

month at Station 1, 15415 Gle-neagle Dr., at 7 p.m. Due to COVID-19 distancing proto-

cols, meetings are held virtu-ally for public attendees. The next regular board meeting is

scheduled for Jan. 18 at 4 p.m. For updates, virtual meeting joining instructions, agendas,

and archived minutes, visit www.wescottfire.org or call Administrative Assistant Sta-

cey Popovich at 719-488-8680. *Natalie Barszcz can be reached at nataliebarszcz@ocn.me.*

Black Forest Fire/Rescue Protection District, Dec. 8

Director remembered; 2022 budget adopted

By Natalie Barszcz

At the Black Forest Fire/Rescue Protection District (BF-FRPD) meeting on Dec. 8, the board held a tribute for a director who recently passed. The board also adopted and approved the 2022 budget, and multiple resolutions and schedules, before receiving several updates.

Director Jim Abendschan was excused.

Vice Chairman Nate Dowden was excused from the meeting at 7:22 p.m.

Tribute to board member
Chairman Rick Nearhoof said, "It is with a heavy heart that I announce the passing of Director David Hoffpauir who passed away suddenly on Nov. 23." "David was down to earth and always willing to help, and I will miss him," said Nearhoof. Vice Chairman Nate Dowden and Treasurer Jack Hinton also offered their deepest sympathy during the tribute.

Nearhoof welcomed Deb Hoffpauir as a non-voting honorary board director, to take the place of her late husband for the duration of the meeting.

Fire Chief PJ Langmaid said, "His work here speaks volumes to his contribution to the community, and he will be missed."

2022 budget adoption

The board approved and adopted the 2022 budget as presented and the certification of the mill levies, 3-0. The 2022 budget and the mill levy can be viewed at www.bffire.org.

Dowden made a motion for the budget form to be emailed to Abendschan for signing and then scanned and returned via fax to Administrative Officer Rachel Dunn.

The board approved the motion, 3-0.

The board also adopted the following:

- The wage and leave accrual schedule.
- A fee schedule.
- The Board of Directors meeting schedule.

The board approved the schedules as presented, 3-0.

Dowden asked if the last meeting on Dec. 14, 2022, would allow enough time to submit all the paperwork to the El Paso County officials.

Board Secretary Donna Arkowski said any meeting date can be changed, if necessary, anytime throughout the year and the county requires the mill levy certification on Dec. 15.

Langmaid said all the approved schedules including the mill levies will be sent to the El Paso County officials on Dec. 9.

2021 audit engagement
Hinton recommended the board adopt and engage Dawn Schilling of Schilling & Co. Inc. to conduct the 2021 audit and

said, "Schilling does a great job."

The board approved the engagement letter, 3-0.

Board of Directors' election—May 2022

The board approved the May 2022 Board of Directors' election, and Administrative Officer Rachel Dunn was approved as the designated election official, 3-0.

Note: A vacancy exists on the Board of Directors and may be temporarily filled at the January board meeting. The May board election will include three board director positions.

Property for inclusion

The board approved a resolution to include 6665 Walker Road, Colorado Springs, into BFFRPD for fire protection and EMS services, 3-0.

Hinton said any property owners that request inclusion into BFFRPD should accept the fees or not join the district, and he asked Langmaid why the board should consider lowering the inclusion fees.

Langmaid recommended the board discuss the matter in executive session with legal counsel. *See www.ocn.me/v21n12.htm#bffrpd.*

Financial report

Hinton said the district has \$2.25 million in the bank and that includes the reserve funds and the money to be transferred by the end of the year.

The district may receive a small amount of tax revenues, and the final annual report will be received on Dec. 10 from the El Paso County assessor.

The board accepted the financial report as presented, 3-0.

Finance and administration update

Langmaid said the district received the following notable revenues:

- Ambulance revenue of \$9,663.
- Wildland Deployment revenue of \$127,240.
- Tax revenue will be determined later in the month.

Langmaid said a spending freeze in November significantly reduced spending to the bare minimum operating expenses, and the following notable expenses were:

- Tuition expenses for training spots in 2022 for \$5,400.
- The Annual Pikes Peak Radio Communications Network expense of \$10,724.
- A transfer of \$42,403 into the TABOR fund.
- A transfer of \$175,000 into the Capital Improvement Fund.

Langmaid said the district had received 10 pairs of Wildland Duty Boots, 18 Wildland Pull-over Shirts and 12 Self-Contained Breathing Apparatus

bottles.

Countywide station alerting

Langmaid said the countywide station alerting option is finally under review, thanks to Fire Chief Andrew York of the Cimarron Hills Fire Department taking the lead on the project for the county.

Chief's report

Langmaid said the chief's report would now be in a new format based on feedback. It is hard to fit everything into one page, and it will require some final tweaking. He added:

- During November, the district responded to 14 fire calls and 49 EMS calls.
- Some of the approved repair projects at Station 2 will likely break ground in December.
- Deputy Chief James Rebitski continues work on the district community risk analysis.
- The strategic wildland

preplan maps are being developed and are estimated to arrive in early 2022. The preplan maps will be followed with tactical maps.

- Supply chain issues are causing delays, but the district is maintaining several months of supplies for operations.

Personnel update

Langmaid said the district has eight new staff and each shift will be manned with eight staff or a minimum of six staff per shift. Overtime has been higher due to the fire academy for the new recruits, and a firefighter has deployed overseas for 14 months in support of the National Defense Strategy. Another staff member was out of service most of November due to COVID-19.

Training update

Langmaid said:

- The district completed 2,870 training hours in November, and the total

includes the fire academy for the eight new hires.

- The entire number of training hours completed in 2018 was 500 hours and based on feedback, the staff prefer to be training.
- The district hosted a live fire training day in November for the Colorado

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