

Lt. Branden
 Firefighter Brickell
 Lt. Buckner
 Battalion Chief Bumgarner
 Lt. Coyle
 Engineer Cudney
 Firefighter Damour
 Battalion Chief Dooley
 Firefighter Edmunds
 Firefighter Paramedic Furman
 Firefighter Godson
 Lt. Keough
 Battalion Chief Keough
 Battalion Chief Mola
 Firefighter Olmos
 Firefighter Rains
 Engineer Rauenzahn
 Engineer Ruona
 Acting Lt. Smith
 Firefighter Paramedic Thorne
 Deputy Chief Trost
 Firefighter Vogl
 Engineer Wakefield

Master Plan recommendations discussed

Truty asked the board members for their thoughts on six points related to the number and location of fire stations the district will need to meet defined "standards of coverage" and response times set by the district with community input and buy-in.

Background: In March, Dan Qualman, senior consultant for ESCI, presented a focused fire station location Master Plan with recommendations for TLMFPD. ESCI looked at 1,700 potential sites for optimal stations, taking into account that roads are likely to change. The Master Plan document is now available for viewing or download at <http://tlmfire.org/news>.

Decisions made by previous fire district leadership created a 30- to 40-percent overlap between the current locations of stations one and three. Due to accelerated growth in the area, a strategic plan for the district will necessitate changes to meet growing de-

mands, said Truty at the April meeting. Vice President Roger Lance responded, stating that the current stations are inadequate to meet standard response times in all areas and that an independent analysis would be beneficial. A fourth fire "campus" including a fire station, district administrative building, and a training facility would be best for the district and the community, he said.

Director Terri Hayes agreed with Lance about the range of response times in different parts of the district, including concerns about the new developments. She voiced her concern over persuading the public to embrace an expansion of facilities and staff: "It is like buying a horse, you then have to feed it," said Hayes. Director Mike Smaldino added, "It might just be a pipe dream, but if we could convince a developer to donate some land, it would ease the financial burden." Director Tom Tharnish asked about the amount of acreage that would be needed for a fourth station and Truty responded that 2.5 to 5 acres would be ideal.

Developers are not required to pay impact fees to fire districts in unincorporated El Paso County, even though resources are being stretched to the limits with each new development in TLMFPD's area of responsibility, said Smaldino. See www.ocn.me/v17n7.htm#epcbocc.

The directors agreed that a fourth station would be the ideal solution within the next 5-10 years, but all avenues of exploration are open to discussion. Current budgeted station remodeling and upgrades at all three stations will continue as planned and discussed in March. See www.ocn.me/v19n4.htm#tlmfpd.

Board members agreed to discuss the development of a strategic plan for all TLMFPD station locations using the recommendations of the ESCI Master

Plan and possibly further independent analysis for a "station location study" over the next several months with additional work sessions. The development of a strategic plan will involve engaging the community and the process is expected to take 3-5 years.

Chief's report

Truty brought the board up to speed with the following topics:

- Gallagher amendment—The state Department of Local Affairs (DOLA) has set the Residential Assessment Rate (RAR) at 7.15 percent and is now awaiting legislative approval. The drop from the current RAR of 7.2 percent will likely generate a \$20,000 loss for TLMFPD. The loss will likely be absorbed in the future as RAR Property Taxes could increase by as much as 15 percent due to a projected rise in property values, potentially generating a gain of over \$750,000 in revenue for TLMFPD.
- Collective Bargaining Agreement (CBA) resolution—An executive session is scheduled for the May board meeting to discuss negotiations with the TLMFPD attorney.
- Donald Wescott Fire Protection District merger—At the April 4 meeting of the chiefs from both districts and the merger committee, it was agreed that discussions should be suspended on the consolidation for the immediate future. See related Wescott article on page 14.
- Station 1 remodeling—Current setbacks do not allow for the planned expansion without obtaining a variance from the El Paso County Planning Department. This will result in a delayed project start date.
- Palmer Lake Volunteer Fire Department—ESCI is in the last 90

days of finalizing the Master Plan, and news is expected in June.

Financial report

Truty presented an update to the board on the current financial position as of March 31, which is 25 percent through the year:

- Property taxes received were \$3,165, which is 39.88 percent of the expected revenue.
- Specific Ownership Taxes received were \$234,160 (31.22 percent).
- Impact fees received were \$22,302 (14.87 percent). They are expected to increase with the development of Willow Springs/Monument Creek Ranch, but only if it is annexed into the town of Monument, which has approved fire districts collecting impact fees.
- Ambulance revenues were \$188,468 (13.98 percent)
- Administration expenses are high with one-time yearly costs; it is anticipated they will normalize as the year progresses.
- Specialty Vehicle Expense is 78.22 percent of the budget due to damage incurred during the blizzard.
- Overall, yearly expenses were 21.87 percent under budget for March and 2.14 percent under budget for the year.

The TLMFPD board meeting adjourned at 7:45 p.m.

Meetings are usually held the fourth Wednesday of each month. The next meeting is scheduled for 6:30 p.m. on May 22 at TLMFPD Station 1, 18650 Highway 105. For information, contact Office Administrator/HR Jennifer Martin at 719-484-9011. For upcoming agendas, see <http://tlmfire.org/board>.

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Black Forest Fire Rescue Protection District, April 5 and 24

Black Forest fire chief retires; board member steps down



Above: Black Forest Fire Rescue Protection District Fire Chief Bryan Jack announced he will retire on May 1 after serving the district for four years. On April 26, the board authorized board President PJ Langmaid to select an interim fire chief "without further board authorization." Photo by Lisa Hatfield.

By Lisa Hatfield

The Black Forest Fire/Rescue Protection District (BFFRPD) held a special meeting April 5, after which this message was posted on the district website: "Fire Chief Bryan Jack announces his retirement. Tonight, with mixed emotions, the Black Forest Fire/Rescue Protection District Board of Directors has the honor of announcing the retirement of Chief Bryan Jack on May 1, 2019. After 25 years serving our region

in the fire service, we wish Chief Jack and his family the best of luck in his new endeavors in the private sector. Please join us in congratulating the Jack Family and wishing them well."

Chief Jack to leave, interim fire chief search begins

At its regular meeting on April 24, the board held three executive sessions. After the first one, they unanimously accepted the results and recommendations of the IT audit. The second session was held to discuss a personnel issue having to do with Assistant Chief Jim Rebitski, and no announcement or vote was made after the public meeting resumed.

Board President PJ Langmaid said Jack would not be presenting his chief's report since Jack had already emailed it to the board, but he asked him to say a few words on his retirement. Jack said it had been a great four years with the district and urged the staff to cherish what it was like to work in a small, rural fire district. Jack served as a battalion chief and interim chief for Tri-Lakes Monument Fire Protection District before coming to BFFRPD, and he said "overnight this district could become like our neighbor Tri-Lakes" with 55 paid staff and a highly urbanized community. But meanwhile, he applauded BFFRPD for, "being debt free, just purchasing a new engine for cash, and having such

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4:30 p.m. Registration & Dinner

6:30 p.m. Co-op Business Meeting, Board of Directors Election, Door Prizes & Six \$500 Whole Home LED Lighting Giveaway Winners Announced!

Co-op Business Meeting Attendees Receive a "Conserve & Save Energy" LED Starter Pack & Are Entered Into Drawings For Cash & Prizes!

If you have not attended MVEA's Annual Meeting in the past, or if it has been a few years, we urge you to join us — active involvement is a terrific way to learn more about your electric cooperative!

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