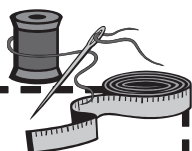


- There is no hydrant or cistern there, and the hoses had to be dragged down a 2,000-foot-long driveway.
- It was an unusual fire and is still under investigation.

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Board President Rick Nearhoof thanked Munsun Excavating for sending a backhoe to the scene immediately, despite the short notice on Christmas Day.

Financial update

Hinton said that since the district operates on a zero-based budget, it is critical for the board and staff to create a plan for future large expenditures. The current budget does not allow for large unplanned expenditures such as the unexpected Plymovent bill and the purchase of the two new ambulance chassis in the latter half of 2019. Hiring Kraus will help with the development of the apparatus replacement plan, Langmaid said.

Director Jim Abendshan thanked both Langmaid and Hinton for all their hard work and co-ordination on the district's financial report. The financial report was approved 4-0.

Chief's report

Langmaid said the district is understaffed and that four full-time positions remain vacant, three of which should ideally be filled by firefighter/paramedics. The district is currently conducting interviews with applicants from both out of state and across the region. Langmaid also updated the board with the following information:

- A paramedic will be included on each shift.
- The "flycar" will ideally be reinstated by the end of January, after the vehicle has been fitted with lights, sirens and other equipment.
- Meetings continue with county partners regard-

ing mutual aid agreements with American Medical Response.

- Due to the district's paramedic vacancies, Training Capt. Chris Piepenburg has stepped in to cover some Advanced Life Support shortfalls more often than originally planned.
- The current fleet is not designed nor standardized for the district terrain and is currently under review. One ambulance had its step ripped off when it had to drive overland to a burning home since there was no room in the driveway for more than just one engine.
- BFFRPD has no fire marshal. The county has nine new developments under review, and this shortage is a problem.

Official meeting announcements

The board unanimously adopted Resolution 2020-01 to post meetings and meeting dates on the BFFRPD website, following the new state regulation requiring only 24 hours prior posting on the district website. Board Secretary Donna Arkowski said it is good PR to also continue posting meeting announcements at both station locations in conjunction with the website.

Board member election resolution

Nearhoof proposed the following as a resolution:

- Three board positions, those of Hinton, Dowden, and Abendshan, are up for election in the May 5 board election.
 - The self-nomination window is open from Jan. 1-Feb. 28.
 - Self-nomination forms are now available from Administrative Assistant Melissa Bottorff, BFFRPD Station 1 at 11445 Teachout Rd., Colorado Springs, CO 80908. Telephone (719) 495-4300.
- The board unanimously approved the resolution. The board meeting was adjourned at 8:07 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 Feb. 19. See www.bffire.org.

Natalie Barszcz can be reached at nataliebarszcz@ocn.me.



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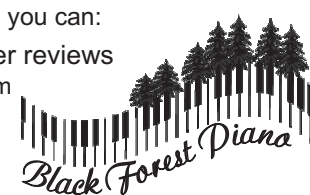
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