

Other districts are looking at using out-of-county dispatch services, sending county dollars away for dispatch services, said Langmaid.

Tarvainen asked if more ground ladders would be helpful and if the district had calculated the percentage of homes that would potentially require an aerial ladder.

Langmaid said BFFRPD does not know how many of the district's 8,000 structures would require an aerial ladder truck.

Piepenburg said that typically a structure fire initially receives two engines, two tenders, a chief, and an ambulance. A call for mutual aid from Falcon Fire Protection District or TLMFPD takes longer to get when the district requires more apparatus.

Resident Hugh Carver suggested that the district consider saving money by purchasing a used truck of about 6 years old or a ladder-carrying truck.

Piepenburg said that a used truck would likely be about 20 years old and "run in," and a ladder tender has limited capability. Ladder trucks are the most expensive apparatus, and departments do not turn them in as frequently as other apparatus.

Tri-Lakes Monument Fire Protection District, May 25

## Former board director remembered

By Natalie Barszcz

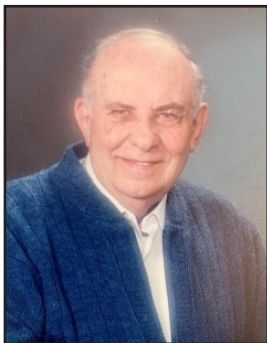
At the Tri-Lakes Monument Fire Protection District (TLMFPD) meeting on May 25, the board held a moment of silence for the passing of a former board director and the 21 innocent lives lost in Texas. The directors also determined new board positions and held an executive session to discuss the full-service contract between the district and Donald Wescott Fire Protection District (DWFPD). President John Hildebrandt attended via Zoom.

Treasurer Jason Buckingham was on duty and unable to join the meeting until 7:26 p.m. Secretary Mike Smaldino did not attend.

### In remembrance

A moment of silence was held to honor the passing of former TLMFPD board President Charlie Pocock and the 21 innocent lives lost at Robb Elementary School, Uvalde, Texas.

Fire Chief Andy Kovacs shared some of Pocock's obituary and recognized his distinguished military service, amazing career, and service to the country and the community. Pocock, who passed on May 14, was a resident of Palmer Lake until 2017 and served on multiple volunteer boards, including the Palmer Lake Town Council, Palmer Lake Historical Society, Tri-Lakes Cares, and 15 years as president on the TLMFPD Board of Directors.



Above: Charles "Charlie" Pocock. Photo provided by TLMFPD.

Hildebrandt said he had spent many hours with Charlie during the unification between the Woodmoor Fire Department and TLMFPD, and that was quite an accomplishment.

### Wescott unification—full-service contract

Kovacs said the board would discuss the full-service contract in executive session and said:

- The district is 99% of the way toward signing a full-service contract.
- The full-service contract is now expected to take effect on Aug. 28, when TLMFPD begins its next pay period. See the DWFPD article on page 14.
- The district is waiting for DWFPD board President Mark Gunderman to find a date to convene a "special meeting" with the DWFPD board, to sign the broker of record for the TLMFPD insurance brokers.
- The DWFPD employees will be brought over as TLMFPD employees on the same day, with insurance and Firefighters Police Pension Association benefits intact.
- Another broker of record will be required to start facilitating the next step of deeding the DWFPD facilities and apparatus.
- The joint boards will then meet and sign the inter-governmental agreement—full-service contract at a date to be determined.

Kovacs thanked Director of Administration Jennifer Martin for being the "go-to subject matter expert" during the process when it comes to health care plans, payroll, and benefits.

### Board positions determined

Kovacs requested the board decide and determine the new board positions.

Director Terri Hayes said the positions should remain the same.

Langmaid said the district could look at a ladder tender in the interim, but maintenance could be high, and the district is trying to look after the district tax dollars.

