

- The board agreed to dispose of a large, rarely used snow blower they have stored in the shed.  
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Monument Sanitation District

meetings are normally held at 9 a.m. on the third Wednesday of the month in the district conference room at 130 Second St., Monument. The next regular meeting is

scheduled for Oct. 20 at 9 a.m. See <https://colorado.gov/msd>. For a district service map, see <https://colorado.gov/pacific/msd/district-map-0>. Information: 719-481-4886.

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**BFFRPD (cont. from 1)**

the list on Sept. 10, only the actual streets that were initially intended in this second round of exclusions. See [www.ocn.me/v21n10.htm#bffrpd](http://www.ocn.me/v21n10.htm#bffrpd).

Board Secretary Donna Arkowski said that with a project like this, properties can easily be missed, and administrative amendments can be made to add any addresses that are missed during the process.

**Background:** The total number of properties to be excluded in a phased approach over several years is about 2,200. The board began the exclusion process in July 2018, because Colorado Springs residents were paying taxes for fire protection services to both BFFRPD and Colorado Springs. For more information, visit [www.bffire.org](http://www.bffire.org).

Langmaid said this is just the beginning of this second phase of exclusions and the board will need to approve the resolution, pending the correction of two dates and a review by the district's attorney Linda Glesne.

The board approved the resolution, 4-0.

**Public comment**

Colorado Springs resident Colleen Murphy said the City of Colorado Springs has been notified of an additional five properties found after she spent about four hours on Sept. 9 combing through the list of 660 properties to ensure accuracy, and hopefully those properties were added to the list the district received on Sept. 10. "The process with the City of Colorado Springs has been slow, but the residents sincerely appreciate the efforts of Fire Chief PJ Langmaid and Colorado Springs Fire Department, Chief Randy Royal," said Murphy.

**2020 audit presentation**

District Auditor Dawn Schilling of

Schilling & Co. Inc., announced the district had received a "clean opinion" for the 2020 audit, and thanked Langmaid, Deputy Chief James Rebitski and the Administrative Officer Rachel Dunn for providing the assistance locating information during the auditing process, and noted the following:

- Due to the turnover at the end of 2020 through early 2021, a lot of searching was required to find invoices and statements to complete the audit.
- Eight adjustments were needed, a few more than recorded in the past, but mainly accrual entries.
- The 2011 general obligation bond was about \$200,000 at the end of 2020, and it is now paid in full.

Schilling recommended the board approve an existing policy that had not formally been approved, for the adoption of an annual Wage and Leave Accrual Schedule as part of the annual budget process, and requested the board review the 2020 audit over the next 10 days to meet the state filing date of Sept. 30.

The board accepted the 2020 audit as presented, subject to an adjustment required for the cost of the training center, 4-0.

Langmaid requested the board approve and adopt the district policy of including an annual wage and leave accrual schedule for each employee, as recommended by Schilling. The reconfiguring of the schedule will provide greater clarity to all staff on how they can move up in the organization.

The board approved Policy Manual 401, 4-0.

**Stage 2 fire restrictions**

Langmaid said after careful consideration of fuel moistures, the weather forecast, and the limited availability of resources for an ini-

tial wildland firefighting attack, the district moved to Stage 2 fire restrictions on Sept. 13. For updates and information regarding the restrictions, visit [www.bffire.org](http://www.bffire.org).

**Wildland pre-plan project**

Langmaid requested a \$5,000 deposit to secure the services of wildland pre-plan developer Dave Reid of the South Metro Fire Rescue Authority, Denver, and said:

- The project could be funded with the money set aside in the budget for wildland mitigation.
- District Training Officer Capt. Chris Piepenburg has been discussing the project with Reid, and the estimate for each pre-plan is about \$25,000 to \$35,000.
- Reid was deployed to a wildland fire and unavailable to provide an estimate on the scope of work and a contract.

Vice Chairman Nate Dowden requested a wildland pre-plan presentation at the Nov. 17 meeting to set some expectations, and everything is negotiable given the deployment status of Reid.

The board approved the \$5,000 deposit, 4-0.

**Station 2 remodel consultants—scope of work**

Langmaid said a contractor has been engaged to perform the work needed to correct the concrete and erosion problems and elevate the showers at Station 2, as approved at the August board meeting.

The scope of work letter for the Station 2 remodel and expansion was finalized and required board approval before the research and development of the potential renovations can begin, said Langmaid. See [www.ocn.me/v21n9.htm#bffrpd](http://www.ocn.me/v21n9.htm#bffrpd).

Dowden requested the deadline for response in the scope of work letter should be Oct. 21, fol-

lowed by a possible site visit.

Langmaid said the letter would go out Oct. 1, and the results would be presented at the Nov. 17 meeting, but the budget will take priority.

The board approved the Station 2 scope of work letter, 4-0.

The regular board meeting adjourned at 8:35 p.m.

**Volunteer pension board**

The BFFRPD Volunteer Pension Board of Trustees met before the regular board at 7:05 p.m. The seven-member board includes the regular five-member board and former firefighters Lisa Montijo and Jon Strupp.

Chairman Rick Nearhoof requested the board approve the minutes of the Feb. 19, 2020 and the Sept. 3, 2020 volunteer pension board meetings and the financial records for the Volunteer Pension Fund.

The board approved the minutes and accepted the June 2021 financial report as presented, 4-0.

The Pension Board of Trustees confirmed there was no activity to report concerning the retired BFFRPD volunteer firefighters pension fund.

The Volunteer Pension Board meeting adjourned at 7:09 p.m.

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Meetings are usually held on the third Wednesday every month at Station 1, 11445 Teachout Road, Colorado Springs. The next regular meeting is scheduled for Oct. 20 at 7 p.m. For updates, agendas, and minutes, visit [www.bffire.org](http://www.bffire.org) or contact the Administrative Officer Rachel Dunn at [admin@bffire.org](mailto:admin@bffire.org) or call 719-495-4300.

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**Donald Wescott Fire Protection District, Sept. 21**

**Unification process concerns; volunteer pensions to increase**

By Natalie Barszcz

At the Donald Wescott Fire Protection District (DWFPD) meeting on Sept. 21, the board discussed some potential stumbling blocks involved with the unification process, planned an increase to the volunteer pensions, and approved roof repairs at Station 1 and an extension of the interim fire chief contract.

The volunteer pension board meeting was held after the regular meeting.

Director Joyce Hartung was excused.

Interim Fire Chief Warren Jones said he met with Hartung for a couple of hours on Sept. 20 and brought her up to speed on district issues.

**Unification status update**

Jones said the following:

- During a joint conference call with Tri-Lakes Monument Fire Protection District (TLMFPD) Chief Andy Kovacs and Emergency Services Consulting International project manager Dan Qualman, it was revealed that the first draft of the unification feasibility study will be available in mid-October, and the finished product will be presented to both boards by the end of October.
- The decision is coalescing around the concept of an authority first, followed by a merger by inclusion later, when DWFPD will dissolve and

MONUMENT ★ DOWNTOWN  
★ COLORADO ★  
**PIKES PEAK**  
Brewing Co

**THE BARREL ROOM**  
LOCATION: Monument  
CAPACITY: 45 Seated; 80 Cocktail Style

**THE BARR ROOM**  
LOCATION: Monument  
CAPACITY: 25 guests

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