



# DEER MOUNTAIN FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT REGULAR BOARD MEETING MINUTES

6181 COUNTY RD. 28, COTOPAXI, CO 81223  
September 16, 2020 at 6:00 PM

**CALL TO ORDER:** The meeting was called to order by Patrick Smith at 6:02 PM.

**DIRECTORS PRESENT:** Chairman, Patrick Smith - Vice-chairman, Sharon Zuidema - Treasurer, Sherry Hastings - Communications Director, Joe Watts

**DIRECTOR ABSENT:** Insurance Director, Carl Jones

**PRAYER:** Led by Jerry St. John

**PLEDGE of ALLEGIANCE:** Led by Patrick Smith

## CHANGES TO THE AGENDA -

- Request from Patrick Smith to change two agenda items:
  1. Secretary position- move to the top of the agenda
  2. Wildland update- add Sherry Hastings

Motion by Patrick Smith to accept the leave of absence request from Breanna Logsdon and to appoint Anita Gregg as recording secretary.

Second by Sherry Hastings

Discussion: None

Vote: Unanimous - motion carried

## MINUTES:

- Motion by Patrick Smith to accept the August 19, 2020 meeting minutes.  
Second by Sherry Hastings  
Discussion: Anita Gregg will review, edit as needed and send to Sharon Zuidema for the website.  
Vote: Unanimous - motion carried.
- Audit - Andrew S Wolf, CPA  
The draft of the DMFPD audited financial statements dated December 31, 2019 was presented to the board. The independent auditor summarized their analysis of the financial condition of the district for the year 2019. There were no findings and the overall financial position of the district is good.  
Motion by Sherry Hastings to approve the statements presented by Andrew Wolf.  
Second by Patrick Smith  
Discussion: None  
Vote: Unanimous - motion carried.

## TREASURER'S REPORT:

- Checking account balance as of August 31, 2020	\$ 367,557.60
Month of August deposits	\$ 48,739.28
Income plus beginning balance	\$ 416,296.88
Expenses to date	\$ 48,524.70
Total checking account funds	\$ 367,772.18
Emergency Reserves	\$ 50,429.82
Capital Improvements	\$ 19,839.27
Engine Debit Account	\$ 4,001.27
Total funds available (8/31/2020)	\$ 44,2042.54

### September Bills Report:

Checking account balance as of September 1, 2020	\$ 363,445.05
Income thus far in September	\$ 6,144.35
Total income plus beginning balance	\$ 369,589.40

Total expenses to date \$ 61,699.53  
Current checkbook balance \$ 307,889.87

- Motion by Sherry Hastings to accept the Treasurer's report  
Second by Patrick Smith  
Discussion: None  
Vote: Unanimous - motion carried.
- Motion by Sherry Hastings to accept the Bills report  
Second by Patrick Smith  
Discussion: None  
Vote: Unanimous - motion carried.

**PUBLIC INPUT:** None

**CHAIRMAN'S REPORT:** Patrick Smith

- New Volunteer/EMS Applications - Three new people - Thomas Anthony, Skylar Wagner and Jason Estes have all passed a background check. DMFPD welcomed them into the department.
- Communication - Verbal, email and website communications are going well. Improvements are always needed.
- ID Cards - Cards are completed. Carl Jones' picture is still required. Cards will be dispersed by the Chief.

**VICE-CHAIRMAN'S REPORT:** Sharon Zuidema

- Mill Levy Resolution  
Sharon Zuidema presented Resolution 20200916-01 to adopt the ballot language for the mill levy for the November 3, 2020 ballot to increase operation funds to the general budget (see attachment.)  
Chairman, Patrick Smith requested the board accept the resolution.  
Q-When will the ballot measure come up? A-November 2020. Ballot language was turned into the county the first week of September and approved (see attachment.) As required by the state, the blue book TABOR fiscal information is available (see attachment.) The referendum is to increase the DMFPD mill levy by 8 mills which will allow the district to improve and retain critical EMS and Fire Protection services. All information will be posted on the website.  
Vote to accept the resolution as presented: Unanimous
- SDA (Special District Association)  
New information is available specifically on the Gallagher Amendment. Sharon Zuidema will be attending the online conference to better understand future changes.

