont County and \$25,000 to the attorney. The county fees are expected to increase to \$18,000. Areas of cost savings will be explored.

VICE CHAIRMAN'S REPORT: JR Niblett

- Q:** Will there be Fire School in Colorado Springs in the Fall? **A:** (Chief Widener) Yes. Classes will be offered to staff that want to attend. Note that HAZMAT training is needed first.
- Q:** Have DMFPD boundaries changed? **A:** (Chief Widener) No. However, the Fire Department is dispatched to areas outside of boundaries if DM is closest. ACTION ITEM for Chief Widener to request an accurate GIS map from Fremont County.

COMMUNICATION/CONSTRUCTION: Forrest Nichols - All items are under old/unfinished business.

STATION REPORTS: Fire Chief Marcus Widener

- The department has been busy with 232 calls to date this year. Provided 78 mutual aid calls to our partners and have received 17. There were 104 hours of training last month.
- A crew is continuing to work on the Aspen Acres Fire. A second crew is available to replace them if needed.
- Both exempt employees, Matt Brown and Marcus Widener, exceed 40 work hours per week and are on call for 168 hrs./week. Leaders are out all hours of the day and night on all manner of fire department investigations. DMFD is looking for staff in various positions via word of mouth.
- Generous community donations have come into the department.
- Dispatch has indicated that sign-ups for emergency notifications though Everbridge expire. DM will test and notify the community. The Board thanked the Fire Chief for all his hard work.

OLD OR UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

M. Andolini -

- Congratulations to the Fire Chief on his one-year anniversary with the fire department. Also, Forrest Nichols has been a Board member for one year.
- 2026 DMFPD Service Plan has been presented to the Fremont County Board of County Commissioners. Their Resolution #162026 has been adopted and will be posted to the website when signed.

- The Ballot Language and TABOR Notices need to be drafted for the 2026 Ballot Measure. Many have been consulted. The contract for \$10,000 to compile and complete was higher than anticipated. Options are available such as moving to an hourly rate and placing a cap on expenditures at \$7,000. Paperwork submitted to Fremont County to move forward on a ballot measure must be completed by July 24. The Inter-agency Agreement is due by August 25. Ballot Language and TABOR Notices are due by September 4. The Board scheduled a Cost/Benefit Analysis Ballot Measure Study Session and Annexation Review Workshop on July 29 at 2:00 PM in the community hall. **Motion** by M. Andolini to approve the updated contract with Kim Crawford to complete the Ballot Language and TABOR Notices at the hourly rate with a cost not to exceed \$7,000 pending a formal Board vote. Second by N. Mickelson. Discussion: Contracted work can begin after the July 29 meeting. Spanish language translation will be included. Vote: Unanimous; motion carried.

N. Mickelson -

- The 2026 DMFPD Budget is over budget. The areas that are over budget are wildland expenditures. State funds from fighting wildfires will be reimbursed later in the year. The Budget Amendment Meeting will be held on September 30 at 2:00 PM.
- The 2025 Audit is due on July 30. An extension has been approved. The auditor will present at the August Board meeting.

L. McKay and M. Widener -

- The total wildland firefighting profit in 2026 is estimated at \$140,000.
- The Station 1 driveway drainage pipe is somewhat working. When water is more available, the pipe will be flushed out again.
- A 6,000-gallon tank and trailer have been donated to the fire department.
- Fire Education to the community is suggested. GIS maps are still a work-in-progress to plan community evacuation strategies.
- The housekeeping position has been offered to Destiny Trujillo. She will be a contracted service under the leadership of the fire department.
- Building A Office project's next steps are more demolition, re-framing and plumbing.

L. McKay and F. Nichols -

- District signs along the roadways are under consideration. Seven versions have been compiled and reviewed by the Board. The selection of a new road sign design will not change (or may change in the future) the current Deer Mountain Fire Department logo. Options were discussed and reviewed at length. The design is yet to be finalized.

N. Mickelson and JR Niblett -

- An annexation project for property inclusion in DMFPD is a lengthy process. The Board scheduled an Annexation Review Workshop on July 29 at 2:00 PM in the community hall. ACTION ITEM for M. Widener to provide a boundary "wish list" of inclusion before July 29. A legal review will provide the best approach to the process and guidance for compensation for services already provided.
- Note that the Wendy Steineck and Jeffrey Shipp/Robert Fraiser properties have been voted to be included in DMFPD.

PUBLIC INPUT: - *supporting documentation*

- Michael Croge commented as a spokesperson for his community, Spruce Basin. The neighborhood is exceedingly interested in annexation into DMFPD. They have already blazed an alternate route through BLM to exit their subdivision in the event of wildfire. He will be in attendance on July 29.

ANNOUNCEMENTS: Miriam Andolini

- The next monthly Board Meeting will be held on August 19, 2026 at 6:00 PM.

VOTE TO ADJOURN: Miriam Andolini

- **Motion** by M. Andolini to adjourn the meeting. Second by F. Nichols. Discussion: None. Vote: Unanimous; motion carried. The meeting was adjourned at 7:57 PM.

Respectfully submitted,
Anita Gregg

Supporting documentation:
Profit & Loss Budget Performance
Bills Paid Report
Sign-up Sheet