

Jonathan Bradley to lead Wescott from Jan. 1, 2022, will be signed with a transition to a contract for complete services made by about May 2022.

Kovacs said it will be up to the two boards to decide what that contract will be, and that conversation can take place in 2022. If the TLMFPD board approves the contract, DWFPD board Chairman Mark Gunderman and Secretary Larry Schwarz will sign the document on Dec. 8, said Kovacs.

Hildebrandt said the Intergovernmental Agreement (IGA) for a "contract for services" approved a month ago has one change: a reduction in the charge

for compensation from \$131,000 per year to \$1 per month for DWFPD.

The board approved the partial contract 6-0 and signed the IGA between DWFPD and TLMFPD. See the DWFPD article on page 6 and the joint meeting article on page 1.

Staff promotion ceremony

At the beginning of the meeting, Kovacs administered the oath of office to newly promoted Lt. Steve Peters. Kovacs congratulated Peters and said, "TLMFPD lieutenants are one of the most important positions in the fire service, and not only are they managing the day-to-day operations of crews and personnel, they are often interacting with the public."

"The company officer role is the "linchpin" to a strong fire district, and there is no better person to assume the new role and responsibilities than Peters," said Kovacs.

Station 1 remodel

Kovacs said the following:

- The final punch list for the Station 1 remodel was comprehensive, and the contractors are about one-third of the way through.
- One item was added after the new gear lockers for the personal protective equipment were found to be the wrong brand and of lesser quality than those previously installed.
- The lockers will be returned to the vendor, and hopefully the same lockers that are in place at Station 2 and 3 can be found.

Other business

Town of Monument Director of Public Works/Board Director Tom Tharnish requested the district forward the hydrant locations for installation along Highway 105 for Monument's pipeline project. Division Chief of Community Risk/Fire Marshal Jamey Bumgarner said he would provide the locations to meet the deadline of Dec. 10.

The meeting adjourned at 7:03 p.m.



Above: From left, TLMFPD Fire Chief Andy Kovacs, Lt. Steve Peters, and Jen Jehly are pictured at the swearing-in ceremony for Steve Peters' recent promotion to lieutenant from Firefighter/Paramedic at the Dec. 1 board meeting. Kovacs administered the oath of office and presented Peters with a lieutenant's helmet, and his spouse Jehly pinned on the badge of office. Photo by Natalie Barszcz.

Correction

In the OCN December edition, in the TLMFPD article and the Calendar of Events, the Dec. board meeting was listed as Dec. 3, but the meeting occurred on Dec. 1, the day OCN went to press. The error occurred after the Dec. 3 date was announced during the DWFPD Nov. 18 board meeting. OCN regrets any inconvenience that may have resulted.

Meetings are usually held on the fourth Wednesday of the month. The next regular meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, Jan. 26 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.

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Donald Wescott Fire Protection District, Dec. 8 and 15 IGA and 2022 budget approved

By Natalie Barszcz

At the Donald Wescott Fire Protection District (DWFPD) meeting on Dec. 8, the board signed an Intergovernmental agreement (IGA) partial contract for services with Tri-Lakes Monument Fire Protection

District (TLMFPD) and approved the 2022 budget. A "special meeting" was held on Dec. 15 to "tie up a few loose ends" that occurred due to the unification process. The board approved funding for new equipment, the sale of apparatus and equipment, and an acting fire chief position, and received multiple updates.

Director Joyce Hartung was absent on Dec. 8 and 15.

Director Charles Fleece was absent on Dec. 15. Chairman Mark Gunderman notified the public of the board's plan to recess and regroup at the TLMFPD Administrative Office during the Dec. 8 meeting for the contract for services celebration, and that the meeting would adjourn from that location.

Intergovernmental agreement—contract for services

Interim Fire Chief Warren Jones requested the board adopt the intergovernmental agreement to provide operational and administrative services from TLMFPD, and he said the following:

- The project has been ongoing for about nine months, and in the past 60 days a decision was made to recommend forming a fire authority. See www.ocn.me/v21n6.htm#dwfpd and #tlmfpd.
- The partial contract for services would be followed by a full contract, and then a full merger by inclusion with the goal being the equalization of the mill levies.
- TLMFPD Fire Chief Andy Kovacs and Division Chief of Operations Jonathan Bradley will start down the road of unifying the districts immediately.
- Kovacs will be the fire chief for both districts starting Jan. 1.

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In Memorium
Brian Donald Crombie
1946-2021

Brian Donald Crombie, 75, of Monument, passed away peacefully in Monterey, CA with family close by on November 22, 2021.

Brian is survived by Sheila, his wife of 50 years, Lara, his daughter and light of his life, and Stuart, his brother, as well as many friends in Minnesota and Colorado.

Brian worked in the printing industry for most of his adult life, retiring from Southern Graphic Systems, Minneapolis, MN in 2012.

Brian was a proud Canadian and passionate hockey player and collector/restorer of vintage sports cars. He was a member of the Minnesota based Vintage Sports Car Racing Club for many years, serving as the club's Technical Director, as well as a fierce driver of both open and closed-wheel racecars. He enjoyed traveling with his race friends to car events in Europe and the US.

Brian started skating on the streets of Maple Creek, Saskatchewan, as soon as he could walk. He had a life-long connection with hockey, both as a fan and as a skater. Brian served as a Volunteer Coach at the Monument Ice Rinks, working with all ages and all skill levels. He will be remembered for his love of the game and irreverent sense of humor. Al Pedersen, the Ice Rinks manager, says the "place lit up" when Brian was on the ice. Brian was nominated "Exceptional Community Coach" for his work with the Mile High Mites program.

A celebration of life is planned for late June, 2022 in Monument. Memorial donations may be made to St. Jude's Children's Research Hospital. Special gratitude and love to the staff of Community Hospital of the Monterey Peninsula, especially Rosslyn and Arthur in Palliative Medicine, and Brian's special angel, Breanna, who was with him during his last hours.

Happy New Year!

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