

Truty said some of TLMFPD's decisions will also depend on the Master Plan results received by the Town of Palmer Lake about its separate fire department study at its May 23 meeting. See related Palmer Lake article on page 21.

The board unanimously (7-0) agreed that the fire chief can explore options and review availability of property for a future fourth station.

Surplus of 2018 funds—budget allocation

In April, the board agreed to add \$350,000 of the surplus 2018 funds to the Station 1 remodeling project. The project cannot proceed until the El Paso County Board of Adjustment reviews the setback requirements. Truty requested the board consider allocating some of the remaining \$175,000 in surplus funds, pending the audit results, with particular priority to the following items:

- Station 2 new septic field—\$50,000.
- Equipping remaining ambulances with Stryker Power-LOAD systems to help prevent EMT back injuries—\$47,000.
- Station air compressors—\$10,000.
- Two thermal imaging cameras—\$13,000
- Dress uniforms for the entire staff—\$32,860.
- Replacement trailer for the Sno-Cat and an enclosed trailer for the Utility Task Vehicle (UTV) and snowmobiles—\$9,000.

The board unanimously approved 7-0, for the allocation of surplus funds as recommended. The annual audit is expected to be presented to the board in June.

De-Gallagher vote considered

Truty informed the board that state had approved the Residential Assessment Rate (RAR) at 7.15 percent, resulting in an estimated annual loss of \$41,000 for TLMFPD. The board consensus was to direct

Truty to find a consultant to do a small study on residents' feelings about a ballot measure in the 2019 election to permanently stabilize the current RAR. The biggest concern was whether the voting community could be adequately educated before the election. Freezing the RAR at 7.15 percent would not add a tax or raise the mill levy but keep income steady.

Background: The Gallagher Amendment dictates that Colorado's total property tax revenue must maintain a 45 percent residential and 55 percent nonresidential balance. Because the nonresidential assessment rate is fixed, the residential assessment rate (RAR) is lowered to maintain the 45/55 balance as property values increase. A vote to de-Gallagher would allow TLMFPD to maintain the current RAR of 7.15 percent and not be subject to the amendment's potential future rate decreases.

Financial report

Treasurer John Hildebrandt gave a brief overview of the April financial report, noting that TLMFPD is one-third through the 2019 financial year:

- Property tax revenues received were \$3.647 million and are at 46 percent year to date ahead of normal for a total projected \$7.935 million.
- Specific Ownership Tax revenues received were \$309,440.
- Ambulance revenue was \$258,453, down by 1.44 percent.
- Impact fees were at \$24,633 and lagging at 16.42 percent for the year to date—half of previous years.
- Vehicle expenses were higher due to damages incurred during the blizzard.

Hildebrandt noted that 22 checks had been reviewed totaling \$764,562. Of note were the following:

- Two grant-reimbursed expenses for \$41,285.

- Blizzard repair expenses, \$6,052.
- Lease payments, \$95,209.
- Turnout gear, \$82,470
- Medical insurance, \$50,057

All categories were under budget except administrative expenses, which are higher due to one-time yearly expenses and should normalize as the year progresses.

The Financial Report was accepted unanimously 7-0 by the TLMFPD board.

El Paso County—mutual aid request

Truty said the El Paso County Wildland Fire Crew (EPSOWF) has requested mutual aid from TLMFPD for future fire events 1 mile west of Monument in the National Forest and Mt. Herman Road area. Even though this is not in TLMFPD's area, it is the closest fire district. In the event of a fire, TLMFPD would be the first to respond and start the initial assessment of/or attack on a fire before other agencies such as the EPSOWF arrive.

I-25 Gap update

Truty said the Larkspur Fire Protection District has recently voiced concerns to various Colorado Springs media outlets over response times and access points along the construction zone of the I-25 Gap project. However, at this time TLMFPD has no concerns with its accessibility to this area. TLMFPD has an agreement with the Larkspur Fire Department to cover calls in the Larkspur, Douglas County area, Deputy Chief Randy Trost said in January. See www.ocn.me/v19n2.htm#tlmfpd.

Fleet update

Trost said the new Engine 4 and ambulance are in house. Battalion Chief of Training Jonathan Bradley said the staff now has completed extensive familiarization training. Both vehicles will be put into service by the end of May.

Septic update

Trost thanked Bob and Carol Simpson, the property owners of Station 2, for graciously allowing TLMFPD to install another septic field on their property. An easement for the property will be required and the old septic field will stay in place to help reduce costs. The Simpsons have been phenomenal to work with, said Trost.

