

culated into pay.

Director Harland Baker raised concerns about raising the operational budget to accommodate the salary increase. However, the increase in revenue ultimately allowed the board to justify the salary increase. Wescott will also stay relevant with other districts' salaries with this increase, said Burns.

The board also approved a \$5,800 deposit in the volunteer pension fund. The state will match about 90 percent of the amount in the pension fund at the end of the year.

Some savings are seen in the 2016 budget as well.

Stacey Popovich, Wescott administrative assistant, worked on worker's compensation insurance rates, and the price went from \$75,000 in 2015 to about \$58,000 in 2016.

Administrative

The board unanimously approved the October financial statements and meeting minutes. The November and De-

cember financial statements will be presented at the Jan. 19 meeting.

Run report

Assistant Chief Ridings gave the October and November run report, indicating a 24 percent increase in the number of calls received in October and November of 2015 over October and November 2014. The increase is due to the number of American Medical Response runs, said Ridings. The total fire loss in the district in November was \$400, which resulted from a microwave fire.

Chief's report

Chief Burns reported a four-day rapid intervention team training. The team trained on rescuing a firefighter if he or she were trapped in a burning building. Chief Burns said that working with other organizations in the area made a positive training environment, and Wescott will seek out other training opportunities.

Chief Burns also informed the board of a need to fix

a flooding issue in his office. The flood mitigation services for Fire Station 1 will cost about \$17,980. The board agreed that this work must be done and approved the use of funds to fix this ongoing issue.

Four-year terms expiring

The four-year terms of district Directors Bo McAllister and John Fredell expire in 2016. They must inform the newly appointed election official, Stacey Popovich, of their intention to run for office again.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:04 p.m.

The Donald Wescott Fire Protection District Board of Directors' next meeting is scheduled for 7 p.m. Jan. 19 at Station 1 15415 Gleneagle Dr. Please call 488-8680, a non-emergency number, for more information, or visit www.wescottfire.org. The district is also on Facebook.

Jennifer Green-Lanchoney can be contacted at JenGreen-Lanchoney@OCN.me.

Tri-Lakes Monument Fire Protection District, Dec. 8

2016 budget approved

By Lisa Hatfield

At the Dec. 8 meeting of the Tri-Lakes Monument Fire Protection District (TLMFPD) Board of Directors, the board approved year-end financial resolutions and the 2016 wage schedule, and asked more questions of potential bond and mill levy consultant George K. Baum & Co.

Director Bill Ingram was absent and Director Larry Smith was excused.

Budget resolutions and new wage schedule approved

Fire Chief Chris Truty presented the following items, and all were approved unanimously:

- A resolution approving the 2015 amended budget, which the board had already approved in November, but the Department of Local Affairs (DOLA) requested that it be formally submitted in resolution format.
- An adjustment to the 2016 final budget figures that were presented at the November meeting to reflect a recent change to El Paso County's 2015 final property valuation and assessment for the fire district; the final valuation translated to a \$6,042 reduction in property tax revenue.
- Appropriation of money to the various funds listed in the budget.
- A resolution levying property taxes for the year 2016, set at 11.5 mills.
- The 2016 fee schedule with no changes from 2015.
- The 2016 wage schedule. The Firefighter 1 salary of \$36,620 will become the "base rate" upon which all other salaries are computed using the formulas

described in this new schedule. See www.ocn.me/v15n9.htm#tlmfpd0826 article for a discussion of the rationale.

- A resolution approving purchase of 2016 Dodge pickup truck to replace the battalion chief's vehicle.

TLMFPD attorney Maureen Herr Juran of Widner Michow & Cox LLP made a few modifications to the resolution wording to make sure details of Taxpayer Bill of Rights (TABOR) rules were followed to the letter.

Levy consultant contract discussed again

Alan Matlosz, senior vice president of George K. Baum & Co., answered questions for the directors about the details of services his firm would provide the district to help with the decision about holding a possible mill levy or bond levy election in 2016 or 2017. Paul Hanley, another vice president of George K. Baum, already addressed the directors in August and presented a lot of information about mill levies and bond levies, and the directors voted to hire Baum then. See www.ocn.me/v15n9.htm#tlmfpd0826.

However, since then, in trying to write up a contract with them, Truty has had questions about the details of the services they would provide and their actual cost, and Matlosz's comments about the timing of the election conflicted with Hanley's statements on that topic to the board in August. After Matlosz answered questions at this meeting, Truty summarized. "This is a little different from the last time we talked." After a long discussion about federal rules and payments, the consensus of the directors was to persevere in working out the details with Baum. Truty and Matlosz will meet to finish the discussion.

