

ling from home. Please go to: www.elpasoteller911.org for more details and sign up immediately, since notifications only go out to phones that are registered by the owner.

Bumgarner attended two neighborhood events:

- Pine Hills Firewise meeting on April 21. "It was a fantastic event." See related photo on page 27.
- Red Rock Ranch homeowners' association has planned several wood chipping days to begin reducing the wildfire fuel load in that area. See related photo on page 1.

Planning for future emergencies

Chief Truty's comments on emergency planning included:

- TLMFPD now has permission for helicopter dips with a Bambi Bucket in the district lakes to support aerial wildland firefighting without prior authorization. Four out of five lakes in the area to include Monument and Woodmoor have given advance permission.
- He is working on expanding coordination of emergency response plans

with Castle Rock and Douglas County.

- The long-awaited new radios are now in use by the district. See www.ocn.me/v17n11.htm#tlmfpd.

Collective bargaining agreement discussion continues

Chief Truty discussed the definition of a "collective bargaining agreement" versus a collective "meet and confer" option, which was passed at the March board meeting. Truty explained the difference and the legalities. He understood that the board would meet and confer, but the union was under the impression that it was voted as a collective bargaining agreement. Three of the board members who voted in March for the discussion to begin were absent at the April board meeting, and since the board may not have the same members next month post-election, the consensus was that this discussion, explanation, and clarification of what was actually approved in March will continue at the May meeting.

However, please see www.ocn.me/v18n4.htm#tlmfpd. The words "collective bargain-

ing agreement" were not part of the motion that was unanimously approved.

Public comments

Members of the EIS group commented on firefighting in the Monument region. George Steinfeld spoke of his time serving the Monument community 45 years ago and reminisced about the original Monument volunteer fire department on Second Street. At that time the department relied heavily on donations. Steinfeld stated that he was struck by lightning in the line of duty and recalled the 1956 Cadillac ambulance, pumper, brush truck and an Army tanker in service at that time.

Bill Eckert commented on the Northern El Paso Coalition of Community Associations Inc. (NEPCO) stating that development plans may impact TLMFPD. Volunteer boards such as the El Paso County Planning Commission vote unanimously against development, and the two northern district county commissioners consider impacts on communities first, but the three county commissioners from southern parts of the county repeatedly vote in favor of development

in the north, he said.

Rebranding

Chief Truty informed the board that TLMFPD was close to a rebranding decision and the next step would be to figure out the cost of transitioning to a new name, away from "Tri-Lakes Monument." Fifteen potential names are in consideration. Battalion Chief Kris Mola stated that the public will be presented with all the information for full transparency and that it will not be an easy decision. TLMFPD says it has outgrown the "Tri-Lakes" name because the region actually has more than three lakes and "Monument" is only 15 percent of the district.

TLMFPD board member election

On May 8, TLMFPD will hold a polling place election, and votes can be cast at the district office, 16055 Old Forest Point, Suite 103, Monument 80132. The hours are 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. You must go to the polling place in person. This is not a mail-in ballot election. For candidate information, visit: <http://tlmfire.org> and <http://www.ocn.me/v18n4.htm#tlmfpd-candidates>.

Financial report

Treasurer John Hildebrandt read the current financial report and reported that the TLMFPD budget is 1.77 percent under budget overall year to date. The overtime budget is 10 percent above normal, and Truty projected that it may continue for the foreseeable future due to the expected dangerous fire season.

Correction: Chief Chris Truty told OCN that the outcome of the executive session held at the TLMFPD board meeting on March 28, 2018 was to approve a motion "to approve the release and settlement agreement with Max Mabrey as discussed with counsel in executive session." (6-0 with roll call vote, Hayes, Smaldino, Hildebrandt, Buckingham, Lance, Shirk)

Meetings are usually held the fourth Wednesday of each month. The next meeting is scheduled for 6:30 p.m. May 23 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.*

WWSD (cont. from p1)

drilled, according to Niemela.

Two drilling companies had provided cost estimates for the drilling work to WWSD, Niemela said: Hydro Resources estimated the well would cost \$884,715, or \$385 per foot to drill, and Layne Christensen estimated a cost of \$1.02 million, or \$443 per foot. The new tariffs on imported steel imposed by the Trump administration raised the cost of the well casings required for the project by about 40 percent, and these new costs had been factored into the estimates, Niemela said.

The location chosen for the well is sloped, treed, and near residences, according to Niemela, and those factors added to the cost of the project.

Niemela told the board he expected the drilling to take about 12 weeks in all, with three weeks to be spent in permitting issues, two weeks on site preparation, three to four weeks on drilling and construction, one week on testing, and one week on site remediation. The well should be complete by mid-July, Niemela said.

The drilling must be done around the clock until complete, Niemela said, to prevent the well shaft from collapsing. Disturbances from generators and other machinery, from lighting, from heavy vehicle traffic at the site and from well discharge are inevitable, he said. To mitigate these impacts, 16-foot sound barriers would be built, and materials would be staged during daylight hours as much as possible.

Shaffer said that in addition to the construction at the well site, a pipeline

would have to be installed to transport the water from the new well to a processing facility, and residents in the pipeline corridor would be notified. In response to a question from board member Brian Bush, Shaffer said meetings with nearby residents were planned, and that there were funds in the project's budget to provide hotel accommodations to those most severely affected.

Shaffer added that the total budget for the project was \$2 million, and that he recommended that the board award the drilling contract to Hydro Resources.

The board voted unanimously to proceed with the project as recommended by Shaffer.

Four-day workweek debated

Shaffer told the board that he had been requested by district staff to investigate the possibility of going to a four-day workweek, which would mean the district would be closed on Friday through Sunday, and

that staff would work 10-hour days from Monday through Thursday. Shaffer said he was also considering a schedule based on nine-hour days, with Fridays off on a staggered schedule.

Bush brought up concerns with the impact a four-day work week would have on the quality of customer service and asked if the longer work days would reduce efficiency. He said once the schedule change was made, it would be difficult to rescind if it did not work out.

Board member Tommy Schwab said a longer work day could reduce the safety of operations.

The board authorized Shaffer to continue investigating the schedule issue.

Resident applies for open seat on board

During public comments, Tom Roddam gave the board his resume and told them he was interested in filling the vacant seat on the board.

Pond owners request fees to be waived

Larry Howard and Marcus Cary, two district customers who have ponds on their properties, asked the board to waive fees related to receiving augmented water for their ponds. The additional water service is required to offset evaporation

from the ponds, Shaffer said. Both Howard and Cary said they were willing to pay the cost of the additional water if the fees could be waived.

The fees amounted to about \$9,000, Howard and Cary said. The yearly costs for

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