Police ask public to report crimes officially

During public comments, Monument Chief of Police/TLMFPD Board President Jake Shirk expressed deep concern over criminal behavior and public safety issues such as road rage and gas station fraud being openly discussed on the social media sites NextDoor.com and Facebook.com but not reported to officials. "Public safety in Tri-Lakes area will be hanging in the balance if a lack of reporting continues," said Shirk. He investigated and said that many incidents discussed on social media had gone unreported to law enforcement even though witnesses claim they had reported the incidents. Shirk reminds the community that it is a civic duty to report criminal activity and public safety issues immediately to El Paso County Dispatch at 719-390-555.

Welcome observer

Truty welcomed new Interim Chief PJ Langmaid from the Black Forest Fire Rescue Protection District as an observer and offered assistance during his tenure. Langmaid thanked Truty and his staff and said he looks forward to building a relationship with TLMFPD "doing amazing things with a tremendous amount of discipline is exactly what I would expect to see from a professional Fire Department," said Langmaid, who is also a full-time firefighter with the Colorado Springs Fire Department. See related *Black Forest Fire Rescue Protection District article on page 11 and www.ocn.me/v19n5.htm#bffrpd*.

The regular meeting adjourned at 8:12 p.m. and the board moved into an executive session: Pursuant to CRS 24-6-402(4)(b) to receive legal advice regarding a possible labor agreement or collective bargaining.

Truty informed OCN that no votes or announcements were made after the executive session.

The regular TLMFPD board meeting adjourned at 9:56 p.m.

Meetings are usually held the fourth Wednesday of each month. The next meeting is scheduled for 6:30 p.m. June 26 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>. *Natalie Barszcz can be reached at nataliebarszcz@ocn.me*.

Woodmoor Water and Sanitation District, May 13

Board adds retirement option

By James Howald

At a brief meeting on May 13, the Woodmoor Water and Sanitation District (WWSD) board voted to add an additional IRA choice to its retirement plan. The board also heard operational reports from staff.

Roth IRA added to retirement planning choices

District Manager Jessie Shaffer updated the board on his efforts to add a Roth IRA, provided by Lincoln Financial, to the options available to district employees. The district has been updating its retirement plan for several months.

Shaffer told the board that the Roth IRA would vest as soon as an employee goes to work for the district. Retirement savings an employee had accumulated at another job could be moved to the district's Roth IRA. The maxi-

mum annual contribution an employee can make to their retirement is \$19,000. The choices available to employees also include a traditional IRA. An employee can choose to contribute to both a traditional IRA and the newly-added Roth IRA, Shaffer said.

The board voted unanimously in favor of adding a Roth IRA as presented by Shaffer.

Highlights of operational reports

- Field Superintendent Gary Potter told the board that Well 18 should be back in operation by May 17.
- Well 20, the district's best producing well, is out of operation due to electrical problems.
- Equipment has been ordered for Well 9r.
- The district is working with Mountain View

Electrical Association (MVEA) to have electrical power in place at Well 21, the district's newest well in the Misty Acres neighborhood.

- The district is increasing the amount of water held in Lake Woodmoor in preparation for the higher demand during the summer months.
- The Colorado Department of Transportation (CDOT) is beginning work on the Gap Project at County Line Road.
- The Gap Project will require a sewer line to be rerouted adjacent to the campground, and CDOT will fund this work.
- Development is proceeding at The Beach at Woodmoor, a 48-lot development.

The next meeting is scheduled for June 10 at 1 p.m. Meetings

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Limon • July 11, 2019 • 11 a.m. - 1 p.m.
 MVEA's Limon Office • 1655 5th St. • Limon • 80828

Monument • July 18, 2019 • 4:30 p.m. - 6:30 p.m.
 MVEA's Monument Office • 15706 Jackson Creek Pkwy, Suite 100 • Monument • 80132

Falcon • July 24, 2019 • 11 a.m. - 1 p.m.
 MVEA's Falcon Office • 11140 E. Woodmen Rd. • Falcon • 80831

Cimarron Hills • July 24, 2019 • 4:30 p.m. - 6:30 p.m.
 Cimarron Eastridge Park • 2324 Shawnee Dr. • Colorado Springs • 80915

BONUS! Download a discount admission ticket to the El Paso County Fair for July 16.
 Visit www.mvea.coop/events for a discount ticket.

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