



**DEER MOUNTAIN FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT
REGULAR BOARD MEETING MINUTES
6181 COUNTY ROAD 28 - COTOPAXI, CO 81223
DECEMBER 18, 2024 at 6:00 PM**

DIRECTORS PRESENT: CJ Allen, Cathy Mask, Laurie McKay and Nancy Mickelson

CALL TO ORDER: The meeting was called to order by CJ Allen at 6:01 PM

PRAYER: Led by C. Mask

PLEDGE of ALLEGIANCE: Led by CJ Allen

SWEARING IN CEREMONY: CJ Allen

(Public discussion of tonight's Fire Chief appointment will NOT be allowed as the 14-day window for public input has been followed and extended. Failure to act in a civil manner for tonight's ceremony may result in removal by law enforcement.)

Chief Tamara Jones thanked those in attendance and the department. Matt Brown was pinned and promoted to Assistant Chief. Matt Kelly was pinned and promoted to Medical Chief/Assistant Chief. T. Jones was pinned by her husband and uncle. She has been hired by the Board of Directors and promoted to the position as the next Deer Mountain Fire Chief.

CHANGES TO THE AGENDA: None

MINUTES APPROVAL: **Motion** by CJ Allen to accept the minutes for the November 20, 2024 Regular Meeting. Second by N. Mickelson. Discussion: None. Vote: Unanimous, motion carried.

- **TREASURER'S REPORTS:** N. Mickelson *(see supporting documents)*

November Treasurer's Report:

Checking account balance	\$ 545,087.37
Month deposits	\$ 16,358.27
Income plus beginning balance	\$ 561,445.84
Total checking account funds minus expenses	\$ 442,004.93
Total funds available (11/30/2024)	\$ 936,929.80

Motion by N. Mickelson to approve the Treasurer's Report. Second by L. McKay. Discussion: None. Vote: Unanimous, motion carried.

December Bills Paid Report:

Bills paid through December 18, 2024	\$ 101,865.00
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Motion by N. Mickelson to accept the Bills Paid Report. Second by CJ Allen. Discussion: Note that the large purchase of the radios is included. Vote: Unanimous, motion carried.

- Four-drawer file cabinet: **Motion** by N. Mickelson to purchase a locking file cabinet for Board use at a cost not to exceed \$250. Second by CJ Allen. Discussion: Board information and computer should be secured. Vote: Unanimous, motion carried.
- 2025 Budget status: The budget is drafted and will be posted and available for review in the community hall. On January 8, 2025 at 10:00 AM there is an open 2025 Budget Workshop with the Fire Chief. Finalization and approval at the January board meeting.
- Designated Election Official: 2025 is an election year. An official is needed and a call for nomination will be made in the next few weeks.
- Banking changes: **Motion** by N. Mickelson to approve and accept the banking change to add Assistant Treasurer, L. McKay as a signatory on accounts at the Bank of the San Juans effective December 18, 2024 and to add T. Jones as Fire Chief to a bank debit card. This will allow L. McKay to sign checks. Second by CJ Allen. Discussion: JR Niblett will be removed from the account. Vote: Unanimous, motion carried. *(see supporting document)*

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT: CJ Allen

- Radios to be delivered and programmed by the end of January 2025.
- Information on a Rural Grant will be pursued. Look for updates on grants to be available on the website.
- Scheduling installation of the new LED sign. Anticipated to be operational by January 15.
- Reviewing the new vehicle plan proposed by Chief Jones for 2025 local crews and Wildlands. Purchases will be confirmed at the January 8 budget meeting. **ACTION ITEM** for T. Jones to provide an inventory of all current department vehicles including status, age and maintenance needs.

VICE-CHAIRMAN'S REPORT: N/A

ASSISTANT TREASURER'S REPORT: L. McKay

- After speaking with CenturyLink, representatives indicated that the internet cannot be upgraded. Concerns about phone down time during any move to another system to be resolved. Starlink option is more expensive, but more reliable. Ward Thorn will research needs and options. **ACTION ITEM** for L. McKay to act as the point of contact to provide internet services at the station.

CGC REPORT: C. Mask

- C. Mask and L. McKay recently met with Commissioner McFall. Referred to the Sheriff's Office and the Fremont County Clerk for more information on enforcement and tax revenue. Information on a grant was provided. More meetings to follow to build relationships within the county.

PUBLIC INPUT: *(see supporting document)*

(3 minutes/no disrupting pursuant to CRS 18-9-108 & DMFPD by-laws.

If the issue is not on the agenda, it may be placed on the next meeting agenda.)

- Scott Hanlon commented on the considerable turnover of Fire Chiefs, Board Members and department staff over the years. He encouraged the board to stay and serve the community. He complimented new leadership on the positive direction that the department is headed.
- Harold Morrow commented on board incompetency. He disagreed with the Fire Chief residing out-of-District and questioned her qualifications. He encouraged all board members to resign immediately. Due to disruptive behavior, he was requested to leave the Community Hall.

The board clarified that no candidate for Fire Chief resided within the DMFPD boundaries.

STATION REPORTS: Tamara Jones

- Year-to-date information: 79 fire-related calls, 177 medical runs, 29 flight calls with ALS with a total of 156 thus far.

OLD UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

- An EMS Charter Committee will be formed following the 2025 Budget Meeting.
- Support of a mill levy tax increase is essential to keep and extend services.
- A new wildland fire boss should be determined by the January 2025 meeting.
- Grant opportunities are increasing.
- The role of the Deer Mountain Fire Auxiliary will be expanded in 2025 to support department and community relationships.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

- Next regular board meeting is scheduled on January 15, 2025 at 6:00 PM.

ADJOURNMENT:

The meeting was adjourned by CJ Allen at 6:49 PM.

Respectfully submitted,
Anita Gregg, recording secretary

Supporting documentation:
Profit & Loss Budget Performance
Bills Paid
Resolution No. 20241218-01
Sign-in sheet