

WWSD (Cont. from 14)

Contract with Chilcott Ditch Co. renewed

Shaffer presented an updated contract between WWSD and the Chilcott Ditch Co. to the board. He said the new contract did not increase the management fees that WWSD charges the ditch company, but it did increase the hourly pay rate for the ditch riders who maintain the waterway to \$36.75 per hour.

The board voted unanimously to approve the updated contract.

Highlights of operational reports

- Operations Superintendent Dan LaFontaine reported that about 600 of the district's water meters have been replaced with more advanced meters that improve accuracy and in-

terface with WWSD's billing software.

- The utility relocations required by expansion of Highway 105 were to go out to bid in December.
- Shaffer reported that Monument Junction East and West are moving forward rapidly, with a steel sleeve for water and sewer lines installed under Jackson Creek Parkway, sewer lines in place, and water lines partially installed.
- Bush reported that the proposed Monument Ridge East development, located just south of County Line Road and east of I-25, had withdrawn its application to be annexed by the Town of Monument.

Correction

In the article on WWSD in the Dec. 3 issue of OCN,

Monument Sanitation District, Dec. 21

Employees get 9% pay increase

By Jackie Burhans and James Howald

At its December meeting, the Monument Sanitation District (MSD) board approved raises for MSD staff. The board made plans for an election in May that will fill three board seats. A yearly resolution documenting procedural issues was also passed, and the board heard operational reports.

MSD staff gets 9% pay increase

Following an executive session, the board voted to increase staff pay by 9% overall, which includes both a cost-of-living and a merit increase. All district employees will receive the increase.

Three seats on ballot

An election to be held on May 2, 2023, will decide three seats on the MSD board. Seats held by Dan Hamilton, Laura Kronick, and Marylee Reising will be on the ballot. Board Secretary Reising is term-limited and may not run again. Board members are elected to four-year terms. The district building at 130 Second St. will serve as the polling place between 7 a.m. and 7 p.m.

Candidates for the open board seats must file a Self-Nomination and Acceptance form between Jan. 1, 2023, and Feb. 24, 2024. The board appointed

Peggy Rupp of Collins, Cole Flynn Winn & Ullmer PLLC as the Designated Election Official. Rupp can be reached by email at prupp@cogovlaw.com.

If three or fewer candidates fill a nomination form with Rupp, the election will be cancelled.

Annual housekeeping resolution passed

The board voted unanimously to approve Resolution 12212022-2, which establishes many of the procedures by which the district operates, for example:

- All legal notices will be published in the Colorado Springs Gazette.
- All meetings will be posted at the district office building at 130 Second St.
- Regular meetings will be held at 9 a.m. on the third Wednesday of each month.
- The district manager is the budget officer.

Highlights of operational reports

- The lift station for the Willow Springs neighborhood is in production and moving about 19,000 gallons of wastewater daily.
- Tenants in the district's office building were notified of a rent increase just under 5 percent to begin with the renewal of their leases on

I attributed a comment about raising tap fees to Jim Wyss. Wyss left the board earlier in 2022. In fact, it was Director Bill Clewe who said he believed raising tap fees would not discourage development in the WWSD service area. OCN regrets the misattribution.

The next meeting is scheduled for Jan. 9, 2023, at 1 p.m. Meetings are usually held on the second Monday of each month at 1 p.m. at the district office at 1845 Woodmoor Drive; please see www.woodmoorwater.com or call 719-488-2525 to verify meeting times and locations.

James Howald can be reached at jameshowald@ocn.me.

Black Forest Fire/Rescue Protection District, Dec. 7

2023 budget approved, mill levy certified

By Natalie Barszcz

At the Black Forest Fire Rescue Protection District (BFFRPD) meeting on Dec. 7, the board approved the 2023 budget and certified the mill levy; approved the 2023 election for the directors, appointing a designated election official; and witnessed two firefighters take the oath of office. The board also received multiple updates.

2023 budget and mill levy certification

President Nate Dowden requested the board approve Resolution 2022-04 adopting the 2023 budget, summarizing expenditures and revenues, and certifying the mill levy at 14.951 mills to generate about \$3.7 million for the general operation of the district. See www.ocn.me/v22n12.htm#bffrpd.

The board unanimously approved the resolution.

2023 district election

Dowden requested the board approve Resolution 2022-05, calling for the 2023 regular district election of directors and appointing the Administrative Officer Rachel Dunn as the designated election official.

The board unanimously approved the resolution.

Firefighters take the oath

Deputy Chief of Operations Chris Piepenburg announced that after passing their probationary reviews, firefighters John Dillon and Jason Higdon would be administered the oath of office. The badges the firefighters receive are on loan and represent a symbol to the community that states they will serve to the best of their ability. The badges are owned and paid for by the community and they are lent to firefighters for as long as they display the top standards and what the community expects when they call 911, he said.

The oath of office was administered by Dowden, and family members pinned on the firefighter badges.

Water availability

Dowden asked Deputy Chief James Rebitski about the location of the Northern Delivery System (NDS) pipeline project route, and if Black Forest would be gaining access to the Colorado Springs Utilities (CSU) tank south of Old Ranch Road and west of Black Forest Road.

Rebitski said the district had been asked to comment on the NDS project because it runs about 100 yards into the district's territory, however it will run from the CSU plant from Highway 83/Northgate Road, north under Roller Coaster Road to the intersection of Hodgen/Baptist Roads, then west about a quarter mile until it routes north behind the Sanctuary Pointe development to the Triview Metropolitan District (TMD) plant. To his knowledge no conversation had occurred between the district and the Colorado Springs fire marshal's office regarding the use of any CSU tank, but 15 fire hydrants are planned along the route of the NDS pipeline. The district will have access to hydrants in an emergency, he said. See www.ocn.me/v22n11.htm#tvmd.

Note: The NDS pipeline is a TMD enterprise designed to convey, treat, and deliver water owned by TMD via CSU's. See www.ocn.me/v22n12.htm#tvmd.

Resident Linda Smith asked about the water cistern on Treasurer Jack Hinton's property.

Hinton said the 10,000-gallon cistern belongs to the district, and it is inspected regularly by the Fire Department.

Rebitski said there are several cisterns on private properties and the district has signed agreements to use those cisterns when needed. Just before COVID-19, a typical quote for an installed 10,000-gallon cistern cost about \$2.50 per gallon (about \$25,000). He had recently been asked about the cost of a 30,000-gallon cistern required for a

subdivision awaiting final approval off of Shoup Road, but costs could be higher now, he said.

Financial report

Treasurer Jack Hinton said that as of Nov. 30, the district had about \$1.262 million in the operational checking account.

The board unanimously accepted the financial report as presented.

Chief's report

Administrative Officer Rachel Dunn said the district received the following for November:

- Ambulance revenue—\$8,834.
- Deployment revenue—\$10,951.
- Total tax revenue was expected to be received on Dec. 10.

Rebitski said the following:

- The district is setting up the static IP address for the Station Alerting system.
- The district is working on facility planning for Stations 2 and 1, and the potential for a new Station 2.
- Several members of the department are submitting ideas to modify station facilities, and sketch plans are being created to save time in the future.
- Pump testing was completed in November and all four pumps "passed with flying colors."
- Heaters have been installed in the barn to create a vehicle repair workshop. Before they can be "fired up," Black Hills Energy will need to install a meter.
- All 11 of the high visibility fire danger signs are now installed around the district.
- Residential risk assessments are performed as personnel are available. For more information, visit www.bffire.org.

Piepenburg said the operational staff are training about 23.4% of their working hours, and that