

month would be the best plan of action, since neighboring fire departments have not rescinded their emergency plans yet.

- TLMFPD now has an account to receive reimbursement of 75% for COVID-19-related costs from the Federal Emergency Management Agency. Costs include personal protection equipment (PPE), overtime and any expense related to COVID-19 but not costs that would normally be incurred. Currently, TLMFPD has incurred almost \$20,000 in unbudgeted COVID-19-related costs, far less than anticipated earlier in the pandemic.
- Daily and bi-weekly staff meetings have now been suspended, but the Colorado Springs Fire Department continues to keep TLMFPD informed with daily updates on COVID-19.
- The “pandemic 36 protocol” for 911 calls has been suspended.
- Three meetings to discuss wildland fire response took place during May with local partners and neighboring fire districts. Finding out-of-state support for wildland firefighting could be a struggle during COVID-19.

Director of Training Battalion Chief Jonathan Bradley said TLMFPD has a three-month supply of PPE, but gowns and N95 masks would be the first to run out. Items that could run low are on order with no confirmed delivery date and could take six weeks. Disinfectant is in good supply from vendors, and neighboring fire districts have offered to help if needed.

Deputy Chief Randy Trost said he feels uneasy as the state opens up. Let’s expect the worst just in case we need to ramp up again and we will keep preparing and maintaining supplies, he said.

2019 audit delayed

Truty said he was hoping the 2019 audit would be available for the June meeting, but it is more likely to be ready at the end of July.

Director of Administration Jennifer Martin said the audit is being conducted remotely with portal access to QuickBooks. Hildebrandt asked if items could be missed during the remote process, and Martin said the process is the same except the auditors do not visit the office from Colorado Springs and therefore the district is saving on trip charges.

Engineer promotions

Hildebrandt administered the oath of office to firefighters Matthew Edmunds and Braden Stoenner, who were promoted to engineers during the board meeting at Station 1.

Chief’s report

Truty gave the following updates:

- Capt. Dean Wall will be joining the TLMFPD in the new position of chief of logistics on June 1. See www.ocn.me/v19n11.htm#tlmfpd and www.ocn.me/v19n12.htm#tlmfpd.
- Ferrari Films has produced four public information videos for TLMFPD in partnership with Monument Police Department Chief Sean Hemingway on several subjects to include COVID-19 and community relationships. For



Above: TLMFPD board President John Hildebrandt administered the oath of office to newly promoted engineers Matthew Edmunds (left) and Braden Stoenner (right) at the TLMFPD board meeting on May 27. Photo by Jennifer Martin.

more details, visit www.tlmfire.org.

- Lt. Franz Hankins, president of the Monument Professional Firefighters Association Local 4319, has been interviewed by KKTU to discuss the COVID-19 response from a firefighter’s perspective, and it will air in early June.

Wildland fire/mitigation

Division Chief of Community Risk/Fire Marshal Jamey Bumgarner gave the following updates:

- A Ready Set Go! grant has been awarded, and a kickoff meeting is scheduled to select a site that has plenty of community support.
- The Chipping Program begins June 6 and continues through October, and the Elephant Rock community on the Palmer Divide has scheduled three weekends for chipping this year.
- Commercial building projects continue to move forward, and residential home permits have not slowed down and are a little better than last year.

Impact fees

Truty said the dialogue continues between El Paso County fire districts

and the Colorado Springs Housing and Building Association to find a suitable formula for the collection of impact fees in unincorporated El Paso County. Builders are not happy with some of the districts’ formulas that have produced high impact fees. Truty is hoping the builders will share specifics for calculating formulas that would be agreeable.

Bumgarner said that in TLMFPD, 70% of current residential building is within the Town of Monument, and the district is missing only a small portion of impact fees, mainly from the Forest Lakes development.

The regular meeting went into executive session at 7:42 p.m.

