

with shared plans for calls. By all accounts, the crews are having fun, and they say, "Don't worry, we got this!" Bradley said. We were cautiously optimistic that it would go this well, but it is working out better than expected and it is exceeding all expectations. The last day of the orientation process will be May 19, but it could end sooner, and then resources will deploy to the whole district and Station 5 will reopen, said Bradley.

Battalion Chief Mike Doolley said the crews have integrated into the stations and they are working well together. The only thing that is different right now is the uniform, and everyone is "pretty stoked," said Dooley.

Kovacs said the integration is going so well the crews are swapping attire and wearing each other's department logo ball caps.

**New aerial tower ladder for 2023**

Division Chief of Community Risk Jamey Bumgarner presented the board with the findings of the Truck Committee and said:

- The Truck Committee began meeting in October to discuss a purchase of an aerial tower ladder in 2023.
- The committee proposed the purchase of a Pierce Mid Mount Tower Ladder for \$1.59 million if signed by Jan. 30.
- Pricing is set to increase by 7%, about \$110,000 or more at the end of January.
- The 2023 budget approved \$1.575 million for a replacement tower truck using a finance agreement, and the district is requesting an additional expenditure of \$17,500 from the Capital Improvement Fund.
- Delivery is expected to take 19 to 21 months (August through October

- 2023) from signing.
- The current district aerial tower ladder truck was built in 2009 and is starting to show its age. It is anticipated to complete 13 years of front-line service and another five years in reserve.

Kovacs said the Truck Committee is all end users: Lieutenants, firefighters, and driver operators, and the participation and input they provided has directed the district to buy the truck to meet their needs and the district's. They have done a "great job" designing a truck and they stayed close to the budget, said Kovacs.

The board approved an additional \$17,000 for the purchase of a new tower ladder truck, 5-0.

The district is having to be more proactive with the slower manufacturing time frame to ensure availability, said Kovacs.

**Balance of unfunded expenses**

Kovacs said about \$300,000 in capital remains unspent from 2021. The district is still coding the final amount, but he recommended the amount be moved to the capital expenditure account for future fleet repairs, noting that expenses had increased far more than an anticipated 2% in 2021, and it would be beneficial to front-load the capital expenditure account for future purchases.

**AMR update**

Kovacs introduced Battalion Chief Sean Pearson of DWFPD and said he has taken on the role of EMS coordinator with Paramedic Stephanie Soll.

Pearson said:

- He attended a meeting with American Medical Response (AMR) and heard some of its staff are recovering from COVID-19 and will be returning to

- shift.
- AMR will begin back-to-back new hire academies on Jan. 31, and that will put six to 10 additional staff back into its workforce after each class graduation.
- AMR requested coverage from the district 66 times in December, and it only happened one other time throughout 2021. Reciprocally, they have responded eight times this year, and other districts are also assisting AMR. See the DWFPD article on page 1.

**Sale of 2014 ambulance**

Hildebrandt requested the board approve the sale of the 2014 ambulance for \$30,000 to Cimarron Hills Fire Department. The ambulance was purchased from Castlerock Fire Department for the sale price three years ago.

The board approved the sale, 5-0.

**ISO rating update**

Kovacs said the district received an Insurance Services Office (ISO) rating of 3/3Y, and it will remain unchanged for the next couple of years. Battalion Chief Scott Ridings is working on the district goal of achieving an accreditation of ideally a 1 or a 2 rating, and Battalion Chief of Training Kris Mola is capturing information with the ISO target solutions software, said Kovacs.

Division Chief of Community Risk/Fire Marshal Jamey Bumgarner said the following:

- The classification range is 1-10 with 1 being the best and 10 the worst. A rating of class 3 is good, and the Y indicates the areas that are not within five road miles of a fire station and within 1,000 feet of a fire hydrant.
- Commercial property will realize the most insurance savings when the district

- achieves a 1 or 2 rating.
- By the time the 2023 ladder truck is built, the district will be well on its way to achieving a higher ISO rating, and the district may well have two ladder trucks, with one in reserve.
- More commercial properties are being built in the district, and as many as 900 multi-family/individual apartment units are planned throughout it.
- The ISO rating will be evaluated again once the merger is complete, in less than three years.

Pearson said DWFPD was evaluated in 2021 and received an ISO rating of 2/2Y.

Kovacs said the following:

- ISO ratings are conducted on 40,000 stations nationwide every five to seven years, with only 388 receiving an ISO rating of 1.
- Typically, metropolitan fire departments with water supply and more stations receive a rating of 1, and TLMFPD was initially a rural district with a ranking of 10.
- As more municipal and domestic water becomes available, to include the addition of fire hydrants along Highway 105, the rating should drop.

**Impact fees**

Kovacs said he and Bumgarner recently discussed impact fees with two homebuilders, and they are open to the fees but they would require universally collected impact fees from all homebuilders. The collection of impact fees is currently not required countywide and the conversations need to continue and be discussed with the Home Builders Association, the El Paso Board of County Commissioners, the homebuilders and neighboring fire departments, said Kovacs.

**Chief's report**

Kovacs said the following:

- The district participated in a wildland preparedness town hall meeting on Jan. 19, and the level of participation and commitment to wildfire preparedness was impressive. The meeting addressed concerns that were raised after the Marshall Fire on Dec. 30. See

"Experts address danger of local wildfires" article on page 13.

