

Mountain Hot Shots), helicopter and air support, and six bulldozers.

He estimated that a pooling of resources among Wescott and other local fire districts would not muster the full slate of staffed engines but acknowledged that Wescott must meet wildland fires with a strong first response and plan for a worst-case scenario. For this reason, the district plans to curtail firefighter vacations, capitalize on volunteer and part-time firefighters, and hire additional personnel in the coming months. The chiefs expect incident management teams to move out regularly during the summer. The district has responded to every El Paso County fire thus far in 2018. Currently, one crew member is serving in Oklahoma to command a five-person task force, but the district is able to staff both stations and have two engines available to serve district residents, he added.

#### Savings from loan payoff directed

**to new personnel and overtime**  
Burns explained that the district's Station 2 construction loan payoff would free about \$150,000 per year, which would support three additional full-time firefighter personnel and additional overtime hours. Court recommended that the board approve the revised budget. A revised budget only moves funds between line items. An amended budget moves money between funds and requires public notice prior to approval. The board approved the revised budget unanimously.

At the beginning of the regular board meeting, Court proposed, and the board approved, adding an executive session to receive legal counsel regarding the Gallagher Amendment and

potential legislation that is under consideration by the Colorado Legislature. Resident and Gleneagle North Homeowners' Association Treasurer Rusnak questioned why, since the Gallagher Amendment is a public issue and had been discussed openly in meetings leading up to the mill levy increase, was this discussion to be held in executive session for which minutes would not be published? Court responded that it would be to receive advice of legal counsel regarding potential actions that the board may take in response to potential legislation or the lack thereof.

#### Safety fair and bike rodeo a combined effort

Announcements included Wescott's annual safety fair, which is held in conjunction with the Antelope Trails Elementary School bike rodeo. It is scheduled for Saturday, May 12, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at Station 1, 15415 Gleneagle Drive. Some of the featured displays and activities will include a Black Hawk helicopter, blood drive, an extrication demonstration, Penrose Trauma, Flight for Life, Life Line 1, Smokey the Bear, 9-1-1 mobile classroom, pet safety, Bikers Against Child Abuse, Alpine Autism Center, a wildland display, food trucks, volunteer recruitment, and representatives of the El Paso County Sheriff's Office.

Burns acknowledged receipt of thank you letters, one from Colorado Springs Fire Chief Ted Collas, for providing backfill and coverage for a March 26 fire, another in response to the district's Oklahoma deployment of spring 2017, and a color-page thank you from a local youngster.

Ridings reported that the district responded to 68 total calls in March;

33 EMS and 35 fire-related. Wescott provided mutual aid for 15 calls and received mutual aid for one call. Twenty calls overlapped, meaning that two units responded to separate calls within the same time period. The average time-on-scene was 45 minutes and 48 seconds which, Ridings explained, fits with the national average.

**No surprises with pension fund**  
Ackerman reported that there were no anomalies with respect to the pension fund's performance. Two active volunteers are currently vested in the fund and one inactive member becomes eligible for benefits in May 2018. The current class of three volunteers will be added to the fund upon an early 2019 graduation.

**Administrative reports approved**  
Popovich reviewed the March bank balances and reminded the board that Peoples National Bank is now owned by Community Banks of Colorado. March balances for the three funds include: Community Banks of Colorado, \$3,951, Community Banks of Colorado Fund, \$488,494, and Wells Fargo Public Trust, \$852,599, totaling \$1.3 million.

During public comments OCN reporter Jennifer Kaylor asked if the board's practice of reviewing the profit and loss statement during board meetings would be reinstated. Baker noted that members of the public may request copies of the profit and loss statement. After the meeting, Popovich confirmed that the board receives the profit and loss statement about two weeks in advance and, therefore, does not deem it necessary to review the statement line-by-line during board meetings.

The meeting went into executive session after the regular board meeting adjourned at 7:44 p.m. Popovich confirmed with OCN that no additional discussion resulting in decisions or actions followed the executive session.

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The next DWFPD Board of Directors meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, May 15 at 7 p.m. Both meetings will be held 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.

Jennifer Kaylor can be reached at [jenniferkaylor@ocn.me](mailto:jenniferkaylor@ocn.me).

