



**Above:** Members of the Pikes Peak Firefighters Association Emergency Incident Support (EIS) group received a donated brush truck at the April 25 board meeting from TLMFPD. From left are George Steinfeld, Jason DeVries, Janny Jarvis, Don Dietrich, Sue Dietrich, Bill Eckert, Robert Liebl, Kim Roseland, Don Burgess, Terry Sapp, Jeff Force, Ted Sayer, John Hildebrandt, Roger Lance, Jason Buckingham, Tom Tharnish, and Chief Chris Truty. *Photo by Natalie Barszcz.*

*Tri-Lakes Monument Fire Protection District, May 23*

## Board members sworn in, goals outlined

By Natalie Barszcz

At the May 23 Tri-Lakes Monument Fire Protection District (TLMFPD) board meeting, recently re-elected directors were sworn in and goals and financial issues were discussed.

Treasurer John Hildebrandt and Director Jason Buckingham were excused.

**Board members continue**  
Office Administrator Jennifer Martin read the oath of office for President Jake Shirk and Secretary Mike Smaldino for another four years on the TLMFPD board in their previously held positions. The board then voted unanimously for Vice President Roger Lance to continue a further two years in his current position and Hildebrandt to continue a further four years as treasurer. For complete results, see <http://tlmfire.org/board>.

**“De-Gallagherization”**  
Deputy Chief Randy Trost updated the board, stating that legislation to freeze the Gallagher Amendment had stalled at the state capitol. Efforts at the state level are now underway to develop an off-setting mechanism called “de-Gallagherization.” This term is now being used to indicate voter-approved mill levy rate increases that offset the losses caused by the reduction in the residential property tax rate assessment. The rate increases do not produce any additional revenue; they just help prevent any losses from existing revenue, he said. Frequent community meetings to help with long-range planning at a district level are the next step to prevent future losses.

Smaldino added, “We should absolutely go after (a possible ballot issue looking for voter approval to de-Gallagherize.) It is how districts survive and for safety issues.” For more information regarding the Gallagher amendment, visit: <http://tlmfire.org>.

**“Good energy” at Firewise training**

District resident Lisa Hatfield stated that the Firewise Training Day held on May 12 at Station 1 assisted about 60 local residents who heard presentations from regional experts on how to reduce risk of wildfire destroying their homes and how to help whole neighbor-

hoods work together to make progress. “There was a lot of good energy there,” she said.

Trost said that based on feedback comments from Robin Adair, the Community Emergency Preparedness coordinator for El Paso County, it was a very successful day. See related wildfire defense tactics information on page 27.

Trost stated later in the meeting that pre-approval is now complete for future dipping with “Bambi Buckets,” in the event of a wildland fire, from Woodmoor, Monument, Bristlecone Lakes, and Palmer Lake to include the Town of Palmer Lakes two drinking water reservoirs.

**Equipment status report**  
Trost announced that delivery of the new engine is expected in early February 2019. A team of three committee members will take a tour of the Pierce Manufacturing Plant in Appleton, Wis. to go over the specifications of the new engine and experience how an engine is built. See [www.ocn.me/v18n5.htm#tlmfpd](http://www.ocn.me/v18n5.htm#tlmfpd).

Trost listed the future projects to upgrade the stations and equipment:

- Station 1 bay floor to be painted.
- Bay floor lighting to be replaced in all three stations.
- New ambulance purchase.
- New driveway with turnaround facility for Station 3.
- Generator for Station 2.

**Training update**

Battalion Chief of Training Jonathan Bradley reported that on June 1, TLMFPD will welcome five new graduates for an orientation of the department. Graduates will begin shifts on June 14, focusing on ambulance orientation for the first two months and then they will be fully functioning members of the department.

- TLMFPD is anticipating receiving six acting company officers over the next couple of months.
- A wrecked RV donated by Tri-Lakes Collision was used for stabilization

training during May, and it has been cut into pieces and hauled away by Tri-Lakes Collision.

- TLMFPD has been rotating crews through the Colorado Springs Utilities driving track, for training in class six engines.
- Future training in July will involve a multi-agency format focusing on EMS trauma skills.

**Financial report**

TLMFPD is under budget on salary in part due to five members plus one training instructor absent at the training academy.

