

- The Section "C" pipeline for the NDS project is in place and the team is putting Agate Creek Park back together.
 - The Old Creek Park recreation area is the first of five scheduled for replacement next year. The district is planning to replace one per year. Board requests on equipment preferences will be taken into consideration.
 - Five bids per park are anticipated, with a budget of about \$150,000 per park.
 - The district had received one estimate for about \$168,000 from A-to-Z Recreation, Littleton.
- Sexton suggested shade structures and seating for adults be included in the park equipment replacement project.
- Rayno said a concrete pad with steel bench and picnic table and a 10-

to 15-foot-tall shade structure could be installed for about \$10,000 to \$20,000 per park. The district staff would move the turf and sprinklers to lower costs. It would be nice to get folks out of the wind and sun and enjoy a picnic, he said.

Board director terms limited

The district's attorney, George Rowley of White Bear Ankele Tanaka & Waldron Attorneys at Law, Centennial, said the constitution provides term limits for directors serving on special district boards. The term limits apply only to elected four-year terms, allowing two consecutive four-year terms to be served. Interim terms that arise due to a vacancy or elected two-year terms created due to a vacancy do not count. After serving eight years, a di-

rector must wait four years before serving again. If a director resigns part way through a four-year term, it still counts as a full term. Partial terms do not count against the two four-year terms. If someone served two four-year terms, they could still fill a partial term, but the law is set to allow others to serve.

Otis disagreed that a board director could serve two four-year terms and then a two-year term.

Cummins said the two-year term would need to be appointed, but in the past the district was desperate for board members and there were zero interested parties. The board had to appoint existing members just to have a quorum and make decisions. There are others that do want to serve now.

Director Marco Fiorito is term limited and has five to six months left to serve on the board, said Otis.

Executive session

The board moved into an executive session at 8 p.m. in accordance with Colorado Revised Statutes 24-6-402(4) (a), (b), and (e), to discuss possible acquisitions, receive legal advice for negotiations regarding water litigation matters, property transactions, and water rights acquisitions instructions to negotiators, and legal advice regarding board interactions with public and private persons and organizations.

Meetings are usually held on the third Thursday of every month at the district office at 16055 Old Forest Point, Suite 302. The next regular board meeting is scheduled for Dec. 13 at 5:30 p.m. For meeting agendas, minutes, and updates, visit <https://triview-metro.com>. *Natalie Barszcz can be reached at nataliebarszcz@ocn.me.*

Donald Wescott Fire Protection District, Nov. 15

2023 budget approved; Sun Hills station's future undecided

By Natalie Barszcz

At the Donald Wescott Fire Protection District (DWFPD) meeting on Nov. 15, the board heard from the Sun Hills Homeowners Association (HOA) members and residents regarding the future of the disused Sun Hills station (formerly DWFPD Station 3). The board also approved the 2023 budget and discussed changes for the 2023 board meeting schedule. A pension board meeting was held after the regular meeting.

Director Mike Forsythe was excused from both meetings.

2023 budget public hearing

President Mark Gunderman made a motion to open the public hearing for the 2023 proposed budget. The board received no comments for or against the proposed budget, and closed the public hearing, 4-0.

Fire Chief Andy Kovacs said the proposed 2023 budget shared with the Board of Directors in October is unchanged. There will be significant reductions in the budget to maintain DWFPD as a taxing district. No funds are allocated for a board director election, but funds are budgeted for TABOR, legal fees (increased to \$75,000 in October), insurance, utilities for the Sun Hills station, and workers compensation for the board. The remaining revenue the district receives will be transferred to Monument Fire District for operating costs, said Kovacs. See www.ocn.me/v22n10.htm#dwfpd.

The district's attorney, Emily Powell of Ireland Stapleton Pryor Pascoe PC law firm, recommended the board approve the budget subject to the final property tax assessed values that could be slightly different when received in early December. Kovacs will tweak the budget numbers, if necessary, but board interaction will not be necessary, said Powell.

The board approved the 2023 proposed budget as presented, 4-0.

Note: Included in the approval was the adoption of 7.17 mills (for the district) and 15.25 mills (for the sub-district) in property tax collection for 2023. The board approved 4-1 a mill levy adjustment to offset a loss of revenue that will occur, due to the state Legislature's temporary drop in the Residential Assessment Rate for 2023. See www.ocn.me/v22n11.htm#dwfpd.

**Public comments—
Sun Hills property**

Administrative Assistant Stacey Popovich read a message received from resident Steve Simpson, commending Kovacs and the board for meeting with the residents regarding the disposition

of the Sun Hills property, and for listening to concerns and agreeing to find a solution to the problem. See www.ocn.me/v22n11.htm#dwfpd.

Resident Hants White of Pleasant View Estates (north of Sun Hills Estates) said he and the residents appreciated the board listening and engaging.

Sun Hills HOA board member Nancy Spalding said she had moved to the neighborhood in 1992 when dirt roads existed, and no fire services were available. Thirty years later things have changed, and the residents are thankful that the board and the district are listening to the residents.

Sun Hills property discussion

Gunderman said the following concerning the Sun Hills property:

- The board heard from the community at the October board meeting regarding the Sun Hills property and agreed to pause engaging a broker for 30 days to consider other viable options.
- After the meeting, he received several supportive and understanding emails, prompting an informal meeting with board members, the district fire chiefs, and about eight residents.
- The decision to sell or dispose of the property was simply a plan to complete another piece of the merger.
- He had assumed that if the property was sold, someone could give the old station some love and attention and enhance the community, but it became loud and clear that selling the property was not popular with the community.
- The .44-acre property was originally donated by a previous homeowner, and the HOA approved the donation to help the area and allow Wescott to have a presence.
- The district has evolved and the building is not needed anymore, but the sale was never intended to make a profit for the district, it was simply a decision made to be good neighbors.
- It is time to return the favor and be good community partners and look for different ideas for the property.
- He would discuss the ideas forthcoming from the productive community meeting with legal counsel and explore the options throughout 2023.

Treasurer Duane Garrett said some good ideas were presented at the meeting, and the board should explore the viability of those ideas and revisit the options after the merger is complete.

Kovacs said he is a huge communi-

ty advocate and wants to ensure the fire district has a strong relationship with community members. Those relationships will trump the financial benefit of selling the station, and both board and district staff will be very mindful during the decision-making process, he said.

Director Charles Fleece said the district is budgeted for 2023 and finding the right solution for the community will be the best course of action.

Gunderman said options will be explored next year after the November election.

Financial report

Secretary Larry Schwarz asked if the

district was due any additional Wildland Reimbursement revenue for 2022.

Popovich said that a brush truck did not deploy on wildland deployments, but all reimbursements had been received by the end of October.

Kovacs said that due to a number of firefighters in training and others attending paramedic school, the number of wildland deployments had been limited until staffing levels increase, and the district in partnership with the Local 4319 decided not to deploy as aggressively in 2022 as in the past.

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



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