**COMMUNICATIONS REPORT:** Joe Watts

- Active 911 - All board members now have Active 911. Adding additional 7 devices subscriptions will cost \$111.16. There were 28 subscriptions of which 26 were used. Patrick Smith indicated that each subscription should be only \$13 each and offered his assistance.
- Ham Radio Antenna - The antenna has been installed by volunteers. Deer Mountain has its own frequency. Tests will continue, but early indicators are that the antenna reaches Penrose, Canon City and Royal Gorge. See attachment for frequency information. Ham radio classes will be held on November 7 and 14 at the station for anyone interested. The cost is \$15.

**INSURANCE:** JR Niblett reported that the policy for vehicles has been cancelled due to claims. A new policy will be available on October 1. On January 1, 2021 the Pinnacle Workman's Compensation policy will increase.

**COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

- Oversight Committee - none
- Station 3 updates - Another meeting is needed to review costs.
- Station 4 updates - Half of this substation building has been paid. Funds are in the budget to pay for the remainder that includes insulation and installation. Patrick Smith has interfaced with the vendor and they are willing to work with the department. However, the preparation (dirt work, concrete etc) for the construction site is still needed. The Cody Park POA donation of \$10,000 may again be available. Comment from a member of the public in attendance encouraged the board to move forward with the project without hesitation. Joe Watts suggests that prior to permits, the property lines with respect to adjoining properties and P Path need to be resolved.

**STATION REPORTS: FIRE & EMS - Fire Chief's report**

- Fire and EMS training hours & runs: There 11 fire runs and 3 were EMS assist. There were 78 hours of fire training. EMS had 15 runs and 115.5 hours of medical training. There were 2 hazmat calls.
- Wildland update: Currently there are two trucks out - one in California and the other in Colorado. The California fire is 471,000 acres and may merge with another fire to a total of 700,000 acres. There are three firefighters in CA and three firefighters at the 103,000 acre Cameron fire. Fighting wildfires is dangerous. Recently, a firefighter from Texas lost her life battling a fire in CA. Wildland fires have brought much needed funds as well as firefighting experience to DMFPD. The trucks and firefighters have brought in \$133,000. Sherry Hastings reported that the funds may be used to pay off two trucks and still have remaining \$51,000 available. As treasurer, she recommends clearing up debt; and noted that the Gallagher Act will adversely affect the department financially.
- Wildland equipment: Statement by Sherry Hastings (see attachment.)

**OLD OR UNFINISHED BUSINESS:**

- Auxiliary: The board thanked Becky Girdler for all her attentive work over the years. Ginger Delher was introduced as the new point of contact for the Deer Mountain Auxiliary. She reported there are now 7 members with others in the ready. The first official meeting is Friday, September 25.  
There are two upcoming events:
  1. Yard Sale the last Saturday in September (9/26) - concession are available
  2. Trunk and Treat (10/31) - free hotdogs and punch are available - sign up for the cake walkNote that the Auxiliary will not be hosting Thanksgiving or Christmas dinners this year. She noted that Cody Park Community Church may host holiday meals. JR Niblett will keep the calendar to schedule events.
- Bingo: The jackpot is up to \$1074! The fun takes place each 1st and 3rd Friday of the month.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

- Budget committee: Committee is open to the community and will be held on September 22 at 10:30 AM. Sherry Hastings recommends board attendance. A special meeting notice will be required (72 hrs in advance) if 3 or more board members attend.
- Chairman position: Patrick Smith will be stepping down. He had agreed to stay until the mediation was concluded. He requests the board and community seek to appoint another board member at the next meeting.
- Cleaning position: JR Niblett reports that Misty Ladner has agreed to the position and can start next week. Her application is in process.  
Motion by Patrick Smith to hire Misty Ladner under the conditions that all paperwork and a background check are complete.  
Second by Joe Watts  
Discussion: Cleaning supplies will be available in a locked closet.  
Vote: Unanimous - motion carried.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS:**

- Next regular board meeting on October 21, 2020 at 6:00 PM

**ADJOURNMENT**

Motion to adjourn by Patrick Smith

Second by Sharon Zuidema

Vote: Unanimous - motion carried.

