

John Hildebrandt, Mike Smaldino, Jake Shirk, and Tanner Ward.

See related TLMFPD candidate statements below.

Training updates including active shooter scenarios

Battalion Chief of Training Jonathan Bradley reported that a pilot sharing program is being developed that will include Black Forest, the Donald Wescott Fire Protection District, and more resources. Provisional approval was received on March 27 from the City of Colorado Springs to conduct regional EMS training and issue their own certificates. This does not change the relationship they have with Penrose

Hospital, but this will give them more leeway with training for the Northern Group.

Bradley also gave an update on completed training:

- All three shifts completed an ice rescue technicians course in late January and February.
- Wildland fire refresher training completed late February.
- Seven participants from TLMFPD have completed a state-approved fire structure course. Five additional participants will attend the April training.

An Active Threat training event in conjunction with Monument Police Department took place on March 30 at Bear Creek Elementary School.

Training continues between these two departments, and an operation plan will be created to coordinate potential events. President Jake Shirk, who is also the Monument police chief, described a new concept, "The Warm Zone," that is designed to save lives by allowing the fire services to work with law enforcement during a situation that might include critically injured victims.

Bumgarner said a school consortium from El Paso County and other agencies to include TLMFPD and D38, met in February to discuss the initiation of fire alarms with regard to the recent school shootings. "We will be gathering all the facts out of Florida before we rush to judgment

and change any protocols."

Peer Support Program

Deputy Chief Randy Trost and Office Administrator Jennifer Martin announced that they had recently met with Dr. Judith Long of the University of Colorado at Colorado Springs. Select personnel will be trained to identify and recognize signs of PTSD, stress, and relationship and financial issues. This is part of an effort to establish a Peer Support Program while maintaining confidentiality. Chief Truty stated that current data shows suicide deaths among firefighters are more prevalent today than any other common cause of death.

The regular March 28

meeting adjourned at 8:55 p.m., and the board went into executive session for the purpose of legal advice with a counsel for the district on an employment-related agreement pursuant to section 24-6-402(4). Martin said afterward that no votes or announcements were made.

Meetings are usually held the fourth Wednesday of each month. The next meeting is scheduled for 6:30 p.m. April 25 at TLMFPD Station 1, 18650 Highway 105. For information, contact Jennifer Martin at 484-9011. For upcoming agendas, see <http://tlmfire.org/board>.

Natalie Barszcz can be reached at nataliebarszcz@ocn.me.

Tri-Lakes Monument Fire Protection District candidate statements

On May 8, Tri-Lakes Monument Fire Protection District will hold a polling place election. Tri-Lakes Monument's polling place is at the district office, 16055 Old Forest Point, Suite 103, Monument. The hours are 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. You must go to the polling place to cast your vote in person. This is not a mailed ballot.

Five candidates are running for three four-year positions.

Question: In no more than 150 words, describe the specific skills, knowledge, and perspective that qualify you to make informed decisions for the future of the fire district.

Donald Bigham

I am a retired full-time firefighter. I served 32 years for a fire protection district in the suburban Chicago area. During those years my duties ranged from EMT on an ambulance, as well as the usual firefighting duties to shift engineer (fire apparatus driver/operator) and shift commander. I was also apparatus mechanic for many years. On and off, I was president of our local firefighters union chapter. Being in all of these various fire service positions gives me experiences and a thorough understanding of a fire district that most residents will not have.

I ask all Tri-Lakes Monument FPD voters to give me your support for this position. My interest is to serve the community and the TLMFPD to the best of my ability, utilizing my 30-plus years of experience in the fire service.

John Hildebrandt

My wife Bonnie and I have been residents of the Tri-Lakes area since 1984 where we have raised our two children and been active members of the community. In my spare time I am an oral and maxillofacial surgeon in Colorado Springs.

I am currently the treasurer of the Fire District and have held that position since 1997. The district has gone through many positive changes over the last 20-plus years, and I am happy to have been in-

strumental in those changes. I am thankful the residents of the district voted for the recent mill levy increase, giving well-needed financial support to the department and individual firefighters. The future plans for the district are promising and I would like to have the opportunity to continue to be instrumental in directing the district, to provide ongoing and improved services to the community.

Jake Shirk

I have over 42 years of active service in law enforcement and am currently employed as a chief of police. I have served as an elected official on the Tri-Lakes Monument Fire Protection District for the last six years. I have a Master of Arts in Organizational Behavior and Human Resources and have been an adjunct professor at Colorado Technical College. I also, on a free basis, train faith-based organizations on safety and security, an unfortunate reality in today's world. I have been married for 41 years and have been blessed with four children and 11 grandchildren.

Being involved in both law enforcement and fire service, I have had the unique opportunity to have some influence in keeping our community safe through enhancing responses to critical incidences as well as to train both services on a coordinated response to active shooter scenarios. Public safety has been my life.

Mike Smaldino

During the past four years serving on the board, I have watched this district make great strides to serve our citizens better. Recently, our community passed a new mill levy, and I feel as though our board was transparent with how your money would be spent and what the future plans are for the district. I am proud to say that I voted to not use the entire mill levy rate increase and chose to work within the chief's budget to ensure we did not have to collect more money from you, our taxpayers. This communi-

ty is my home and I believe in providing the highest level of safety and fire protection possible. I support our firefighters wholeheartedly and feel as though my actions over the past four years reflect that. The Monument Professional Firefighters have endorsed me and I hope to have your support in this election.

Tanner Ward

As a longtime Tri-Lakes resi-

dent, LPHS graduate, and former volunteer firefighter with the Tri-Lakes Monument Fire Protection District, it is my goal as a board member to help the district prosper through accountability and key decision making. The recent mill levy increase has helped our Fire Department become competitive in hiring and retaining quality personnel and will allow for replacement of outdated equipment, much of

which was in use when I was a member of the department nearly 20 years ago. If elected, I will work closely with the other board members and the Office of the Fire Chief to implement and maintain fiscally responsible programs to benefit the Tri-Lakes Monument Fire Protection District and the taxpayers. ■

Lewis-Palmer D-38 Board of Education special meeting, Feb. 27

Board explores security, design/build process

By Harriet Halbig

The Lewis-Palmer D-38 Board of Education discussed a number of issues at its special meeting on Feb. 27. Among these were school security in the wake of the recent school shooting in Florida, details about the alternatives of the design/build process for two proposed elementary schools, and goals for the board in the coming year.

Secretary Sarah Sampayo attended the meeting by phone. All others were present.

Design/build discussion
Superintendent Karen Brofft distributed information to the

board regarding several alternative methods of designing and constructing two new elementary schools. The first of these, design/bid/build, involves selection and hiring of an architectural firm first, developing preliminary designs, and then hiring a contractor to execute the design. The advantage of this method is that the contractor and architect are under separate contracts and thereby have a checks-and-balances relationship. If one detects a problem, they would report it to the client (the district) or the client's representative. This process is favored when the client requires a fixed

cost before commencement of construction.

In this process, the district would decide whether to complete the design process before the bond was passed, requiring 75 percent of the architectural and engineering fees to be available by the time of a November election.

The district requires a cost estimate on which to base its ballot request for a bond.

The second process would involve the hiring of a construction manager who would act on the owner's behalf and manage construction costs by selecting appropriate subcontractors. In this method, 40

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