

### TLMFPD (Cont. from 14)

and is nowhere near what it was in the spring, hospitals are close to being overwhelmed and other counties have already reached that point.

- Cost and reimbursements for possible long-distance EMS transportations of COVID-19 patients, should hospitals become overwhelmed, have yet to be addressed. Transportations would not reduce the district's frontline response and would need to be fully reimbursed.
- The Monument COVID-19 testing site has closed due to the needs exceeding the capacity of an available parking lot.
- The Northern El Paso County drive-through testing site has now moved to Pikes Peak Community College Rampart Range campus at 2070 Interquest Parkway, southeast of the campus. See [www.elpasocountyhealth.org/covid-19-testing-information](http://www.elpasocountyhealth.org/covid-19-testing-information).
- The TLMFPD offices are open from 8 to noon daily with the majority of staff working remotely from home.
- All multi-agency training has been suspended until further notice due to COVID-19 protocols.
- All family visits are prohibited at all three TLMFPD fire stations until further notice in an effort to limit the spread of COVID-19.

Truty said the first round of a two-shot series of approved vaccines will likely be distributed by mid- to late December, and Colorado will likely receive about 150,000 doses for health care workers, first responders and long-term care employees. The major distribution of vaccines for the general population is expected in spring, said Truty. *COVID-19 updates and information can be found at <https://covid19.colorado.gov/>.*

#### Proposed 2021 budget—public hearing

Truty said there were no changes to the third and final review of the proposed draft 2021 budget and said the following:

- Total budgeted revenue remains at \$11.43 million.
- Total budgeted operating expenses remain at \$9.11 million.
- Total budgeted capital expenses remain at \$2.71 million.

The 2021 budget is scheduled for final approval at the Dec. 2 board meeting.

Hildebrandt moved to open a public hearing for the approval of the proposed 2021 budget. Hearing no one speaking in favor of, or opposed to, and no testimony, Hildebrandt moved to close the public hearing, and the board approved the motion 4-0.

### Amended 2020 budget

Truty said the 2020 projected numbers in the budget have been updated based on expenditures through the end of October as follows:

- Projected revenue was increased from \$11.39 million to \$11.50 million, an increase of \$117,500.
- Projected operating expenses were increased from \$8,406,746 to \$8,441,345, an increase of \$34,599.
- Projected capital expenses were unchanged at \$1,095,000.

Including funds intentionally set aside for reserves of \$460,937 and excluding funds moved from 2020 to 2021 gives the district about a \$750,000 projected surplus. Most of this surplus can be attributed to COVID-19 changes and altered personnel expectations, said Truty.

Truty said that although a unanimous motion to approve the 2020 amended budget was carried last month, the Department of Local Affairs had since requested a resolution format requiring a roll call vote be taken before the 2020 amended budget could be filed with the state.

Hildebrandt led a motion for the board to adopt Resolution 2020-05, the 2020 amended budget, summarizing expenditures and revenues for each fund and adopting an amended budget for TLMFPD for the calendar year 2020. The roll call vote was carried unanimously, 4-0.

#### Financial report

Treasurer Jason Buckingham said the following:

- The October financial report represents 83.3% of the budget for the year to date.
- Overall revenues for the year are \$10.97 million year to date.
- Specific Ownership Taxes and Impact Fees are still making positive gains and are predicted to surpass budget estimates.
- Ambulance revenue and property taxes should meet expectations.

Buckingham said the district finances are in very good shape with overall expenses at \$7.01 million year to date of the \$9.34 million predicted annual budget.

In October, 16 electronic payments were reviewed and all appeared to be appropriate and within budget. The district had large expenses in October for annual physicals at \$17,050 and made a payment of \$11,249 to Prothman for consulting fees for the fire chief search.

#### Chief's report

Truty said the following:

- The National Weather Service has predicted the long-term weather forecast throughout the winter to be dry with some periods of snow, and for

the next 90 days we will be in a tough wildland fire season.

- The El Paso County Sheriff's Office is developing an arson investigation collaboration group and Fire Marshal Jamey Bumgarner is part of that county-wide team. TLMFPD is one of a handful of departments that have an investigation team. The aim is to enhance fire investigation response across the county.
- Due to COVID-19, the district declined an invitation to attend a D38 public safety recognition event for first responders in an effort to remain isolated.
- The Station 1 remodel plan is moving along and close to being finalized with a brand-new plan since purchasing the neighboring land. See [www.ocn.me/v20n5.htm#tlmfpd](http://www.ocn.me/v20n5.htm#tlmfpd) and [www.ocn.me/v20n10.htm#tlmfire.org](http://www.ocn.me/v20n10.htm#tlmfire.org).

Deputy Chief Randy Trost said that talks during the Pikes Peak Regional Office of Emergency Management Annual Winter Weather Workshop has improved coordination between agencies on when to call out snowplows and salt trucks and close roads during winter storms. Progress is being made, and the next step is to hold another meeting to determine who will make immediate decisions during winter weather advisories.