- The district is taking homeowners association bookings for the summer chipping program. See the DWFPD article on page 1, visit [www.tlmfire.org](http://www.tlmfire.org), or call 719-484-0911.
- The district completed 380 training hours in November and 421 in December, with over 5,600 training hours for the entire year.
- The ladder truck was expected to return from maintenance on Jan. 28.
- Three personnel from TLMFPD and two from Wescott are scheduled to begin training at the Fire Academy at South Metro Fire District, Denver, on Jan. 2.

**Designation of election official for 2022 district election**

Kovacs said due to the state Legislature changing the election cycle in an effort to offset special district elections to an odd-year cycle, the board of director seats for President John Hildebrandt, Secretary Mike Smaldino, and Director Tom Kelly are up for reelection for three-year terms in May 2022.

Kovacs requested the board approve Resolution 2022-01 calling for the 2022 regular district election and appointing a designated election official.

The board approved the resolution and designated Kovacs as the election official, 5-0.

**Note:** Self-nomination forms must be completed by close of business on Feb. 25 at the TLMFPD Administration Office, 16055 Old Forest Pointe, Suite 102, Monument, CO 80132.

The meeting adjourned at 8:30 p.m.

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Meetings are usually held on the fourth Wednesday of the month. The next regular board meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, Feb. 23 at 6:30 p.m. at TLMFPD Station 1, 18650 Highway 105. For Zoom meeting instructions, agendas, minutes, and updates, visit [www.tlmfire.org](http://www.tlmfire.org) or contact Director of Administration Jennifer Martin at 719-484-9011.

*Natalie Barszcz can be reached at [nataliebarszcz@ocn.me](mailto:nataliebarszcz@ocn.me).*

**Monument Board of Trustees, Jan. 3**

**Ballot issue 2F funds already working to improve MPD**

*By Allison Robenstein*

During the Jan. 3 Monument Board of Trustees regular meeting, two Monument police officers were promoted to commander positions. A remote attendance policy for the board members was put on hold, but a decision was made to continue the town's radium removal program.

Trustee Ron Stephens attended virtually.

**Two new police commanders sworn in**

Monument Police Chief Cristian Hemingway said two new commanders will oversee patrol and administration. The extra

commander position was made possible after ballot question 2F passed. The expected \$1.65 million in sales tax revenues resulting from the issue passing will be used to improve the Police Department.

Commander Tim Johnson, who joined the Monument department in 2019, retired from the U.S. Navy after 20 years of service. Since becoming a Monument officer, he has worked as a training and driving instructor. Johnson teaches community college classes as an adjunct professor.

Commander John Lupton joined the Monument Police



## Now Open!

# MVEA BOARD NOMINATIONS

2021

One Member. One Vote. Your Voice Matters.

During the virtual Annual Meeting on June 3, 2021, three directors will be elected to the Mountain View Electric Association, Inc. Board of Directors from the following districts:

District 1: Limon, Karval, Genoa and surrounding areas (*incumbent Joseph D. Martin*)  
 District 4: Calhan, Peyton, a portion of Black Forest and surrounding areas (*incumbent Milton L. Mathis*)  
 District 6: Falcon, Cimarron Hills, a portion of Black Forest and surrounding areas (*incumbent Barry R. Springer*)

The "Procedure for Director Elections and Member Voting" is available on MVEA's website at [www.mvea.coop/annual-meeting](http://www.mvea.coop/annual-meeting).  
 To view a territory map with districts, visit [www.mvea.coop/territory-map](http://www.mvea.coop/territory-map).

Are you interested in being an MVEA Board of Directors candidate? A candidate must be an MVEA member and reside in the district where there is a vacancy. Visit MVEA's Annual Meeting web page at [www.mvea.coop/annual-meeting](http://www.mvea.coop/annual-meeting) for additional candidate requirements. Click on "By-laws" and go to Article III, Section 2. A member interested in nomination should contact the MVEA Board Nomination Information Line at (719) 494-2528 and leave a message. You will be contacted to verify your membership, district, and to begin the nomination process. A member may seek election by nomination by the nominating committee or nomination by petition.

- To be nominated by the nominating committee, please contact the MVEA Board Nomination Information Line at (719) 494-2528. If seeking election by nomination through the nominating committee, a candidate questionnaire must be received by MVEA to be submitted to the committee by 5:30 p.m., Thursday, March 25, 2021.
- To be nominated by petition, you must have the petition signed by 15 MVEA members. Petitions and procedures will be made available by contacting the MVEA Board Nomination Information Line at (719) 494-2528. The petition, along with a completed candidate questionnaire, must be received by MVEA by 5:30 p.m., Monday, April 19, 2021.

A candidate questionnaire must be completed for either nomination by the committee or nomination by petition. If you have questions, please contact the MVEA Board Nomination Information Line.

Nominating Committee

District 1: Steve Burgess • District 4: Ed Kovitz • District 6: Lavern Kauffman

MVEA Board Nomination Information Line  
 Tel: (719) 494-2528  
 Email: [candidate@mvea.coop](mailto:candidate@mvea.coop)



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