TLMFPD has three open positions and, in conjunction with assisting on recent wildland fires, the cost of overtime is 12 percent over budget for the year to date, Trost said.

Smaldino inquired about the possibility of obtaining a second set of gear for all personnel to allow contaminated equipment to be cleaned. Trost replied it was not budgeted for this year. TLMFPD uses an ambient air dryer to

assist with drying contaminated gear. For more details on the budget, see <http://tlmfire.org>.

**Future agenda items and goals**

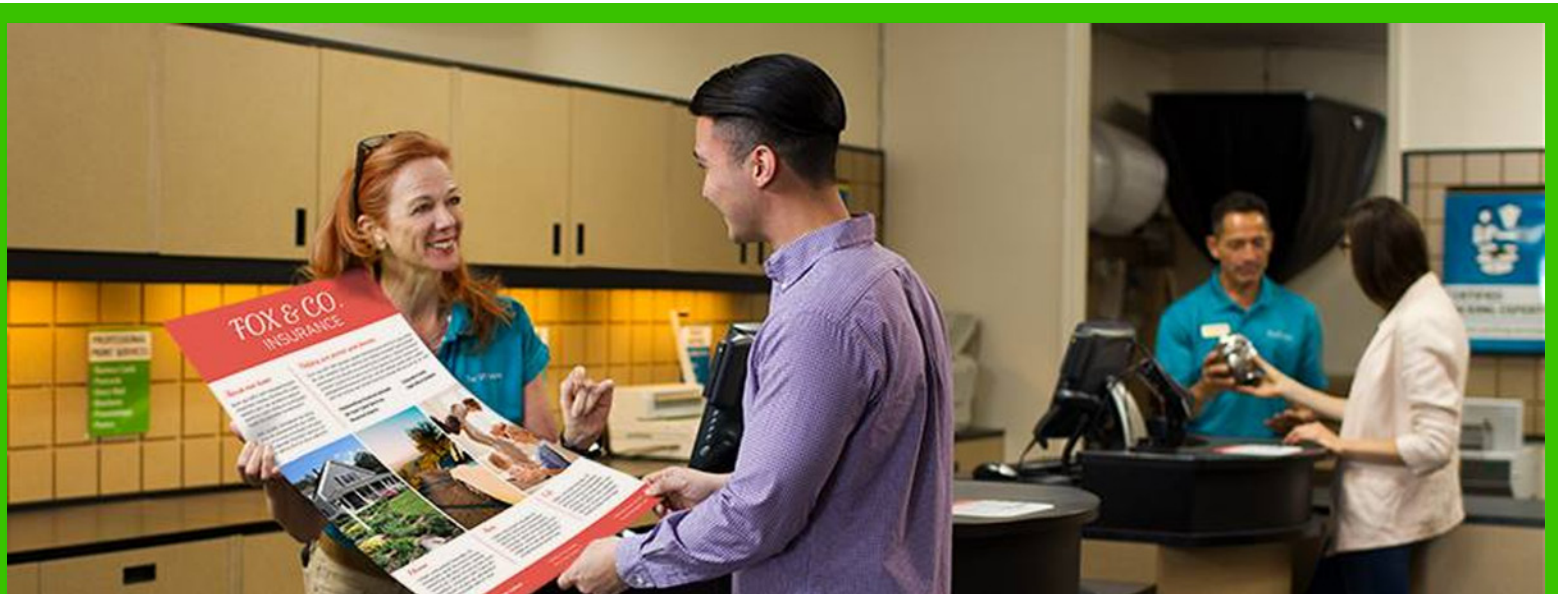
The board agreed that at the June meeting, discussions would include:

- The potential for a Collective Bargaining Agreement, or a Collaborative Working Agreement, and the similarities and differences between the two.
- The implementation of de-Gallagherization.
- Impact fees and the prioritization of projects will be discussed.

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Meetings are usually held the fourth Wednesday of each month. The next meeting is scheduled for 6:30 p.m. June 27 at TLMFPD Station 1, 18650 Highway 105. For information, contact Jennifer Martin at (719) 484-9011. For upcoming agendas, see <http://tlmfire.org/board>.

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