

safety issues at existing fire stations

- Strategically adding paramedics as well as training and inspection personnel to address an increase in emergency services demand.

On July 26, the directors voted unanimously to provide a district special election on Nov. 7, submitting a ballot issue to the eligible electors of TLMFPD authorizing the district to increase the property tax mill levy by 6.9 mills and to collect, retain, and spend that revenue.

#### Promotions and hirings

On June 28, the board and staff celebrated the promotions of Firefighter/Engineers Kevin Richmond, Jon Bodinsky, and Steve Buckner. And on July 26, Fire Chief Chris Truty swore in new firefighters Keith Barker, Braden Stoenner, and Derek Thorne.

Deputy Chief Randy Trost said that three experienced staff members were leaving the district the week of July 26. One is going to another fire district, one has to leave because of disability, and one is retiring. The district had anticipated some departures and so had planned to have more candidates in the hiring and training process, which takes several months. He said if no one else leaves this year, the district will be short one staff member and have 14, 14, and 13 firefighters and paramedics on the three shifts.

He said it has been hard to find and hire qualified staff. "The moral of the story is that we went through 12 people on our list to hire four."

#### Battalion chief of training position approved

On June 28, after considerable discussion, the directors voted 4-3 to approve creation of a battalion chief of training position effective Sept. 1. Truty explained that one specific individual he had in mind had "extraordinarily strong credentials" and had already met with the executive staff. This person is available right now but might not be later if the district waited to create and fill this position later, he said.



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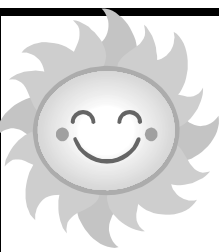
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Truty said the position was to focus on quality of service and development and training of people, solely dedicated to helping individuals develop professionally and give insight on professional growth needs. Currently, training is done by the individual battalion chiefs for their shifts, but there is not one consistent, standardized program, Trost said.

Secretary Mike Smaldino spoke against the idea.



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