

hammer out an IGA so that TLMFPD would reimburse DWFPD for those calls, which are mostly medical. This would be separate from the current IGA with TLMFPD for fire calls, he said.

No agreement has been made yet. See related TLMFPD article on page 1.

**Special meeting with TLMFPD**  
Residents asked why DWFPD had not officially posted the special dinner meeting between Wescott and TLMFPD board members scheduled for Jan. 18. They said TLMFPD had officially posted it. The open record and meeting law, the

Sunshine Law, requires 72-hour advance posting of public meetings involving more than two board members. Resident and former Wescott board Chairman Brian Ritz said, "You can't miss those simple things or it will destroy you." Burns took responsibility for the lack of posting.

The consensus was to send only two board members to the meeting, along with Burns and Ridings, to make sure no rules were violated.

**Chief's report**

Burns said the old Gleneagle golf clubhouse would first be used for search and rescue and other trainings and then become part of a controlled burn that would also be for training purposes. The district will announce the burn date in as many media sources as possible to alert the public at the end of February.

Assistant Chief Scott Ridings said that total call volume in 2016 was 2,709 runs, a decrease of 8 percent

from 2015. Later in the meeting, Ritz asked if medical calls made up 90 percent of the total actual runs (adjusting for canceled calls), and Burns confirmed this.

The meeting went into executive session at 8:40 p.m. Popovich told OCN that afterward the board voted unanimously to hire Webb Strategic Communications to help in election education, with a limit of \$15,000.

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The next Donald Wescott Fire Protection District Board of Directors meeting is scheduled for 7 p.m. Feb. 21 at Station 1, 15415 Gleneagle Dr. Meetings are usually on the third Tuesday of each month. For information, call Executive Administrator Stacey Popovich at 488-8680 or see www.wescottfire.org. The district is also on Facebook.

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

**Monument Board of Trustees, Jan.3**

**Village Center Metro District repeats request for town help**

By Lisa Hatfield

At the Jan. 3 Monument Board of Trustees meeting, two Village Center Metro District (VCMD) residents again asked the town for help fixing the damage done to VCMD's financial situation by town-approved actions in 2004 and 2014. The trustees also approved three land use ordinances: two in Sanctuary Pointe and one for the Jackson Creek Market Village townhome replat.

Trustee Dennis Murphy was excused. Town Manager Chris Lowe was absent.



Above: During public comments at the Jan. 3 Monument Board of Trustee meeting, Village Center Metro District (VCMD) Vice President Dustin Sparks, left, addressed a letter he had received on Dec. 29 from Town Manager Chris Lowe refusing VCMD's request to do a 20-minute presentation to the trustees explaining why the district needs help from the town to cover its operating costs and debt service. VCMD resident Jim Romanello, right, said the streets can't be maintained and the debt payment bonds can't be paid because of the decisions of past Monument Board of Trustees regarding the mill levy and commercial zoning. "Where is the accountability for this? It is in your lap now. We need that help.... We don't want to be blown off by you like this letter.... Please help us or please meet with us," Romanello said. Photo by Lisa Hatfield.

**Village Center Metro District request rebuffed by town**

During public comments, VCMD Vice President Dustin Sparks addressed a letter he had received on Dec. 29 from Lowe refusing VCMD's request to be put on a future meeting agenda for presentation to the trustees explaining why VCMD needs help from the town to cover its operating costs and debt service. VCMD has asked the town to take over street plowing, since the metro district cannot afford it, for example.

Sparks read from Lowe's letter, which included, "It is the position of the town as directed to me by the board of trustees that you are a metro district and as such provide sufficient revenue to perform all the duties that you accepted when the district was formed.... The town is not responsible for the fact that this metro district is not providing sufficient revenue to even provide the most basic of services." The letter stated that VCMD should raise its mill levy to make up the difference and utilize the public comment portion of future meetings to make its case, but that it would not be authorized to do a 20-minute presentation to the trustees.

**Background:** VCMD requested help from the trustees on Nov 7. No response was given that day. But on Nov. 21, under Board

Authorization Items, there was board consensus to allow VCMD to give a 20-minute presentation in the near future. See www.ocn.me/v16n12.htm#mbot1121. At the Dec. 5 meeting, the VCMD topic was not discussed at all in the public session and the board held an executive session "to discuss pending litigation," but no announcement was made afterward. The Dec. 19 meeting was canceled. It is not clear when the board was "fully briefed on the issue" or "gave direction" to Lowe to write the Dec. 29 letter cited by Sparks.

Sparks said the history of this situation is relevant. He said on Aug. 16, 2004, town minutes indicated that Town Manager Rick Sonnenburg declared that it was necessary to have income from a

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