Meetings are usually held the fourth Wednesday of each month. The next meeting is scheduled for 6:30 p.m. June 24 at TLMFPD Station 1, 18650 Highway 105. For information, including possible Zoom meeting information, contact Jennifer Martin at 719-484-9011. For upcoming agendas, see www.tlmfire.org/board.

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Monument Board of Trustees, May 4

Trustee Clark censured; new trustees seated

By Allison Robenstein

During a virtual meeting May 4, the Monument Board of Trustees (BOT) voted to censure Trustee Laurie Clark for allegedly giving misleading and false information to the public in two news articles. A new accounting firm was approved to provide the town’s annual audit. The board approved an agreement that would allow it to apply for grants, and board members discussed the possible loss of income as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic.

This is the first meeting in which all the newly elected trustees participated. Trustees Jamy Unruh and Mitch LaKind, as well as incumbent Jim Romanello, joined the existing members of the board.

Trustee censured for alleged inaccuracies

The board voted 5-2 to censure Clark as a means of expressing their disapproval regarding her recent print and online news interviews, text messages to news stations, and social media posts. Mayor Pro Tem Kelly Elliott initiated the stern rebuke by noting the board had previously agreed that only the town manager or mayor would

speak on behalf of the town when necessary.

Elliott said she observed several times where information was “grossly miscommunicated by Trustee Clark to our citizens.”

Elliott said Clark was quoted in a March 23 KRDO story as saying, falsely, that Monument was going into “lock-down.”

Actually, at a special meeting held March 23, six members of the board voted to approve a resolution declaring a local disaster emergency related to the COVID-19 virus pandemic. Clark was absent from the meeting. The declaration provides Town Manager Mike Foreman with more decision-making authority and will allow the town to request federal funding for the pandemic for expenses related to the issue. See <https://ocn.me/v20n4.htm#mbot-0323>. “We never discussed or planned a lock-down,” said Elliott.

Elliott said that Clark, in a lengthy Jackson Creek Monthly article, implied the cause of a neighbor’s cancer was radium in the town’s water supply. Elliott said she sincerely believes Clark is pub-

MONUMENT (Cont. on 16)

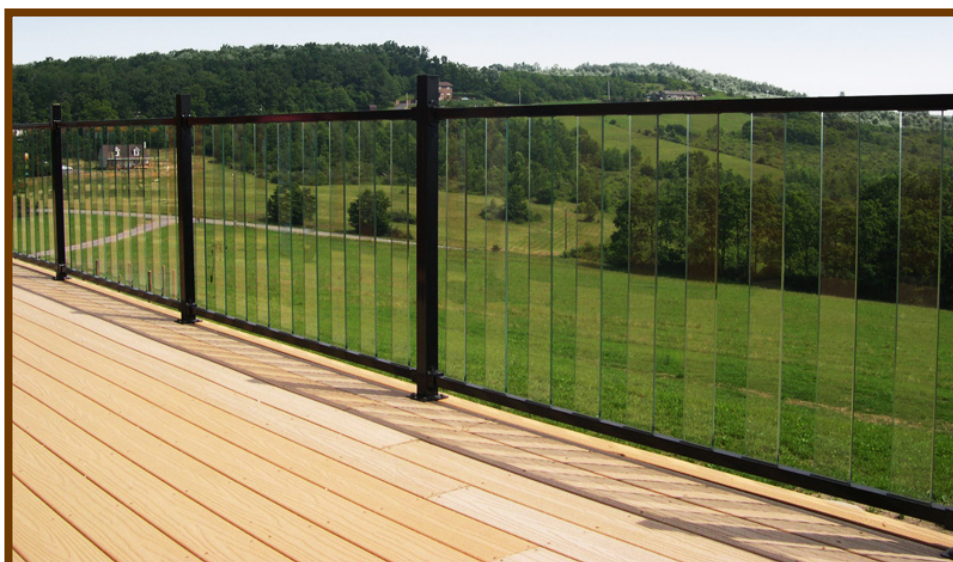
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