

Donald Wescott Fire Protection District, special meeting Jan. 26

# 2018 mill levies set again; 2018 budget hearing set for Feb. 20

By Lisa Hatfield

On Jan. 26, the Donald Wescott Fire Protection District (DWFPD) board held a special meeting. Its posted purpose was “only to discuss the resolution to set mill levies for the district and the northern sub-district. This documentation is due to DOLA [the state Department of Local Affairs] by Jan. 31. No other district business will be discussed.”

Director Harland Baker and Treasurer Joyce Hartung were excused.

The meeting lasted four minutes, and the agenda consisted of approving two resolutions levying property taxes for the purpose of meeting all general operating expenses for the year 2018 to help defray the costs of government for the DWFPD.

The first resolution was to set the mill levy for the whole district, including both the remaining southern island south of Old Stage Road and the northern sub-district north of Northgate Boulevard. As they had done Dec. 5, this mill levy was set at 7 mills upon each dollar of the total valuation for the assessment of all taxable property within DWFPD. It was adopted unanimously.

The second resolution was to set the additional 14.9 mill levy for the northern sub-district north of Northgate Boulevard, as they had done Dec. 5. It was adopted unanimously.

Director William “Bo” McAllister clarified that this was an additional 14.9 mills for the northern sub-district.

See related articles for background:

- Nov. 21 meeting, after voters approved that DWFPD assess an additional 14.9 mills on the northern sub-district. [www.ocn.me/v17n12.htm#dwfpd](http://www.ocn.me/v17n12.htm#dwfpd).
- Dec. 5 meeting where the board approved the 2018 budget and certified tax levies but did not

hold a public hearing on the budget. See [www.ocn.me/v18n1.htm#dwfpd](http://www.ocn.me/v18n1.htm#dwfpd)

- Jan. 16 regular Wescott board meeting. See article on page 1.

The meeting adjourned at 12:24 p.m.

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After the special meeting adjourned, Fire Chief Vinny Burns told Chairman Greg Gent he was then able to announce that at the upcoming regular Feb. 20 board meeting, there would be a public hearing on the 2018 budget, which would be available for public inspection at the office, and residents could register any objections prior to the final ratification of the 2018 budget at that meeting.

Also on Feb. 20 they will do the final ratification and proper adoption of the 2018 budget.

Assistant Chief Scott Ridings said that public hearing information would be correctly and officially posted in the newspaper as well so that there would be proper public input.

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The next DWFPD Board of Directors meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, Feb. 20, at 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](http://www.wescottfire.org). Wescott is also on Facebook and Twitter.

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## Tri-Lakes Monument Fire Protection District, Jan. 24

# Three director positions up for election

By Lisa Hatfield

On Jan. 24, the Tri-Lakes Monument Fire Protection District (TLMFPD) board witnessed the swearing-in of four new staff members, approved a resolution related to this spring's election of directors, approved a 15-year fleet replacement policy and schedule, and heard about a possible rebranding effort for TLMFPD, along with other updates from the chiefs.

Director Jason Buckingham was excused.

### Four new staff members sworn in

Fire Chief Chris Truty read the oath of office to EMS paramedic Carrie Alarid and firefighters Matt Godson, Taylor Neill, and Hunter Ortuno and welcomed them to the district. Alarid's two young daughters pinned on her badge this evening, while the three firefighters had already pinned them on at their academy graduation in Denver.

**Three positions open for upcoming election**  
The directors voted unanimously to approve a resolution including these points:

- Three four-year board positions are expiring: those of President Jake Shirk, Treasurer John Hildebrandt, and Secretary Mike Smaldino.
- The regular polling place election on May 8 will be at the district's offices, 16055 Old Forest Point, Suite 103, Monument.
- Fire Chief Chris Truty will be the designated



**Above:** From left, firefighter Hunter Ortuno, EMS paramedic Carrie Alarid, firefighter Matt Godson, and firefighter Taylor Neill were sworn in Jan. 24 by Fire Chief Chris Truty as the four newest members of Tri-Lakes Monument Fire Protection District. Photo by Lisa Hatfield.

election official (DEO).

- The DEO will appoint the election judges, who will be compensated at \$11 per hour.

Truty said that public announcements about board nominations would go out Jan. 29 on social media and the district's website.

Self-nomination forms are due to the DEO's office no later than the close of business on Friday, March 2.

### Fleet replacement plan approved

Truty presented a fleet replacement schedule policy that identified how the next 15 years of fleet replacement might be planned, vehicle by vehicle. His goal was to show the public exactly how TLMFPD will plan to save and spend the considerable amount of money that these vehicles cost and also allow for the very long lead time it takes to take delivery on a vehicle.

The consensus of the directors was that it was better to have this plan than to buy vehicles in a piecemeal fashion.

However, Secretary Mike Smaldino emphasized that even though it would take a bit more time, it should be staff members on the fleet management committee who select and design specific vehicles, since they will be the ones driving them, instead of having the chiefs decide exactly what to order.

Truty said vehicles in poor shape should be considered for immediate replacement, and those in fair shape should qualify for replacement. Using these guidelines, he listed how TLMFPD's current fleet stood today:

- Poor - Ambulance 1, 2201 (deputy chief), 2206 (fire marshal), 2207 (training)
- Fair - Engine 1, Engine 2, Engine 3, Brush 2, Brush 3
- Good - (none)

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