

of all the public improvements in this subdivision.

- Sept. 26—a request to establish

the survey area and set Oct. 17 as the hearing date on an application by Colorado Brewers Group LLC

(trading as Pikes Peak Brewing Company) for a modification of its premises on Lake Woodmoor

Drive.
Helen Walklett can be reached at helenwalklett@ocn.me

Donald Wescott Fire Protection District, Sept. 19

Budget depends on mill levy vote

By Jennifer Kaylor

The Donald Wescott Fire Protection District (DWFPD) board moved briskly through its meeting agenda on Sept. 19. The board received estimated budget scenarios sketching income and expenses for 2018 if the proposed mill levy passes, 2018 if the mill levy fails, and 2019 if the mill levy fails. Chief Vinny Burns provided updates regarding the election. A biannual pension meeting preceded the board meeting with no votes or changes made.

Budget dependent on mill levy vote

Using preliminary figures from the El Paso County assessor, Burns drafted separate budgets depicting the district's future depending on whether the proposed mill levy increase from 7 mills to 21.9 mills passes or fails.

The first budget, which covered 2018 if the mill levy increase passes, estimated an income of \$2.7 million. Exempt and nonexempt staff would essentially maintain current pay and their overtime pay would be restored. Other expense items fell within the ranges of previous budgets.

The second budget detailing income and expenses if the mill levy fails showed a total operating revenue for 2018 of \$1.3 million—a loss of \$1.4 million compared to a passed-mill-levy

budget. Cuts in staffing and overtime absorbed most of the losses.

Burns projected even further into 2019 and estimated a failed-mill-levy income of \$670,000—barely one-third of the district's current property tax revenue. This budget reduced staff to one chief, no administrative assistant, and three firefighters (down from 15 firefighters) which consequently decreased administrative, insurance, and payroll expenses; cut training classes and associated travel expenses entirely; and eliminated firefighting and self-contained breathing apparatus (SCBA) equipment and bunker gear. Burns reminded the board that the numbers provided by the assessor's office are preliminary and that practicable numbers will be finalized in November.

Background: The City of Colorado Springs annexed 22 square miles of DWFPD's tax-paying service area. Although the annexation was initiated in 2003, DWFPD has been servicing the annexed area to support residents until Colorado Springs Fire Department Station 22 was completed on Voyager Parkway in 2016. Now DWFPD is engaged in a two-phase process to exclude the annexed territory from its service area. As of Jan. 1, 2017, the district excluded Phase One Property, from Interquest Parkway north to the

proposed location of the Powers Boulevard extension with I-25 (north of The Classical Academy). As of Jan. 1, 2018, Phase Two Property, extending the rest of the way up to Northgate Boulevard, will be excluded.

When phase two of the exclusion is complete, the district's annual property tax revenue will have been effectively reduced by 65 percent, which is concurrent with its loss of territory. In July 2017, the board adopted a resolution to ask voters on the November ballot to increase DWFPD Northern Subdistrict taxes annually beginning in levy year 2017 for collection in calendar year 2018 by increasing the subdistrict's existing property tax of 7 mills by 14.9 mills for a total of 21.9 mills. See the mill levy calculation by Pinnacle Consulting Group, Inc. at <http://wescottfire.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/05/Wescott-Fire-Financial-.pdf>.

Election updates continued

Burns confirmed that Kammy Tinney of Pinnacle Consulting Group, Inc. is the district's Designated Election Official (DEO). Tinney is handling the proceedings on the district's behalf and "everything is going as planned," Burns said. Among the many election deadlines Burns listed, he noted that ballots would be mailed Oct. 16-20.

Wildfire deployments, and fallen firefighter

Burns stated that Assistant Chief Scott Ridings and two other Wescott firefighters deployed to an Oregon fire, a blaze to which the first Wescott crew deployed on Aug. 5. The current Wescott crew is actively working on an initial attack in the Grants Pass area. Burns said that due to Ridings' deployment, call statistics would be provided at a later meeting.

Burns also reported that Wescott firefighters attended the funeral of South Metro Fire Rescue (SMFR) fallen firefighter Mike Freeman on July 21. SMFR Chief Bob Baker sent a letter of appreciation to Wescott for standing alongside SMFR in celebrating Free-

man's life. Baker thanked Wescott for their "presence and participation in this procession not only honored Mike and South Metro Fire Rescue, it also provided great strength for his family." Burns estimated that several thousand firefighters both in- and out-of-state attended the funeral. See www.southmetro.org/ArchiveCenter/ViewFile/Item/249 for an SMFR newsletter article about Freeman.

Administrative business detailed

Administrative Assistant Stacey Popovich reported that the district's three funds—Peoples National Bank (PNB), PNB Colorado Peak Fund, and Wells Fargo Public Trust—totaled \$1.991 million in July and \$1.923 million in August, a decrease of about \$67,900. The district's "Profit and Loss vs. Actual" report showed a year-to-date income of \$2.256 million through Aug. 2017; almost 99 percent of the budgeted annual amount of \$2.282 million. Year-to-date expenses through August 2017 totaled \$1.369 million. Currently, expenses fall below 50 percent of the annual budget estimate of \$3.037 million.

Volunteer firefighters discuss pension

Lieutenants Brian Ackerman and Tim Hampton presented actuarial valuation information for the district's volunteer pension fund during the pension meeting that preceded the board meeting. Second-quarter fund performance showed growth albeit slow. The volunteers did not request additional contributions from the district to the fund.

The board adjourned at 7:23 p.m.

The next DWFPD Board of Directors meeting is scheduled for Oct. 17, 7 p.m. at Station 1, 15415 Gleneagle Drive. Please call (719) 488-8680, a non-emergency number, for more information, or visit www.wescottfire.org. The district is also on Facebook and Twitter.

Jennifer Kaylor can be reached at jenniferkaylor@ocn.me.



TIFFINEY UPCHURCH

★★★
D38 School Board

- ✓ Putting Students First
- ✓ Parent Advocate
- ✓ Fiscal Conservative
- ✓ Collaborative Leader

www.upchurch4kids.com

Tri-Lakes Monument Fire Protection District, Sept. 27

How mill levy outcome will affect 2018 budget

By Lisa Hatfield

On Sept. 27, the Tri-Lakes Monument Fire Protection District (TLMFPD) board discussed two alternate scenarios for the 2018 budget depending on the results of the proposed mill levy increase election. They also welcomed new Battalion Chief of Training, Jonathan Bradley, who was sworn in by Fire Chief Chris Truty.

First the directors reviewed a 2017 amended budget that will formally document changes in spending this year related to staffing, reimbursement of impact fees to builders, and the move to new administrative offices in November. Treasurer John Hildebrandt clarified that the net change was about zero.

Truty then presented a first draft of two proposed budgets for 2018. One assumed the 6.9 mill levy increase will be approved by voters in November, and one assumed it will be defeated. The current mill levy is 11.5 mills. Us-

ing several comparative charts, he gave multiple examples of the election's impact on the operating fund, capital improvement fund, impact fees fund, emergency reserve fund, and the vehicle replacement fund, which would not even be created unless the mill levy increase passes.

See <http://tlmfire.org/> for many pages of details with the fully explained financial information and specific examples we do not have room to include here. See also www.ocn.me/v17n6.htm#tlmfpd, www.ocn.me/v17n8.htm#tlmfpd.

Truty's primary concern is that wages in the fire protection district are about 25 percent lower than the average for comparable Front Range fire departments. Other areas of need include rising health care costs, worker's compensation, and specialized training. He said if the mill levy increase does not pass, the majority of nondiscretionary money will go toward increases in wag-