Meeting adjourned at 7:23 PM

Respectfully submitted,

Anita Gregg, secretary

# Deer Mountain Fire Protection District

## Resolution No 20200916-01

Resolution to adopt the ballot language for the mill levy for the November 3, 2020 ballot to increase operational funds to the general budget with Fremont county as follows:

Whereas this ballot language shall be on the November ballot as read by the Board of directors and the DEO Linda Gallegos of Deer Mountain Fire Protection District.

Whereas the district, because of the state budget shortage caused by Covid-19 and the Gallagher act will lose at least 28% of the general fund.

Whereas the budget increase will be distributed to the general fund for the Fire department and the EMS services to eliminate depending on the wild land income as a whole source for supporting the EMS services for the Deer Mountain Community.

### Mill Levy Proposal Executive Summary

The Deer Mountain Fire Protect District will be requesting Fremont County to add a referendum on the November 3, 2020 election ballot. The referendum is to increase the DMFPD mill levy by 8 mill which will allow the district to improve and retain critical EMS and Fire Protection services. Costs for operating and maintaining services have risen more than the current revenue stream can cover. Costs for items such as; vehicle and equipment maintenance, building maintenance and new acquisitions, collection of unpaid debt, converting from paper to computerized records, security of those records and other improvements. The EMS services especially consume a large portion of the budget, and the district wants to continue to offer critical medical services to the district.

### Why

- State of Colorado 3.3 billion 2021 budget shortage
- A loss of 10-15% is projected for 2021 and affects all local government entities
- DMFPD will lose between \$24,880 - \$37,321 for 2021, and possibly 2022
- Remove dependence on Wild Land fire income that currently shores up the operational budget for the District
- Financially support DMFPD in their role of providing critical medical and fire services to residents
  - The on-going economic and health crisis has a determinantal impact on residents' well-being and can increase individual health risks
  - The continual drought impacts the risks of fires in the community

What

The most important factors to highlight is the financial impact to individuals in our community. Below is a chart showing how to calculate the costs of the increase. The table does not represent **current tax levy**, it is **ONLY** the additional amount that would be added to the current tax bill. It also does not include the impact of possible rising costs for property insurance if the district is unable to provide services.

Residential Value	Proposed Mill Increase	Additional Annual Cost Per \$100,000	Total Additional Cost	Monthly Cost
\$200,000	8 mill	\$57	\$114	\$9.50
Commercial/Ag/Vacant Land Value	Proposed Mill Increase	Additional Annual Cost Per \$10,000	Total Additional Cost	Monthly Cost
\$100,000	8 mill	\$23.20	\$232.00	\$19.33
This is an example of possible estimated additional costs to property tax based on information provided by the Fremont County Assessor. The final amount could change depending on whether the Gallagher Act is passed and State or Local Governments change property assessment rates.				

Resources

Mill Levy Proposal Report

<https://deermountainfpd.colorado.gov/legal-informational-documents>

Gallagher Amendment Repeal

<https://buildingabettercolorado.org/understanding-the-gallagher-amendment/>

Whereas the language below shall be and will be approved by the Deer Mountain Board of Directors, DEO official and the Fremont county election offices as follows:

**Special District Ballot Measures**

**DEER MOUNTAIN FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT - ISSUE 6A - MILL LEVY INCREASE**

SHALL THE DEER MOUNTAIN FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT TAXES BE INCREASED BY APPROXIMATELY TWO HUNDRED THIRTY THOUSAND TWO HUNDRED THIRTY FIVE DOLLARS (\$230,235.00) ANNUALLY IN TAX YEAR 2021 FOR COLLECTION IN FISCAL YEAR 2022, AND BY WHATEVER ADDITIONAL AMOUNTS ARE RAISED THEREAFTER, BY AN ADDITIONAL MILL LEVY OF NOT MORE THAN 8 MILLS, FOR A TOTAL MILL LEVY OF 15.992, WITH SUCH PROCEEDS TO BE USED FOR GENERAL FUNDS WHICH WILL ADDRESS THE ANTICIPATED BUDGET SHORTAGE IN THE STATE OF COLORADO CAUSED BY COVID-19, REDUCE RELIANCE OF FIRE LAND FUNDS, ALLOW THE DISTRICT TO ADDRESS OTHER FINANCIAL NEEDS IDENTIFIED IN THE MILL LEVY PROPOSAL AND TO IMPROVE AND RETAIN CRITICAL SERVICES TO THE CITIZENS OF THE DISTRICT AND SHALL SUCH PROCEEDS BE COLLECTED AND SPENT BY THE DISTRICT AS A VOTER APPROVED REVENUE AND SPENDING CHANGES EACH YEAR WITHOUT REGARD TO ANY SPENDING OR REVENUE LIMITATION CONTAINED IN ARTICLE X, SECTION 20 OF THE COLORADO CONSTITUTION OR SECTION 29-1-301 COLORADO REVISED STATUTES?

