

- be in place.
- The next step will be to dissolve the legal boundaries so there will be only one fire district, and that will be a multi-phase process.
- Phase 2 will be a multi-phase process requiring a carefully choreographed election in which the district will ask the residents living in the southern enclave for a substantial increase of about 14 mills.

- The sub-district (Gleneagle) would

run an election at the same time, asking if the district's mill levy should be approved should the sub-district be dissolved. The district would start taxing at a higher rate and the sub-district could see a slight tax decrease.

- The combined mill levy of the district is 21.9 mills. The board could decide to drop the mill levy to about 21.4 mills and the district would see a benefit.
- The mill levy will be just higher than the MFD mill levy and then without an election, at the end of the process, the mill levy would drop for the former DWFPD residents to the same MFD's mill levy, currently set at 18.4 mills.
- The intent is to have the ballot questions ready for the November 2023 election, and the stepped decreases in mill levy for the residents would begin in 2024. The whole process will take about two years.

The DWFPD board will decide when the district begins implementing Phase 2, given the exhausting "heavy lift" the board and staff have experienced in 2022, said Powell.

President Mark Gunderman said he felt that the board should keep the momentum going and get the education campaign rolling out.

Secretary Larry Schwarz and Director Mike Forsythe concurred with moving ahead with Phase 2 without delay.

Powell said she had completed the exact same process for another district in May so she is familiar with the process and will prepare the paperwork for Phase 2.

Public comment

Gary Nelson, board president of the non-profit group Emergency Incident Support (EIS), asked Gunderman if the board would hold a discussion after the executive session regarding the price of Sun Hills Station 6.

Gunderman said the appraised value of the Sun Hills property would not be discussed during the regular meeting. The executive session will be a discussion with legal counsel to decide on the next steps for the board to take.

Nelson said that if the appraised value of Sun Hills Station 6 were known, prospective grant writing could begin. As the chief grant writer for the nonprofit all-volunteer group, he could work with

the board or potential buyers. The Sun Hills fire station is a great resource, and the group would like to continue using the station or begin searching for other options. The group provides a valuable resource to first responders, and EIS is interested in finding out more about the building, said Nelson.

Executive session

The board moved into an executive session at 4:05 p.m. pursuant to Colorado Revised Statute 24-6-402(4)(a): to discuss the lease, transfer, or sale of the district's Sun Hills fire station, including a discussion of an appraisal of value.

Fleece recused himself during the executive session.

When the board resumed the regular session at 4:30 p.m., no action was taken.

2023 budget proposal/presentation

Kovacs presented the budget and said:

- There will be very few expenses moving forward for the 2023 budget year. The district anticipates \$10,000 for the 2022 audit, \$16,900 in legal fees (subject to change), \$6,000 for property/liability insurance, \$450 for workers compensation for the board, \$7,932 in utility bills for the Sun Hills property, \$32,000 committed for election funds (includes the election of three board members in May 2023 and the election for ballot questions in November), and \$96,934 for the TABOR fund.
- The total anticipated revenue is about \$3.2 million (includes property taxes and specific ownership taxes).
- About \$224,184 will remain with the district for expenses.
- The remainder (about \$3 million plus any additional revenue generated throughout 2023) will be transferred to MFD for operating costs, facilities, and personnel.

MFD is committed to provide the services the community expects, said Kovacs.

Financial review

The board reviewed the August financial report during the meeting. Schwarz requested a break-down of the grant funding.

Popovich said the grant funding was made up of \$11,914 from the COVID-19 relief grant, \$4,950 from the Colorado Firefighter Heart & Circulatory Trust, and \$7,107 from a safety grant received from a former insurance group. The total grant funding received year to date is about \$23,971.

The board accepted the financial report as presented, 4-0.

The board approved the board meeting minutes from July and August, 4-0.

Chief's report

Kovacs brought the board's attention to the following:

- The Wescott members of the Gleneagle L5314 International Association of Fire Fighters (IAFF) are now members of Monument Local 4319 IAFF.
- Firefighter Golden Rains, currently assigned to the Colorado Springs Fire Academy (CSFD) as an instructor, is promoted to engineer and is scheduled to be recognized at the MFD board meeting.
- The entry-level firefighter recruitment process is now closed, and the candidates will take a written test. This year the district received only about half the applicants of previous years, so the odds are in favor of the recruit.
- The recruitment and retention problems are not unique to the district or the fire industry, it is a national problem. Attendees were talking about the "great resignation" at the Fire Chief's Conference in San Antonio, Texas. No one is entirely sure where everyone is going or how they are earning a living.

CABIN ON LITTLE BADGER CREEK



This is Colorado! Cozy cabin on 40 acres is nestled in the mountains Northeast of Salida and surrounded by BLM! Built in the meadow above Little Badger Creek, this 1000 sf cabin has 2 bedrooms, 1 very nice bathroom with granite and custom tile finishes. A really fun upstairs bedroom with built-in storage, the staircase has custom, handcrafted spindles for an added rustic feel. A very functional kitchen with abundant cabinets, and a great room with a woodburning fireplace for those crisp, Colorado nights! Quality craftsmanship and charm abound in this 1950's cabin that has been updated and property that is well-groomed and ready to offer a summer full of adventure! There are two outbuildings, solar panels with battery back up, a generator, 500 gallon propane tank, and a spring fed cistern that has supplied plenty of water for over 65 years! The seller has built a couple of foot bridges that lead to a stone surround, fully-lined Coy pond and flagstone sitting area, with endless mountain views! This 40 acres offers boundless outdoor activity! Being surrounded by BLM, there are miles upon miles of roads to explore via ATV, UTV, horseback, hiking, or mountain biking! This is definitely tucked away but is year-round accessible via Sand Gulch, a BLM road. If you are looking for a REAL Colorado adventure lifestyle, ultimate privacy, hunting paradise, or just a place to relax and escape the craziness these days, Furnishings negotiable! CALL NOW! Priced to SELL at only \$599K.



Carol D. Games
(970) 846-5368 Mobile
(719) 539-1900 Office
carolg@WesternMtn.com

Homes Cabins Land Ranches **www.WesternMtn.com**

Licensed in Colorado and Wyoming

Take a stroll...

STOCK UP ON SUPPLIES!

Check out our NEW E-Store
 abetterhearingcenter.com/shop



without limits!

No matter what path you choose, make sure you take in all that autumn has to offer!

Enjoying the rich and vibrant colors of fall is nice, but it isn't the same if you're missing the sounds of crunching leaves and the crisp autumn breeze. Thankfully, A Better Hearing Center has solutions available to help you hear your best!

What path will you take, confident that you won't miss out on any of this season's sounds?

Contact us today about your hearing health.



A BETTER HEARING CENTER
 HAPPINESS IS BETTER HEARING

abetterhearingcenter.com • 719-627-9271



Jim Stobaugh
 HAD, HAS, NBC-HIS, BA

MONUMENT, CO
 574 W. Hwy 105
 Monument, CO 80132

WOODLAND PARK, CO
 316 W. Midland Ave.
 Woodland Park, CO 80863

FREE
 Hearing
 Screening

Expires 11/30/2022. Not to be combined with any other offer.