

TLMFPD (Cont. from 14)

- Resolution 2021- 02, 2022 Budget Appropriations to approve and appropriate sums of money to the various funds for the Tri-Lakes Monument Fire Protection District 2022 budget year.
- Resolution 2021- 03, 2022 Property Tax Levy to approve the levying of property taxes at 18.4 mills for the year 2022, to help defray the costs of government for the Tri-Lakes Monument Fire Protection District 2022 budget year.

The board approved 6-0 and adopted all three resolutions by roll call vote.

The board also adopted and approved the following schedules for 2022: the wage schedule, the fee schedule and the board of directors meeting schedule.

The board adopted and approved the schedules 6-0. See www.tlmfire.org/board.

Staff promotion

Kovacs congratulated Lt. Micah Coyle on his recent promotion to Battalion Chief on Nov. 2 at the first annual awards banquet and for receiving the "Firefighter of the Year" award.

Wescott Unification update

Kovacs said the board would go into executive session with Maureen Juran of Widner Juran LLP to discuss the unification. The Emergency Services Consulting International (ESCI) feasibility study corroborates what we all have known, with a third-party unbiased assessment of both districts, said Kovacs. See joint special meeting article on page 11 and DWFPD article on page 12.

Kovacs also said, the unification of the districts would accomplish the fol-

lowing:

- A cost avoidance of up to \$12 million (for a station, nine personnel and an engine) for the district by delaying the building of a fourth station in the southwest corner of the district.
- The DWFPD Station 1 in Gleneagle would serve the southern portion of the district extremely well with reduced response times for EMS and fire calls.
- A combined effective firefighting force will rely less on the mutual aid response of neighboring districts.
- The unification with Wescott would bring two water tenders to the district avoiding additional purchases. With those added resources Insurance Services Office ratings will increase and that will help with accreditation of the district. Water tenders typically cost about \$350,000 each.
- Both districts are lacking in data capture and analysis and the proposed 2022 budget includes a request for \$237,000 in software upgrades to begin the accreditation process of the district in 2022.

"There is a lot of enthusiasm for the unification and there is great benefit to the firefighters and the communities," and "the feasibility study highlights and confirms that both districts will be in a better place when the unification happens," said Kovacs.

Smaldino asked about the potential sale of Wescott's Station 3.

DWFPD Interim Fire Chief Warren Jones said the piece of property that Station 3 is built on, is a legal lot that can be sold and the district has the

documentation.

The feasibility study recommended the Wescott Station 3 not be staffed in the future, said Kovacs.

Financial report

Hildebrandt read the financial report as of Oct. 31 and said the following:

- The district is about 83.3 percent of the budget year to date.
- The property tax revenue received is about \$9.210 million year to date.
- Specific ownership tax revenue is 16 percent ahead of the expected revenue at \$894,133.
- Ambulance fees are below at 82 percent at \$667,614.
- Impact fees are 150 percent ahead of expected revenue at \$188,273.

The district overall is 98.7 percent of expected revenue for the year with \$11,290,172 million. The projected 2021 income budget was set at \$11,439,647 million.

Overall expenses year to date are \$7,495,118 million, and about 82.27 percent of the projected 2021 total expense budget set at \$9,110,920 million. In September, 16 electronic payments above \$2,500 were reviewed and of note were:

- Three payments to the Firefighter & Police Pension Association (FPPA) for a total of \$135,758.11 (includes three pay periods).
- Station 1 remodel - Mark Young Construction for \$166,908.
- Annual Physicals \$12,203.
- A Stryker Power load stretcher \$22,391.
- Three treadmills \$13,083.
- Kaiser Permanente insurance \$71,129 per month.

The board accepted the financial report for October as presented, 6-0.

Chief's report

Kovacs said the following:

- The district's spare ambulance has been evaluated by Cimarron Hills Fire Department and they will make the purchase in early 2022.
- Division Chief of Community Risk/Fire Marshal Jamey Bumgarner and staff held 22 fire prevention programs and had the captive audience of about 1000 students in D-38, making a considerable impression on students during fire prevention month.
- The transmission was replaced at 6,000 miles outside the warranty on the new Ford ambulance and the dealership honored the warranty, but other costs were high for other vehicle repairs.
- The 2231 Ladder truck is undergoing major service and will be out of service into early 2022. The Wescott ladder truck is available if needed.
- The Station 1 remodel has been completed, and the contractors are working through a list of repairs. The most significant correction is the replacement of the kitchen cabinets due to the depth

being too shallow to hold plates.

- Crews are expected to move out of the trailers before the cold weather begins.
- The ladder truck replacement committee is choosing the specifications well in advance to avoid a 5-10 percent increase that would be incurred if the choices are not completed by the beginning of 2022.

Bumgarner said there is enthusiasm and excitement for the new ladder truck and the department is getting ahead early, but there is no cost to the district to place the order ahead of time. The engine will not be built until later and delivered about March-May 2023, said Bumgarner.

Hildebrandt said the plan is to put the 2231 Ladder truck into reserve status in the future.

Kovacs said:

- Firefighter Steve Peters will be promoted to Lieutenant at a ceremony in December.
- Firefighter Keith Barker will move into an acting Lieutenant role for several months next year.

Both candidates did extremely well during the process, said Kovacs.

Station 1

Training Center Update

Bradley said the plan for the Station 1 training center is outlined in the budget. Some training props will be identified for purchase for the property that can be used in the interim and in place for the finished training facility. Training will take place on the site next year, but the earthwork and site preparation is ultimately years down the line and for the 2023 budget.

Bradley said the site plan will take some significant resources and a decision on what the training center will be needs to be discussed. Water issues and some drainage will begin the process in 2022, but the concrete will be expensive, and it could be installed in phases.

Smaldino said, don't go cheap, let's spend money and do it right and avoid tearing anything out in the future.

Executive session

The board moved into executive session at 7:32 p.m., pursuant to CRS 24-6-402(4)(e) to determine positions relative to matters that may be subject to negotiations; developing strategy for negotiations; and instructing negotiators with regard to the unification.

Kovacs informed OCN that no actions were taken post executive session.

The meeting adjourned at 8:58 p.m.

Meetings are usually held on the fourth Wednesday of the month. The next regular meeting is scheduled for Friday, Dec. 3 at 6:30 p.m. at TLMFPD Station 1, 18650 Highway 105. For Zoom meeting instructions, agendas, minutes, and updates, visit www.tlmfire.org or contact Director of Administration Jennifer Martin at 719-484-9011.

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

Black Forest Fire/Rescue Protection District, Nov. 17

Public hearing on the 2022 budget

By Natalie Barszcz

At the Black Forest Fire/Rescue Protection District (BFFRPD) meeting on Nov. 17 the board held a public hearing on the proposed 2022 budget, transferred legal counsel representation information, and received multiple updates to include the Station 2 remodel and repair projects.

Director David Hoffpaur was excused.

2022 budget –public hearing

Chairman Rick Nearhoof opened the public hearing on the proposed 2022 budget for public comment. The public was only permitted to attend the meeting via Zoom technology, due to the

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