YES/FOR

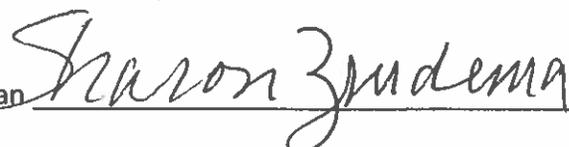
NO/AGAINST

Board Chairman



Date 09-16-2020

Board Vice Chairman



Date 4-16-2020

## FISCAL INFORMATION

Actual historical and current estimated fiscal year spending information:

Year	Fiscal Year Spending
2016 (actual)	\$ 725,405.36
2017 (actual)	\$ 852,981.95
2018 (actual)	\$ 1,153,939.99
2019 (actual)	\$ 730,457.92
2020 (estimated)	\$ 740,592.00

Overall dollar change in fiscal year spending of district tax revenue over the 5-year period from 2016 through 2020: \$15,186.64

Overall percentage change in fiscal year spending of district tax revenue over the 5-year period from 2016 through 2020: 2.09%

District's Estimated Maximum Dollar Amount of Tax Increase for First Full Fiscal Year of Proposed Tax Increase: \$230,235

Estimated First Full Fiscal Year Spending of district tax revenue without Proposed Tax Increase: \$230,185

### Summaries of written comments filed with the election officer:

The following summaries were prepared from comments filed by persons FOR Ballot Issue 6A:

- Hire Person or Firm to collect outstanding debt
- Migrate Paper records to electronic for disaster recovery and archival, conduct yearly analysis of call volumes to determine patterns and needs
- Reduced EMS dependency on revenue generated from Wildland funds
- Review and revamp contract and bidding process to make sure protections are in place for district
- Recruit and Retain staff, increase on-site training for firefighters and EMS

The following summaries were prepared from comments filed by persons AGAINST Ballot Issue 6A:

- No comments against this measure were filed by the Constitutional deadline

**TO: ALL REGISTERED VOTERS**

**NOTICE OF ELECTION TO INCREASE TAXES**

**DEER MOUNTAIN FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT  
FREMONT COUNTY, COLORADO**

**Election Date:** November 3, 2020

**Local Election Office Address and Phone Number: Linda Gallegos, Deer Mountain Fire Protection District 6181 Copper Gulch Rd, Cotopaxi, Colorado 81223, Phone: 719-942-4443**

**Ballot Title and Text:**

**BALLOT ISSUE 6A**

**SHALL THE DEER MOUNTAIN FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT TAXES BE INCREASED BY APPROXIMATELY TWO HUNDRED THIRTY THOUSAND TWO HUNDRED THIRTY FIVE DOLLARS (\$230,235.00) ANNUALLY IN TAX YEAR 2021 FOR COLLECTION IN FISCAL YEAR 2022 AND BY WHATEVER ADDITIONAL AMOUNTS ARE RAISED THEREAFTER BY AN ADDITIONAL MILL LEVY OF NOT MORE THAN 8 MILLS. FOR A TOTAL MILL LEVY OF 15.992 WITH SUCH PROCEEDS TO BE USED FOR GENERAL FUNDS WHICH WILL ADDRESS THE ANTICIPATED BUDGET SHORTAGE IN THE STATE OF COLORADO CAUSED BY COVID-19, REDUCE RELIANCE OF FIRE LAND FUNDS, ALLOW THE DISTRICT TO ADDRESS OTHER FINANCIAL NEEDS IDENTIFIED IN THE MILL LEVY PROPOSAL AND TO IMPROVE AND RETAIN CRITICAL SERVICES TO THE CITIZENS OF THE DISTRICT AND SHALL SUCH PROCEEDS BE COLLECTED AND SPENT BY THE DISTRICT AS A VOTER APPROVED REVENUE AND SPENDING CHANGES EACH YEAR WITHOUT REGARD TO ANY SPENDING OR REVENUE LIMITATION CONTAINED IN ARTICLE X, SECTION 20 OF THE COLORADO CONSTITUTION OR SECTION 29-1-301 COLORADO REVISED STATUES?**



