

possibly by as much as two-thirds, by modifying our response plans so that Wescott is no longer dispatched on non-serious calls. We would work with them and our dispatch center to more specifically identify what those are. With the reduction in the disparity that now exists, we believe we will be closer to an even exchange of services and can avoid fees."

The directors discussed the topic with great passion. Director Terri Hayes was concerned about public perception and letting \$230 stand in the way, although she did not like the idea of paying another district either and wanted to keep a close eye on it if this were adopted.

Secretary Mike Smaldino was vehemently opposed to the idea of setting a precedent for districts to start paying to get automatic aid from each other, saying, "They are not going to balance their budget on the backs of us." Director Jason Buckingham wondered if it was worth a possible \$23,000 a year to get a one-minute-better response time to those neighborhoods north of Baptist Road that are so close to Wescott's Station 1.

Another part of the discussion centered on the fact that Wescott has cut almost all overtime pay this year, meaning staffing levels there could be unpredictable as far as TLMFPD is concerned.

The board finally decided not to vote on the subject at this meeting at all. Instead, they gave direction to Truty to ask Burns some more specified questions.

Dinner meeting with Wescott

A casual dinner and conversation meeting happened among six of seven TLMFPD board members and two board members and the two chiefs of DWFPD on Jan. 18. Truty said this was a special "get to know each other" meeting for both district board members. TLMFPD officially posted the meeting and had a majority of its board members in attendance, while DWFPD did not. *See related DWFPD article on page 8.*

Raspberry Lane structure fire

Trost and Battalion Chief Mike Keough reported that on Jan. 2, at 8:10 a.m., a fire broke out in the multifamily homes on Raspberry Lane south of Monument Lake Road. Two people were not able to escape their home due to extreme smoke and heat in the living room, so the man, a former firefighter, climbed out the third-story window, with his small son, onto the three-foot roof ledge, until they were rescued by Capt. Kris Mola and his crew. *See photo on page 1.*

Trost said, "It was a great job by the guys. They did a quick hit on the fire, too." Crews from DWFPD and Palmer Lake Volunteer Fire Department assisted on the

scene, and three units from CSFD responded but were canceled before their arrival. The Monument Police Department and El Paso County Sheriff's Office also assisted on the call, Trost and Keough said.

Fire marshal job description modified

In the wake of the abrupt unexplained departure of former TLMFPD Fire Marshal John Vincent in December, Truty proposed a set of modifications to that position, title, responsibilities, and salary. The proposed job description for an administrative battalion chief would include all fire marshal responsibilities plus have additional administrative responsibilities that currently are handled either by Truty or Trost.

Trost said that a Fire Inspector I certification would be required, and the district would support future education for this staff member to achieve the II and III level. Arson investigation certification would not be required, because El Paso County provides mutual aid on these criminal investigations when they are needed in TLMFPD.

The board voted unanimously to approve this job new description, which will first be posted internally.

Chief's report

Trost presented information on several topics, including:

- Updates have been made to the lieutenant and engineer hiring process.
- Three conditional job offers had been accepted by

prospective new staff members, and they should be attending a fire academy class at West Metro Denver starting Jan. 30. This is an attempt to restore staffing levels to 14 per shift.

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