

time and he just stepped in to “pull the levers at the right time.”

- This merger could not have been done without Kovacs and the board presidents, and their generosity and forward

thinking in representing the boards and the citizens.

Jones thanked the personnel of both districts and the DWFPD executive staff—Battalion Chiefs Scott Ridings, Shannon Balvanz, and Sean Pearson, and Administrative Assistant Stacey Popovich—for all of their support. “They did not know how the unification project would work out, or how they would be affected by it, but they provided all the support needed to make the merger happen,” said Jones.

Hildebrandt said, “It has been a long time coming, and it is the courage of Wescott that has propelled this forward, and this would not be happening if it was not a ‘win, win, win’ for TLMFPD and DWFPD, but most importantly for the residents of both districts.” And he said:

- The combined districts will now have a station in

a critical area of the district.

- There will be a larger number of personnel to respond to incidents and they will train together as one.
- Additional water tenders will be available to respond to rural areas with limited water supply.
- Residents will see faster response times and an ambulance service that will be available to respond more frequently from Wescott’s Station 1.

“This is a proud time for all of us,” said Hildebrandt.

Gunderman said, “Lots of times things get derailed because egos get in the way, and this would not have been possible without the leadership and humility of Jones and Kovacs” and “the firefighters working together will help make this possible and make it stick, and although a

lot of anxiety for sure, it will be seamless to the residents and a testament to both organizations of how culturally aligned and professional they are.”

Note: After the speeches, TLMFPD Board President John Hildebrandt and Secretary Michael Smaldino, and DWFPD Board Chairman Mark Gunderman and Secre-

tary Larry Schwarz signed the historic “contract for services” intergovernmental agreement in the Tri-Lakes Monument Administration Office board room on Dec. 8 at about 6:35 p.m. The event was witnessed by all those in attendance.

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 - \$45,000 available in 2022 to support youth
- Empty Bowls & Harvest of Love enable Tri-Lakes Cares
 - Over \$30,000 raised to support El Paso Co. families
- Red Kettle for The Salvation Army provides hope
- **THANK YOU** to our **GENEROUS, CARING COMMUNITY**

 monumenthillkiwanis@gmail.com
 Making a Difference for Youth and Our Community

Happy New Year
 As the calendar turns the page, we wish you the very best in the year ahead.




Brad A Lundberg, CFP®, AAMS®

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