#### Santa on Patrol

Bumgarner announced that TLMFPD is excited to assist in the Annual Monument Police Department "Santa on Patrol" event this year.

Bumgarner said the event would be scaled down this year due to COVID-19, and the gifts will be distributed to individual households on Dec. 19. If you know a family in need that would benefit from this event, visit: [www.townofmonument.gov.org](http://www.townofmonument.gov.org).

Unwrapped new toys and gift cards should be dropped off no later than Friday, Dec. 14, at 3 p.m. at the Monument Police Department, 645 Beacon Lite Road or at Marine ToysforTots donation boxes throughout the Tri-Lakes region. Due to COVID-19, ToysforTots donations will not be accepted at TLMFPD fire stations. For more information visit: [www.townofmonument.org](http://www.townofmonument.org).

The meeting adjourned at 7:38 p.m.

\*\*\*\*\*

Meetings are usually held on the fourth Wednesday of each month. The next regular meeting is scheduled for 6:30 p.m. Dec. 2 via Zoom. For information on joining the Zoom meeting instructions and upcoming agendas, visit [www.tlmfire.org/board](http://www.tlmfire.org/board) or contact Director of Administration Jennifer Martin at 719-484-9011.

Natalie Barszcz can be reached at [nataliebarszcz@ocn.me](mailto:nataliebarszcz@ocn.me).

### Black Forest Fire/Rescue Protection District, Nov. 18

## Residents petition for exclusion; proposed 2021 budget gets public hearing

By Natalie Barszcz

At the Black Forest Fire/Rescue Protection District (BFFRPD) board meeting Nov. 18 via Zoom, Colorado Springs residents discussed submitting their petitions for exclusion from BFFRPD with the board, and the fire chief discussed updates to the proposed 2021 budget during a public hearing.

#### Petitions for exclusion

Fire Chief PJ Langmaid said a resolution for a policy to handle petitions of exclusion that do not involve another government entity had been drafted by the district's legal counsel and presented to the board for consideration just before the Nov. 18 board meeting.

**Note:** In early November, Langmaid posted an update on the district website to the residents in the southern tip of BFFRPD, north of Woodmen Road, who are currently subject to dual fire district taxation. The update refers to a possible timeline for the completion of the exclusion process and the recent discovery of a miscalculation made in 2017 that led the district to believe it would recover from the lost revenue in two years. The anticipated loss of revenue will now be much higher than previously thought when the homes are finally excluded from the district. The homes were annexed into Colorado Springs Fire Department when Station 21 opened in Aug. 2013. See [www.bffire.org](http://www.bffire.org) and [www.ocn.me/v20n8.htm#bffire](http://www.ocn.me/v20n8.htm#bffire).

Chairman Rick Nearhoof said the board had received a resolution for a policy for the handling of petitions for exclusion and that he and likely the other board members had not experienced a petition for exclusion before. The board would need three weeks to review the policy, said Nearhoof, and he made a motion to table resolution 2020-12 until Dec. 9. The board approved the decision 5-0.

During public comment, Colorado Springs resident Joel Helzer spoke on behalf of the Colorado Springs residents who are requesting the board ap-

prove the notarized petitions for the exclusion of 22 additional homes and 40 property owners that are subject to dual taxation. The residents are requesting that the petitions of exclusion be added to the existing homes already pending exclusion from BFFRPD's area of coverage.

Helzer said the following:

- He thanked the board for its time and efforts in the midst of the exclusion process.
- The residents recognize that both BFFRPD and Colorado Springs City Council have encountered difficulties working with each other during the exclusion process and the homeowners are in the middle in a tough spot.
- The residents have now come together to file Colorado Revised Statutes CRS-32-1-501 and would like to file a petition with the board according to the procedures and policies within that section.
- He asked that, given the nature of COVID-19 and the online forum of the board meetings, how would the board like to receive the petition for exclusion documents.

Langmaid recommended that the documents be mailed to the board Secretary Donna Arkowski in care of BFFRPD and then the five board members would act as hearing officers.

Treasurer Jack Hinton said the following:

- The district does not have a specific policy in place to deal with the petition right now and the board requested the district counsel draft a pol-



ELIZABETH BRYSON  
**INSURANCE**  
GROUP  
ELIZABETH BRYSON  
325 2nd St. Ste. M, Monument, CO 80132  
Office: (719) 418-9350  
[elizabeth@ebinsurancegroup.com](mailto:elizabeth@ebinsurancegroup.com)  
[ebinsurancegroup.com](http://ebinsurancegroup.com)

### CONCRETE WORK

All types of concrete work  
28 Years Experience • Insured  
[www.sharpestcut.com](http://www.sharpestcut.com)

Sharpest Cut 719-491-4811