

- There would be no option to strike due to the vital nature of the service firefighters provide.
- TLMFPD would be the first district with a CBA within El Paso County.

Hildebrandt said he did not feel the process was broken, and impasse resolution could be hurtful. He requested Kovacs explain the major benefit the board would gain from having a CBA versus the Meet and Confer plus agreement.

- Kovacs said the following:
 - The process will be similar if the Board of Directors agrees to pursue a CBA, with a thorough legal review by both parties.
 - The benefit would be a higher level of participation from the union on issues relating to wages, benefits, and working conditions, giving the fire-

- fighters a voice.
 - A fire chief can listen to everything the union asks of a fire district, but ultimately as it stands with the Meet and Confer Plus agreement, the fire chief and the board have the management rights to choose to accept requests from the union.
 - A third party would help mediate the process in reaching a mutual decision.

Kovacs thanked Ruona and Schmidt for the CBA presentation and said the board would move into an executive session to receive legal counsel on the process of pursuing a CBA versus a Meet and Confer Plus agreement.

Note: Local 4319 requested the board explore the possibility of a CBA on Feb. 28, 2018. Af-

ter much discussion between all parties, the board agreed to a Collaborative Meet and Confer Plus Agreement on Aug. 28, 2019. See www.ocn.me/v19n9.htm#tlmfpd.

State insurance program
District counsel Jennifer Madson of Widner Juran LLP of Centennial gave a presentation to the board on the Colorado Paid Family and Medical Leave Insurance program (FAMLI) and said:

- Colorado voters approved the FAMLI program in November 2020. See <https://famli.colorado.gov>.
- The program provides partial salary during periods of family and medical leave.
- Public employers can opt out of the program, and most local governments had made the decision to opt out.
- Employees do not really want the program and see the program as money taken from pay.
- TLMFPD employees already have a 12-week paid family and medical leave insurance program.
- Individual employees may choose to participate.
- The decision to opt out would last for eight years, and the board would need to revisit the decision in 2030.

Kovacs said the employees had been provided notice and given the opportunity to provide input, but the executive staff received no comments. Board meeting attendees were given the opportunity to comment on resolution 2022-05 regarding the district's decision to decline participation in and opt out of the FAMLI program. Resident Gary Nelson said it seems like a tax.

In a roll-call vote, the board approved to opt out of the program, 6-0.

Lease/purchase agreement

Kovacs requested the board approve a lease/purchase financing agreement with PNC Equipment Finance LLC for an amount not to exceed \$829,680 for a stock Pierce Enforcer Engine. The board approved the apparatus purchase at the June board meeting. See www.ocn.me/v22n7.htm#tlmfpd.



Above: TLMFPD recently installed a U.S flag retirement box at Station 1, 18650 Highway 105. The box is located at the east-facing side entry door. Photo by Natalie Barszcz.

Director of Administration/Fire Marshal Jamey Bumgarner said the apparatus is expected in January 2023.

In a roll-call vote, the board approved the agreement, 6-0.

Volunteer chaplain program

Kovacs said more firefighters are lost to suicide than to firefighting, and although the district has a robust Peer Support program, a chaplain program handbook had been developed. The district had identified two volunteer chaplains; both are already providing support to the Monument Police Department (MPD). The volunteer chaplains would provide support to the district firefighters, spend about eight hours per month riding along with the firefighters, and officiate over events. The district would have to pay for the chaplain uniforms, said Kovacs.

The board approved the volunteer program, 6-0.

Wescott unification – full services contract

Kovacs said Aug. 28 will be the implementation date for the DWFPD staff to be transferred to the TLMFPD payroll. The DWFPD staff will be given the option of a cash payout or a transfer of sick leave time to the TLMFPD balance. The cash payout from DWFPD for the employees will be about \$70,000, and about half of the employees elected to transfer sick leave. The legal counsel, executive staff, and board members are working with brokers to update the insurance and medical plans and transfer the assets. Everything except the former DWFPD Station 6 (formerly 3, located at Sun Hills Drive) will be included. See [DWFPD article on page 11](#).

Financial report—June 30

Treasurer Tom Kelly said that as of June 30, the overall revenue received year to date was about \$8.6 million, representing 66.8% of the projected 2022 income budget that is expected to be about \$12.9 million. Overall expenses were about \$4.79 million year to date—about 47.1% of the projected 2022 total expense of about \$10.1 million. Fifteen electronic transactions were reviewed and of note were:

- \$51,700 for the Station 1 concrete apron (first of two payments).
- \$20,000 for the West Metro Fire Academy.
- \$16,268 for wildfire pre-plans.
- \$11,461 for fuel.

The board accepted the financial report as presented, 6-0.

Chief's report

Kovacs said the following:

- The district responded to American Medical Response requests out of district about 14 times in June.
- Call volume and ambulance requests had increased from June 2021.
- The combined district is trending about 542 hours of training per month.
- The district is on track to achieve all the projected goals for the year.
- The concrete apron at Station 1 had been completed for about \$103,000.
- The Gleneagle Professional Firefighters Local 5314 will join Monument Local 4319 in early August, creating one voice for the firefighting staff.

Dispatch concerns

Hildebrandt said a water main break had occurred on July 24 at Red Rocks Ranch, and Forest View Acres Water District (FVAWD) did not inform the residents and TLMFPD.

Division Chief of Operations Jonathan Bradley said FVAWD informed the Palmer Lake Fire Department (PLFD) through daily dispatch. TLMFPD, Black Forest Fire/Rescue Protection District, and the El Paso County Sheriff's Office (Dispatch Center) had been notified to send tenders if a fire occurred. FVAWD will be contacted to ensure policy and procedures include notifying TLMFPD and PLFD, said Bradley.

Executive session

The board moved into an executive session at 8:36 p.m. pursuant to Colorado Revised Statute 24-6-402(4)(b) for conference with legal counsel for the purpose of receiving legal advice on a collective bargaining agreement and on setting mill levies.

Kovacs confirmed that when the board returned to the regular meeting at 10:20 p.m., no action was taken.

The regular meeting adjourned at 10:21 p.m.

Meetings are usually held on the fourth Wednesday of the month. The next regular board meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, Aug. 24 at 6:30 p.m. at TLMFPD Station 1, 18650 Highway 105. For Zoom meeting instructions, agendas, minutes, and updates, visit www.tlmfire.org or contact Director of Administration Jennifer Martin at 719-484-9011.

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

CONCERTS IN THE PARK

Wednesday Evenings at Limbach Park
June 8-August 17, 2022

JUNE 8	7pm	Ashtōnz
JUNE 15	7pm	Mosquito Pass
JUNE 22	7pm	WireWood Station
JUNE 29	6:30pm	Go Go Girtzilla & Eighty3
JULY 13	7pm	Missy and the Dirty Secrets
JULY 20	7pm	Mojo Filter
JULY 27	7pm	Skin & Bones
AUG 3	6:30pm	SofaKillers
AUG 10	6:30pm	WireWood Station
AUG 17	6:30pm	Sandy Wells

No alcohol/liquor permitted.

Food Trucks!

SPONSORS NEEDED! Please email events@tomgov.org. Thank you. For more information and updates, visit www.TownofMonument.org.

Anne Shimek Retrospective

a Palmer Lake ceramic artist | Sep 2 & 3, 2022

Fri, Sep 2
Opening Reception 5:00 - 8:00

Sat, Sep 3
Exhibit Open 12:00 - 8:00

located in Historic
Downtown Palmer Lake
Journey's End Restaurant
11 Primrose St
Palmer Lake, CO 80133

A PopUp Palmer Lake Event
presented by
The Palmer Lake Arts Council