

Tri-Lakes Monument Fire Protection District, Nov. 15

Wage increase included in 2017 draft budget

By Lisa Hatfield

At the Nov. 15 Tri-Lakes Monument Fire Protection District (TLMFPD) meeting, the directors held a public hearing on the proposed 2017 budget and approved the 2017 fee schedule. They also changed the TLMFPD meeting location starting in 2017, learned about construction of a new town parking lot, and heard a request for toy donations for Santa on Patrol.

Secretary Mike Smaldino and Directors Terri Hayes and Jason Buckingham were excused.

Public hearing on 2017 budget

No members of the public spoke either for or against adopting the proposed 2017 budget, which the board will approve at the next meeting, which will take place Wednesday, Dec. 7.

As noted last month, the draft budget included a 6 percent wage increase, reflecting the district's priority of moving staff toward the "average wage for comparable districts," Fire Chief Chris Truty has explained. Those comparable districts are Frederick Firestone FPD, Brighton FPD, Fountain FD, Canon City FPD, Castle Rock FD (compared at a 75 percent rate), and Colorado Springs (75 percent). See www.ocn.me/v15n9.htm#tlfmfpd0826.

The draft budget in the board packet predicted that overall wages would increase 9.5 percent, from an estimated \$3.3 million in 2016 to \$3.7 million in 2017. This includes administration, full time, part time, overtime, wildland deployment pay and associated overtime back-fill pay, and other costs.

2017 fee schedule approved

Fire Marshal John Vincent presented information about the proposed 2017 TLMFPD fee schedule. The directors asked many questions about the rationale for changes in several of the fees and then approved it as presented.

Financial report

Treasurer John Hildebrandt said that every budget line item for 2016 was either at or below budget and that overall year to date expenses were 6.1 percent below budget. The wages expenditures were lower than budgeted, while overtime expenditures were higher than usual because of the numerous staff vacancies throughout 2016.

2017 meeting location change

The directors voted to change the TLMFPD meeting location for 2017. Starting Jan. 25, meetings will be held at Station 1, 18650 Highway 105, in Monument.

Meetings will continue to be held on the fourth Wednesday of each of month, with the exception of Nov. 15, 2017 and Dec. 6, 2017.

Chief's report

Truty's comments included:

- The district is applying again for a \$375,000 grant to replace all its radios, which are becoming obsolete and hard to repair.
- A firefighter hired in October resigned in mid-November. He had signed a recovery clause so the district will bill him for training and other costs incurred.
- In this round of hiring applications, the district had a good turnout this time, with 96 applicants total, seven or eight of whom were paramedics. See www.ocn.me/v16n9.htm#tlfmfpd.
- The first new impact fees bills have gone out, and it rattled some cages with the Colorado Springs Housing and Building Association (HBA). The district's presentation to the El Paso Board of County Commissioners has not been scheduled yet. See www.ocn.me/v16n11.htm#mbot1017.
- Peak Leadership consultants have been doing confidential interviews with all three shifts as part of the leadership development study requested by Truty in July. See www.ocn.me/v16n8.htm#tlfmfpd.

New parking lot on Second Street and Mitchell Avenue

Director Tom Tharnish, who is also Monument's public works director, told the board about a new parking lot being constructed at the southeast corner of Second Street and Mitchell Avenue, between Mitchell and the railroad tracks. It will have room for 75-100 cars.

He also said a new right-turn lane had been completed along Mitchell Avenue, for cars heading east on Second Street across the tracks.

Santa on Patrol needs donations

President Jake Shirk, who is also the Monument police chief, reminded the community that Santa will be teaming up with the Monument Police Department, TLMFPD, and the Palmer Lake Police Department to deliver toys and good cheer to many children in the Tri-Lakes area on Dec 17.

Shirk said "there is a huge need in the Tri-Lakes area" and that Santa and his elves from the fire and police departments hope to deliver over 1,000 toys again this year.

New, unwrapped toys and gift cards may be dropped off no later than Friday, Dec. 16, 2016 at 3 p.m. so there will be time to get them ready to be delivered by Santa and his elves. Please take them to the following locations:

- Monument Police Department, 645 Beacon Lite Road
- TLMFPD stations 1, 2, and 3
- Tri-Lakes Monument Fire Department Administration, 15455 Gleneagle Drive

Please contact Shirk at (719) 481-3253 if you have any questions.

The meeting adjourned at 7:36 p.m.

