

Black Forest Fire/Rescue Protection District, Dec. 11

2020 budget approved; interim chief extended

By Natalie Barszcz

On Dec. 11, the Black Forest Fire/Rescue Protection District (BFFRPD) board held an executive session before the regular board meeting to discuss a personnel matter. After the closed session, the regular board meeting was held at its regular time, and the board approved the 2020 budget and extended the interim chief.

Director Nate Dowden was in attendance during the executive session and was excused for the regular board meeting.

Executive session

The BFFRPD board moved into an executive session at 6 p.m. to discuss a personnel matter with interim Chief PJ Langmaid. After its conclusion, no decisions were made or announced at the regular board meeting.

Interim chief extension

Board President Rick Nearhoof requested the board extend the term of interim Chief Langmaid until the May 2020 board meeting. The board unanimously approved the extension until after the May 2020 board elections.

2020 budget approval

Langmaid said he had made a last-minute change to the 2020 budget to prepare for hiring staff on short notice. Should qualified candidates walk in and the need to hire "raw talent" immediately present itself, funding would be available.

Treasurer Jack Hinton said Langmaid and his staff had done a great job on the budget and "It is as good as it gets." Hinton made a motion to approve the resolutions and adopt the 2020 budget. The board unanimously adopted and approved the 2020 budget. See www.bffire.org/budget for a comprehensive explanation.

Signing approval adopted

Hinton read the revised resolution 2019-05 to give approval for all active board members of the BFFRPD to be signers on any necessary documents related to the district's banking accounts including, but not limited to, signing checks or the deposit of funds as necessary for the district's operation in an emergency. The authority to sign any banking documents for BFFRPD will be under the direction and knowledge of the Board of Directors and the knowledge and request of the fire chief. The director will submit a receipt of the transaction to the chief to be transferred to the finance director for input into the accounting system. The board adopted and approved the resolution 4-0.

Fire marshal division

BFFRPD will now assume a far more active role in fire

*El Paso Board of County Commissioners,
Dec. 5, 10, 12, 17, and 19*

Amendments to Forest Lakes Phase II approved

By Helen Walklett

During December, the El Paso Board of County Commissioners (BOCC) approved an application for amendments to the Planned Unit Development (PUD) for Forest Lakes Phase II. The commissioners also made decisions relating to the I-25 Gap project, the 2020 budget, Monument's Comprehensive Plan, and a variance of use at Gleneagle Square.

Forest Lakes Phase II

At the Dec. 10 meeting, the commissioners unanimously approved an application for amendments to the PUD for Forest Lakes Phase II, which was approved as a combined PUD and preliminary plan by the BOCC in April 2019. See <https://www.ocn.me/v19n5.htm#epbocc>. The development is northwest of the intersection of I-25 and Baptist Road and southwest of Monument. The amendments do not increase the number of lots previously approved. These remain at 180.

Before the hearing started, Commissioner Cami Bremer stated for the record that it had been noted that her father-in-law had previous involvement with the project. She said she had no discussions or communications with him about it and that she had no

marshal roles and responsibilities, and Deputy Chief James Rebitski will be working almost exclusively on ensuring BFFRPD is well-positioned to educate and enforce codes. A resolution to adopt a code will be presented to the board in January with the expectation of presenting the new code to the El Paso Board of County Commissioners for adoption in early 2020. See www.ocm.me/v19n12.htm#bffrpd.

Operational report

Langmaid gave the following updates:

- Recent hire Firefighter/Paramedic Bre Demming has resigned to pursue a career in nursing; her last day will be in January.
- Firefighter/paramedics positions are difficult to fill and we are hopeful that high-quality personnel will consider joining BFFRPD full-time.
- We are looking at reinstating the "fly-car" response to meet the needs of the district without burning out BFFRPD paramedics.
- A meeting to discuss mutual aid agreements for ambulance requests with AMR, the Colorado Springs Fire Department, and county chiefs is being scheduled.
- Shifts A and B are staffed with six personnel, and shift C will be manned with five personnel while staff are in paramedic school until 2020.
- The department held an "All Hands" meeting to discuss the direction of the department and the reasons for the changes that are being implemented.
- We are attempting to keep the upstairs balcony at Station 1 free from snow to eliminate leaks until the repairs can be completed in 2020.
- Training continues with "a daily tempo that is through the roof."
- The new district website is now up and running.
- The 2019 property inclusions have now been approved by the county. See www.ocn.me/n19v12.htm#bffrpd.

The meeting adjourned at 7:23 p.m.

Meetings are usually held at 7 p.m. on the third Wednesday of each month at BFFRPD Station 1, 11445 Teachout Road, Colorado Springs. The next regular board meeting is scheduled for Jan. 15. See www.bffire.org.

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