

Water and Sanitation District (WWSD) to discuss purchasing the Station 3 property. The discussion is ongoing, but if the district does not sell the property to WWSD, then Station 3

may be rebuilt on the site. See WWSD article on page 8.

- The district discussed options for fire services with the Town of Palmer Lake, but the ball is in their

court. See PLBOT article on page 17.

- Four recruits graduated from the fire academy at South Metro District, Denver. The graduates are undergoing a three-month onboarding process before joining a shift in September.
- Two firefighters are attending a fire academy at the Colorado Springs Fire Department, and firefighter Golden Rains is providing instruction at the academy until paramedic Charles Ragland replaces Rains as an instructor for the final two months of the course.
- The Station 1 property could be subdivided to create a 10-acre residen-

tial park, and the district would move the future planned training tower to the Town of Monument Public Works Department on Synthes Avenue. The district would retain the remaining 4 acres behind the station.

- The district presented a plan to create a dispatch steering committee to the El Paso County fire chiefs. The county is growing and system-wide changes need to be addressed.

Bumgarner said that a major entryway change is planned at Station 5 (Shamrock Station 2) on Highway 83/Stage Coach Road. The extensive upgrade does not involve the district and is being implemented by Flying Horse

North, said Bumgarner. For more information see the TLMFPD article on page 13. The meeting adjourned at 5:14 p.m.

Meetings are usually held on the third Tuesday of every month at MFPD Station 1, 18650 Highway 105, at 4 p.m. The next regular board meeting is scheduled for Aug. 16 at 4 p.m. Meeting attendance is open to the public in person or via Zoom. For joining instructions, agendas, minutes, and updates visit www.wescott-fire.org or www.tlmfire.org or contact Administrative Assistant Stacey Popovich at 719-488-8680.

Natalie Barszcz can be reached at nataliebarszcz@ocn.me.



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Black Forest Fire/Rescue Protection District, July 20

Staff lost and gained; lease/purchase agreement approved

By Natalie Barszcz

At the Black Forest Fire Rescue Protection District (BFFRPD) meeting on July 20, the board heard about staff losses and the recently hired replacement staff, approved a lease/purchase agreement for an engine,

and received multiple updates to include the approved used ladder truck.

Director Kiersten Tarvainen was excused until 7:09 p.m.

Staffing update

Chairman Nathan Dowden said the district had recently received four staff resignations, with two personnel leaving for positions closer to home in Denver and Bailey, another no longer able to work two full-time firefighter positions, and the other had left to take an engineer/driver position, a rank that does not exist within the department. The district had recruited five firefighters from across the nation via social media, and since June those new hires are attending a basic training fire academy at the Colorado Springs Fire Department (CSFD). A new training division officer, Capt. Jason Morrison, had joined the district, said Dowden.

Tower ladder truck update

Treasurer Jack Hinton said an extended warranty for 90 days on a tower ladder truck had been

quoted for \$2,300, but it would not be worth the cost. However, the board had approved a lighting package, and the paint and decal package, to be completed at Brindlee Mountain Fire Apparatus in Alabama. The district staff would avoid having to transport the ladder truck back and forth to Denver, and the in-state quote was almost identical to the Brindlee quote for paint and decals, said Hinton. The board unanimously approved the purchase of a 2005 used Aerialscope ladder truck for a total not to exceed \$350,000 at its June meeting. See www.ocn.me/v22n7.htm#bffrpd.

Dowden thanked the entire team for identifying the ladder truck and said it speaks volumes to an open leadership that is willing to explore different options. Dowden also thanked resident Hugh Carver for suggesting the district search for a used model to reduce costs. Hinton said purchasing a used truck had saved the district about \$1.25 million.

Lease/purchase agreement

Hinton said the board had approved the purchase of a Pierce Enforcer Pumper Engine for \$631,554 at the April 21, 2021 meeting. See www.ocn.me/v21n5.htm#bffrpd.

Dowden requested the board approve Resolution 2022-02 to resolve the signing authority for Hinton and Fire Chief PJ Langmaid to sign a 10-year lease/purchase agreement for \$356,000.

The board unanimously approved the lease/purchase agreement.

Financial report

Hinton presented the financial report, but due to poor sound quality recording from the Zoom meeting, OCN was unable to decipher any of the report.

The board unanimously accepted the financial report as presented.

2021 audit extension request

Hinton requested the board approve a request from the district auditor Dawn Schilling of Schilling and Co. Inc., Littleton, for a two-month extension for the 2021 audit.