

community via microphone in the Station 1 bay while observing COVID-19 large gathering guidelines.

Treasurer Jack Hinton gave a brief financial update via cell phone and was excused for the remainder of the meeting.

Dual taxation addressed

Langmaid said "sometime prior to 2006," the City of Colorado Springs annexed certain parcels of property at the southern end of BFFRPD. This created a dual taxation zone, with residents paying both the Colorado Springs Fire Department (CSFD) and BFFRPD. The city could not provide fire protection and emergency medical services to those properties until 2013.

Langmaid welcomed Colorado Springs City Council member Andres Pico and said they had met in January 2018 along with council member David Geislinger to discuss the exclusion of the southern portion of BFFRPD and to get the ball rolling on behalf of the residents who have been paying property taxes to both entities.

In July 2018, the BFFRPD board approved a resolution to adjust the mill levy for the dual taxation area and to initiate the exclusion process of the "Annexation Area." Resolution 2018-4 stated the city and the district had com-

menced discussion to formalize agreement on the procedure for filing a consent petition for the exclusion of those properties from BFFRPD. Langmaid was board chairman then.

"Since that time, the momentum had tapered off until recently, when residents raised concerns over the lack of progress," said Langmaid. On July 15 just prior to the board meeting, the district received a draft Intergovernmental Agreement (IGA) from Colorado Springs City Council's legal counsel regarding petitioning the court to complete the exclusion of the annexation area.

See Langmaid's letter to the community explaining the reason for the dual taxation and the annexation at www.bffire.org.

Pico said the Colorado Springs City Attorney's Office has a slightly different take from BFFRPD's version. He said work on the exclusion process has been progressing since 2018, but the administration process involves a lot of back and forth with paperwork, and the opening of Station 21 in August 2013 at Dublin Boulevard had been key to moving forward to show the board they have a "plan to serve." Note: CSFD's Station 22 opened in 2016 on Copper Center Drive.

Pico said the city has been making progress and all the resolutions are prepared. However, BFFRPD has not yet provided a more detailed property map of each parcel to be excluded. Then the draft plan and resolution could move forward for 4th Judicial District Court approval. The exclusion could be achieved this year—"I think we are a lot closer than we think," said Pico.

Resident Colleen Murphy said the issue had nothing to do with the firefighters' quality of work. She also said on behalf of the residents that they are thankful the exclusion process is now moving forward. "It appears that multiple communication issues have been the cause of the delay in resolving the double taxation issue, and homeowners should continue to monitor the progress of the exclusion process via the board meeting minutes of both parties and their respective websites, and to watch for her update on Nextdoor.com and then maybe we can slow down the mass of emails flying into inboxes," said Murphy.

Langmaid responded to the questions of several residents with the following:

- The homes to be excluded from the BFFRPD mill levy will still have a small General Obligation Bond until that expires in 2021.
- Residents should continue to apply pressure to both BFFRPD and Colorado Springs City Council. Visit www.bffire.org and www.coloradosprings.gov.

Chief's report

Langmaid said BFFRPD is well positioned to continue advancing and leading in the region.

He assured the board that BFFRPD had initiated a revenue research project that concluded that once the exclusion of the dual service area in the southern portion occurs, the loss of revenue from the dual taxation area will be offset by property taxes in the Flying Horse North development, which is expected to reach build-out in the next several years. If the lost revenue is not replaced, "it would be detrimental to the mission."

He gave the following district update:

- BFFRPD received a total of 98 calls for service in June, which is lower than average. EMS calls were 40%

of the total calls in June compared to the normal range of 50% to 60% of the total number of calls for service. Lower calls for service could still be attributed to the COVID-19 pandemic.

- Firefighter/paramedic Garrett Miller has filled one of the district's open positions.
- Two mobile radios have been purchased and re-programmed to the Simplex Communication Channel for the two new ambulances. The previous program experienced interference due to the region's heavy distribution of ponderosa pine.
- Maintenance is occurring on the overhead bay doors in an effort to decrease turnout time.
- During a recent torrential downpour, a crack developed in the foundation at Station 2 and will be evaluated for repairs.

Training update

Langmaid gave the following updates:

- The North Group agencies (TLM-FPD, Wescott, Palmer Lake Volunteer Fire Department and BFFRPD) have been collectively practicing various skills including roof ventilation, a previously unused tactic in the region, and helicopter operations.
- BFFRPD has been working on improving hose stretching and establishing significant water delivery for operations, and new EMS protocols are being studied.
- The new training facility now has doors and windows added to the Conex containers, and crushed concrete has been delivered for the perimeter. See photo at www.ocn.me/v20n7.htm#bffrpd.

Fire marshal update

Langmaid said the following:

- County officials presented the draft language of the land development code during the Pikes Peak Fire Chief's Council meeting and left more questions than answers.
- The district is moving forward with the signage program for addresses and the location of water cisterns.
- Flying Horse North has not made any inquiries since 2019 about the water requirements for the proposed 34,000-square-foot clubhouse, but the district is waiting to assist them whenever they are ready.

Financial report

Hinton phoned in with the following update:

- The district had a total of \$1.034 million in funds, including \$525,410 in unrestricted funds, as of the end of June.
- A payment of \$227,715 was paid to Arrow Manufacturing for the two new ambulances, and a state grant of about \$179,000 for the two ambulances should be received once they go into service.
- Mobile Data Communications (MDCs) are expected to be purchased from the Capital Improvement Funds for a cost of \$54,927 for hardware and electronics and \$11,700 for installation and labor.

The board accepted the financial report as presented, 4-0.

The discussion to schedule the semi-annual inspection of district assets by the board was postponed until the August board meeting, when Hinton could be present. The board approved the postponement, 4-0.

The meeting adjourned at 8:11 p.m.

Correction

In the July issue of OCN, "Mobile Data



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