Chief's report

Truty's comments included:

- Congratulations to all four new firefighters who graduated from the academy on Nov. 20. All four are on shift now.
- The district will be discussing its potential role and how it would respond in an active shooter event such as the recent shootings in Colorado Springs and San Bernardino, Calif.
- Members of TLMFPD attended Officer Garrett Swasey's funeral service after he was killed by an active shooter on Nov. 27.
- TLMFPD officers attended a training session by Mark Smith called "Mission Critical Solutions on Leadership and the Impact of Officers on an Organization's Culture."
- Self-nominations for board members will open on Jan. 1. Four TLMFPD board member positions will be open for re-election in May.

Deputy Chief Randy Trost said the district assisted at the town's Dec. 5 tree lighting ceremony by delivering Santa in the tower ladder and passing out firefighter helmets to kids.

The meeting went into executive session at 7:24 p.m. to meet with legal counsel for the district for advice on imposition of impact fees.

Meetings are usually held the fourth Wednesday of each month, and the next meeting will be at 6:30 p.m., Wednesday, Jan. 27 in the Monument Town Hall at 645 Beacon Lite Road. For information, contact Jennifer Martin at 719-484-0911.

Lisa Hatfield can be reached at lisahatfield@ocn.me.

Woodmoor Improvement Association Board of Directors, Dec. 16

Board approves office space proposal, discusses WPS manual

By Jackie Burhans

At the Woodmoor Improvement Association (WIA) board meeting on Dec. 16, the board approved a request to reorganize the office space in the Barn and discussed the updated Woodmoor Public Safety (WPS) training manual.

WIA/WPS office space proposal

The board discussed reconfiguring the office area in the Barn to create a file room, move file cabinets out of the main offices and purchase storage lockers for Woodmoor Public Safety staff. WPS Chief Kevin Nielsen noted that the WIA offices are overcrowded and filled with storage cabinets. The proposal is to build a wall in what is now a conference room on the lower level to create a file room and move the cabinets to that location. In addition, the proposal is to purchase large storage lockers to place in the break room so that the 8 WPS officers and four office staff will be able to store personal items such as hats, gloves, boots, and extra uniforms. Currently there is no room to store these items in the one shared office.

The plan to acquire storage lockers dates back to 1999

but has never been implemented. The bid to do this work totals \$4,500. After discussion about the number of times file cabinets are accessed, the ongoing effort to scan documents, and where the money would come from in the budget, the board voted unanimously to approve this proposal.

New WPS training manual

WPS Chief Nielsen also reported that he has put together a new internal training manual that covers WPS procedures. It also includes a training log for new officers to follow. Nielsen asked that the board approve this new manual so that it can be added as a separate document to the WPS standard operating procedures, which will allow it to be changed separately.

President Jim Hale asked if the board could have the next month to review and consider for approval at the January meeting. Approval of the new training manual was postponed until the January regular meeting.

Board report highlights

- Annual dues invoices have been mailed out to be fol-

lowed shortly by ballots for the upcoming board election.

- Nielsen reported that mail thefts have been occurring in Woodmoor. WPS has provided information on how to protect your mail at <https://www.woodmoor.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/12/Mail-Theft.pdf>
- There is a proposal to reconfigure parking at Toboggan Hill from six to 18 spaces.
- The Annual Meeting of WIA will be held on Monday, Jan. 25, 2016 at the Lewis-Palmer Middle School. Sign-in will start at 6:30 pm.

The WIA Board of Directors usually meets at 7 p.m. on the fourth Wednesday of each month in the Barn at 1691 Woodmoor Drive, Monument. The next regular meeting will be on Jan. 27. WIA board meeting minutes can be found at: <http://www.woodmoor.org/meeting-minutes/> once approved and posted.

Jackie Burhans can be reached at jackieburhans@ocn.me.

December Weather Wrap

By Bill Kappel

Temperatures were almost exactly normal during December, while snowfall was above average. This allowed a nice snowpack to build during the month and of course resulted in a white Christmas.

During the first week of December winter took a brief break, with dry conditions from the 1st through the 5th. Temperatures started the month off below normal, with the snow on the ground helping to keep the air cooler than would otherwise have been realized. Highs were in the

low to mid 30s on the first, then low 40s on the 2nd and 3rd. A quick-moving storm approached the region on the 4th and that allowed the wind to kick up a bit. This helped mix out some of the cold air, and temperatures rebounded nicely into the low 50s. As this system rolled through on