# Colorado Council of Amateur Radio Clubs Notice of Frequency Coordination

Repeater/Link Callsign: KB0TUC

CCARC Coordination #: 813

Issued: 2020-05-08 20:17:01

Holder of Record: Royal Gorge Amateur Radio Club PO Box 2044 , Canon City CO 81215

Trustee: Mike Schnobrich 677 4th Street , Penrose CO 81240

Correspondence: Mike Schnobrich 677 4th Street , Penrose CO 81240

Frequency Status: Coordinated

Output Frequency: 145.4600 MHz Transmitter Output Power: 25 W

Input Frequency: 144.8600 MHz Effective Radiated Power: 50 W

Emission Mode: 16K0F3E

	Latitude	Longitude	City, County, State
Transmitter	38°21'25.90"N	105°28'33.20"W	Cotopaxi, Fremont, CO
Receiver	38°21'25.90"N	105°28'33.20"W	Cotopaxi, Fremont, CO

Service Area: Cotopaxi

Exact Location: 6181 County Rd 28, Cotopaxi, CO 81223

Site Elevation: 7535 feet above Mean Sea Level

Antenna Height: 43 feet above Site Ground Level, 157 feet above Average Terrain

Antenna Type: Omnidirectional

Antenna Gain: 3.0 dBd

Antenna Model: Cushcraft Ringo II

Coordination Conditions:

none

This coordination is based upon information provided by the applicant at the time of submission and contained in the CCARC database. If a coordination holder changes the location, access method, antenna height or pattern, effective radiated power, frequency, mode, or other operating parameters of the system, the repeater or link will require re-coordination.

This form is to be considered a contract that attests that you will keep the above repeater or link active as you have represented on your request for coordination.

Colorado Council of Amateur Radio Clubs

PO Box 24224

Denver, CO 80224

Frequency Coordinator

Wild land equipment:

Has you will see on our bills we have had additional equipment that we have needed to purchase, let me explain why these were necessary. Due to the amount of soot at some of the fire it was imperative that filters had to be blown out daily for our equipment to continue to function correctly. WE can only imagine what the air quality was like of our fire fighters, So a big THANK YOU to all you have done to help not just Colorado but other states as well.

Wild land Radios:

AS most of you know Deer Mountain Fire Department was loaned a radio by a citizen (at that time) so that WE Deer Mountain did not have to pay for one, which would of ran us around 3500.00-4000.00 dollars. This radios memory was wiped clean by an employee of Deer Mountain, in short turning this radio into a paper weight. We the board voted to repair this radio, as it was and still is the right thing to do. I'm sure that anyone of you would agree that If you loaned Deer Mountain a laptop and we formatted its hard drive or shattered the screen you would expect Deer Mountain to repair it. Or would you just say...Oh well

We the board (well all but 1 board member) received multiple emails concerning the repair of this radio. There was even a phone call to JR about Deer Mountain paying for the repair of this radio.

1) email all board members, and yes, your email was forwarded to the other board member

2) Joe Watts

3) does it really matter who the radio belongs to

4) by reading this email you could clearly tell that this email was based off of a personal dislike for Joe Watts.... I personally do not care if you like Joe Watts or not I do not care if you like or dislike me...Deer Mountain is a business, doing the right thing for all concerned, is good business... not who we like or do not like

5) so now after these emails and rumors...Joe Watts has sold his radio, we no longer get to use it for FREE..so thank you...NOW Deer Mountain has to come up with the money to buy a radio so that our wild land trucks are equipped as per the National forest service...Joe has made Deer Mountain \$91,505.50 and you want to complain the about a 500.00 radio repair (only because it was Joe Watts)

In closing...I would like to ask those who complained about repairing this radio....because it belonged to Joe Watts....What have you done to help bring in money to keep Deer Mountain going....Joe Watts brought in \$91,505.50