Meetings are usually held the fourth Wednesday of each month. However, the next meeting is scheduled for 6:30 p.m. Wednesday, Dec. 7 in the Monument Town Hall at 645 Beacon Lite Road. For information, contact Jennifer Martin at 719-484-0911 or see www.tlffire.org/.

Thank you to OCN volunteer Joyce Witte for recording this meeting. Lisa Hatfield can be reached at lisahatfield@ocn.me.

CONCRETE WORK

All types of concrete work

25 Years Experience • Insured

www.sharpestcut.com

Sharpest Cut 719-491-4811

Specializing in Residential Cleaning

A Gift of Time

Overwhelmed?
Want your home spic and span?

Call Stacy today!
(719) 930-2178
www.agiftoftime.us

Weekly • Bi-weekly • Monthly • Move-outs • Move-ins.



Adult/Senior Day Service

Caregivers: Please come to our Open House Friday, December 9, 11:00 am-4:00pm.

- Enjoy some Appetizers and Refreshments
- Find out how to make your life easier
- Let us assist in the care of your loved ones

Come Spend a Safe and Fun Day With Us!

755 Highway 105
(719) 488-1415

liftingspirits@qwestoffice.net
www.LiftingSpiritsCare.net

Sonja Search, CNA



Restorative Therapies

MARA GULLER, LMT, CLT, INHC
*Licensed Massage Therapist
Certified Lymphedema Therapist
Certified Integrative Nutrition Health Coach*



Neuromuscular Trigger Point, Deep Tissue, MLD/CDT for Lymphedema, Therapeutic Hot Stone for Relaxation and Pain Relief.

Decreasing back, neck, and shoulder pain for over 24 years!

\$20 OFF your first massage or health coaching session! New clients only.

(719) 290-5534 www.maragullerlmt.fullslate.com

Lewis-Palmer D-38 District Accountability Advisory Committee, Nov. 1

Special Education Advisory Committee, technology director give reports

By Harriet Halbig

The District Accountability Advisory Committee (DAAC) of Lewis-Palmer D-38 received reports from the Special Education Advisory Committee, the director of Technology and the liaison for community-family partnerships at its Nov. 1 meeting. The committee also held a further discussion of its charge.

Director of Exceptional Student Services (ESS) Rick Frampton reported that he had spent his first several months in the district talking with everyone about activities related to his field. He stressed that the work is very difficult but important. Despite all the paperwork and legal requirements involved, instruction is the main focus. Relationships between students and adults are also key.

Frampton said that when he tells others what his field is, he is often told that he must be very patient. On the contrary, he said that he cannot afford to be patient because his students are already behind.

Collaboration between various teachers, specialists, and other staff is important because many students have complicated issues.

The Special Education Advisory Committee is in place to serve as a sounding board for families receiving special education services, to get their suggestions and hear of weaknesses in the system. The committee also advocates for the students and makes sure that their needs are acknowledged and addressed.

Some ideas developed by the committee this year included the development of a Peer Buddies program that would advocate friendships between ESS students and others, and use of the Path2Empathy program to integrate ESS students into the student activities of their schools.

When asked whether training and screening would be offered to ensure that the Peer Buddies got along, Special Education Liaison Michelle Nay said there would be

training for the students and that the program would be rolled out in Monument Academy, Palmer Ridge High School, and Lewis-Palmer Middle School first.

Technology update

Director of Instructional and Informational Technology Liz Walhof reported on some recent developments in technology, including a change in the student usernames on district computers, student-selected passwords, an ongoing audit of district technology to ensure security, and other actions to ensure data privacy in the future.

Students may have access to G Suite for Education, a Google product, with parent permission. This would include internal Gmail, Google calendar, Google Drive and other Google sites. Walhof stressed that contracts stipulate that the use of these sites will not lead to receipt of targeted ads or other profiling.

Walhof reported that a teacher committee during the summer discussed which skills would be necessary in the 21st century for students to find success in college, career, the workforce, or the military. These skills would include collaboration and critical thinking. Development of this program will continue through the year.

Walhof said that further details will be presented at the December Board of Education meeting.

Community-family partnership update

Special Education Parent Liaison Michelle Nay reported on the ongoing Colorado Department of Education (CDE) initiative to ensure a partnership between families, communities, and schools.

The emphasis of this program is to use the multi-tiered system of support to ensure that all students reach their full potential with open relationships between parents, staff, and community.

Parents and school staff must be equal partners in student education with information flowing in both di-