

DWFPD (Cont. from 1)

has volunteered and worked here for over 40 years.

Although there have been five executive sessions regarding personnel issues, including Nov. 12 and 20, Dec. 29, and

Jan. 6 and 12, there was no connection to the chief's retirement mentioned.

"It has been a pleasure to serve this community," said Burns. Chairman Mark Gunderman said this is the end of an era. Several of the firefighters thanked the

chief for his leadership over the years. "Chief Burns has always been there, including promotions," said Battalion Chief Shannon Balvanz. "It's going to be really difficult when he steps away."

FEMA grant funding issue

Balvanz told the board about an issue with the FEMA grant funding the district

received in late 2020. The grant covers the cost of vehicle exhaust removal systems at all three stations. Wescott is responsible for a \$6,500 grant match. See Vol. 20 No. 12 - December 5, 2020 (ocn.me). Balvanz confirmed parts are being delivered to the stations with a project start date of Jan. 25. Unfortunately, and after the fact, he realized the electrical panel at Station 3 is not able to handle this new system's electrical requirements. The cost to update the panel is \$8,500. Though the project was never formally budgeted in 2020, the board approved the grant match as a necessary and beneficial expense. Board members quickly regrouped after hearing of the Station 3 electrical panel issue, asking if the project could be scaled down to only include Stations 1 and 2 since currently Station 3 is not used to deploy calls for service.

Chairman Mark Gunderman said, "before I would feel comfortable dumping \$8,500 into that" we should decide the long-term uses for that station. That's a can that's been kicked down the path, so the board should make that decision this year about its future use. The other directors agreed.

The board directed Balvanz to ask the installer what needs to be done to scale down the project and if there would be any costs involved in returning Station 3-related products that have already been

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