



Above: The Tri-Lakes Monument Fire Protection District board voted on July 26 to include a 6.9 mill levy increase ballot measure in the November election. From left are Director Jason Buckingham, Treasurer John Hildebrandt, President Jake Shirk, Director Terri Hayes, Vice President Roger Lance, Secretary Mike Smaldino, and Director Tom Tharnish. *Photo by Lisa Hatfield.*

release and the June 22 "Lockridge Fire Follow-up" memo with more details about the battle, or call Bumgarner at 719-484-0911 with questions.

Impact fees update

Truty explained that after a fifth meeting with the Board of County Commissioners (BOCC) on June 27, the BOCC refused to take a vote on fire district assessment of impact fees in El Paso County. Fire chiefs and homebuilders are at odds about when and how to assess the fees, which would be about \$800 per new home in TLMFPD. Truty said the commissioners are worried about precedent-setting and possible lawsuits due to the vague wording of the new state statute HB 16-1088.

The El Paso County Attorney, the Pikes Peak Fire Chiefs Council, and fire chiefs across the state will keep advocating for the fire districts' rights

to assess impact fees on new development. "Meanwhile, there are 600 more homes that will be built in our district next year," Truty said. See www.ocn.me/v17n7.htm#epcbocc, www.ocn.me/v16n9.htm#tlmfpd.

Budget planning for 2018 ahead

Truty said that two budgets will be prepared for 2018 as the district awaits the outcome of the vote on the proposed 6.9 mill levy increase. The budgets will be discussed at the Sept. 27 and Oct. 25 meetings, and the public hearing will occur at the Nov. 15 meeting, with final approval at the Dec. 6 meeting.

Illegal marijuana cultivation operation

President Jake Shirk, who is the chief of the Monument Police Department (MPD), thanked TLMFPD for notifying MPD about a suspicious situation they discovered while responding to a small

kitchen fire on Coyote Valley Court. According to the June 30 press release from MPD, the two homeowners were unable to provide the required State of Colorado documentation that would allow the hundreds of marijuana plants in the residence. They were both arrested and charged with felony crimes related to unlawful marijuana cultivation.

Cancer trust membership

Updating a 2014 resolution concerning cardiac issues suffered by firefight-

ers, the directors voted unanimously to approve a resolution entering into the trust agreement for the Colorado Firefighter Heart and Cancer Benefits Trust. Truty said SB 17-214 was passed to strengthen medical coverage for firefighters diagnosed with any of five cancers that have been tied to the occupation of a firefighter.

Under the new legislation, all the treatment required for the illness is handled by the employees' health insurance and all out-of-pocket costs

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