### Chief's report

Langmaid said the following:

- The wildland fire risk assessments began in April, and so far 131 properties had been assessed.
- Piepenburg attended the FDIC International, Indianapolis, national firefighter conference from April 25-30 and taught a two-day class during the event. He will teach the FDIC International "Man versus Machine" technical rescue course at CSFD. A \$5,000 grant is helping to pay for the class.
- A small parcel for a fire station exists in the Sterling Ranch development, and a discussion with the developer was planned in late May or June to see how it should look.
- Tentatively, a third station in the Sterling Ranch development would need three personnel and house an engine, brush truck, and tender.

Abendschan asked who would pay for a station and what

Director Tom Kelly said he supported Hayes and "let the horse run."

Hildebrandt said Treasurer Jason Buckingham had done a fine job as treasurer, but he had indicated that he would prefer to return to a director position.

Director Tom Kelly accepted the position of treasurer.

The following positions—John Hildebrandt as board president, Roger Lance as vice president, Mike Smaldino as secretary, Tom Kelly as treasurer, and Jason Buckingham, Terri Hayes, and Tom Tharnish as directors—were approved by the board, 5-0.

### Wildfire pre-plans

Kovacs said Mike Rohde and Associates consultants had visited the district and met with the stakeholders, and he added:

- Division Chief of Operations Jonathan Bradley accompanied the consultants on a tour of the areas to be included in the 2022 wildfire pre-plans.
- The consultants are expanding the Woodmoor plan to include the Arrowwood community and will combine the pre-plan for Red Rocks Ranch and Forest Lakes (to include all the properties in between those communities).
- The consultants think they will be able to reduce the total number of plans, making the project more cost effective.
- The consultants also toured DWFPD and will create a plan there in the future.
- The plans will be strategic, tactical tools for the chief and first arriving officer to start taking action and mitigate emergencies.
- Some information will be sensitive and confidential, but general information will be shared with the public.

Hildebrandt said he would be totally against combining the wildfire pre-plan for Red Rocks Ranch with Forest Lakes, due to the different topography, varying age of homes, and exit routes.

Bradley said he drove the areas with the consultants from Rohde and Associates, and the plans are not continuous, or a one size fits all, and there is not enough complexity to warrant a separate plan for the south plateau. The consultants believe they can provide a product that reflects each area, including access points with enough detail to be relevant for each community, said Bradley.

Kovacs said the district will have the opportunity to make the final decision on each pre-plan.

### Mitigation efforts continue

Kovacs said the best way to get neighbors committed to pre-fire mitigation is to lead by example, and the district is conducting free home mitigation inspections, offering advice to homeowners on how to tackle mitigation. Visit [www.tlmfire.org](http://www.tlmfire.org) for details on mitigation inspections.

Division Chief of Administration/Fire Marshal Jamey Bumgarner said the district receives a large number of complaints about neighbors unwilling to mitigate, and although the district continues to get the message out, it cannot enforce compliance. The recent state fires sparked a lot of interest in mitigation, and the district is in partnership with the Tri-Lakes United Methodist Church Emergency Preparedness Group to help engage homeowners associations (HOA) or groups of homeowners that require a chipping event. For more information, visit [www.tlumc.org/outreach/epg](http://www.tlumc.org/outreach/epg) or Facebook page: Wildfire Neighborhood Ambassadors.

"The district chipping program is currently fully booked through September," said Kovacs.

Hayes said some residents do not belong to a HOA and suggested the district consider placing information

about impact fee collection for new development.

Langmaid said the district gets the revenue when the residence is occupied, but services are needed as soon as ground is broken.

The meeting adjourned at 8:47 p.m.

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Meetings are usually held on the third Wednesday of the month at Station 1, 11445 Teachout Road, Colorado Springs. Meetings are open to the public in person or via Zoom. The next regular meeting was rescheduled to June 22 at 7 p.m. For joining instructions, updates, agendas, and minutes, visit [www.bffire.org](http://www.bffire.org) or contact Administrative Officer Rachel Dunn at [admin@bffire.org](mailto:admin@bffire.org) or call 719-495-4300.

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