### Tri-Lakes Monument Fire Protection District, April 25

## New engine approved; plea for reverse 911 sign-ups

By Natalie Barszcz

At the April 25 Tri-Lakes Monument Fire Protection District (TLMFPD) board meeting, board members approved the purchase of a new engine, donated a brush truck, discussed upcoming events, and revisited the possibility of a collective bargaining discussion.

President Jake Shirk, Secretary Mike Smaldino, and Director Terri Hayes were excused.

**New engine purchase approved**  
At the March 28 (TLMFPD) board meeting, Battalion Chief/Fire Marshal Jamey Bumgarner presented the proposed Pierce Arrow XT Engine design. Pierce Engine Manufacturing consulted with committee members Maurice Ayala, Micah Coyle, Chris Keough, Mike Rauenzahn, Mike Smith, and Tony Tafoya to design an engine using Pierce Ultimate Configuration. The new engine is anticipated to provide over 15 years of service and is designed to handle the steep terrain and tight turns in the local area.

Chief Chris Truty submitted a proposal to the board for approval of the new engine purchase. Engine 2213 will be auctioned on receipt of the new engine in 2019. The board voted 4-0 to approve the \$703,513 cost of the new engine.

#### Brush truck donation

Pikes Peak Regional Emergency Incident Support (EIS—popularly called Pikes Peak Firefighters Association, Fire Rehab) is an all-volunteer group which began in April 2002. Since then it has been an operational service of the nonprofit Pikes Peak Firefighters Association. The EIS mission is to provide hot meals, a sheltered rest area and emotional support to emergency personnel deployed in the field. Supported personnel may include firefighters, law enforcement, search and rescue, medical and wildland, Hazmat, and others. For more information, visit <https://www.pikespeakfire.org/home>. Anyone interested in becoming an EIS volunteer is invited to contact Roger Lance at [lancerr72@gmail.com](mailto:lancerr72@gmail.com).

Ted Sayer, director of the Pikes Peak Firefighters Association board, thanked TLMFPD for the donation of a brush truck, which will significantly enhance the capability of EIS when supporting firefighters on the line. Chief Truty expressed "gratitude for the huge void that members of the all-volunteer Emergency Incident Support group fill when they are supporting first responders in the field."

#### Wildfire Education Day

Bumgarner confirmed that TLMFPD will host a Wildfire Education Day with emphasis on fire awareness on May 12 at Station 1, 18650 Highway 105. For more details see the OCN calendar and visit: <http://tlmfire.org> for more details.

New fire danger signs are on order to replace existing signs that are in disrepair and difficult to read. Temporary signs will be in place until the new signs arrive.

Truty said that the recent 117 fire in southern El Paso County was the eighth largest fire in the history of the county, at 43,000 acres. "We are anticipating a tough fire season. I have never seen a fire behave like that," he said.

**Residents urged to sign up to receive reverse 911 notifications**  
Bumgarner stated that it is critically important to register for reverse 911 calls if you are not already registered. El Paso County uses the Everbridge app for reverse 911 calls, and the app also works nationwide to alert users while travel-

### GARY RUSNAK for Wescott Fire Protection District Board

I'm Gary Rusnak and I'm running for the Wescott FPD Board of Directors (BoD) on May 8, 2018.

- Change is desperately needed.
- Public comments are limited to the start and at the end of meetings, so taxpayers are unable provide timely input to BoD actions until after those actions are approved.
- "Newly-found tax revenue" is being spent instead of being banked to reduce the burden on us taxpayers.
- With 66% less area and fewer residents to serve, the BoD just approved the Chief's request for a 20% increase in firefighter staff. Why?

- Almost every action the current BoD has taken since the mill levy override vote was approved in November 2017 has been the opposite of the justification they used to defend that 200% mill levy increase.
- Still no action to tax all district residents equally.

Three of the current BoD members are seeking election for another term. Please come out a vote for CHANGE and better management of your tax dollars. ("Polling place" election on May 8 means you must go to Station 1 and vote in person.)

**Gary Rusnak: Your representative, speaking for us taxpayers.**



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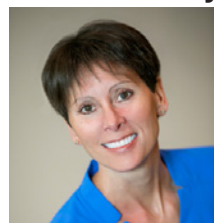
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