

snow run-off begins.

- At the end of February and in early March, the pre-emergent herbicide weed control application will begin.
- Snow clearing is the priority in the winter.

Barnhart complimented the district on the snow clearing during the Jan. 17-18 storm, saying the Public Works staff did a phenomenal job.

Rayno said the crews worked 10-hour shifts to complete the major roads and side streets in the recent heavy storm, the staff are getting better educated with every storm, and he thanked the board for their compliments.

Otis asked about street parking problems during snow clearing operations.

Rayno said it happens just about everywhere, but it is the worst in Sanctuary Pointe where the roads are narrow, and due to the higher elevation of that neighborhood the roads become icy, and it is challenging. It is the homeowner's responsibility to clear driveways and sidewalks, and the staff make every effort to slow down and avoid spraying snow back on sidewalks, he said. For the Public Works snow removal policy, visit

www.triviewmetro.com.

Public comments

Resident Eric Lingle said at the request of a neighbor, the district installed signs in his neighborhood stating "private property of Triview." That same neighbor has also planted shrubs in the space and had thrown dog excrement into the open space to deter trespassers. It appears they are attempting to claim the space as their private property along an unofficial path that runs up to a district park. Those same neighbors ran out of their house last night to scream at children sledding on the open space in an effort to enforce the signs.

Lingle said it is a joy to see kids playing in the woods, and it does not bother him, but his grave concern is that children go home and complain to parents, and that could escalate into a bad interaction between neighbors. He has not seen anyone misusing the path in 12 years, and other neighbors are not bothered by the children playing. He can, however, hear everything that is going on whenever there is an interaction on

the path, and it would be beneficial if the district could incorporate the path into the greenbelt of the district and remove the signs, he said.

Executive session

The board moved into an executive session at 7:15 p.m., pursuant to Colorado Revised Statutes 24-6-402(4)(a), (b), (e), to discuss acquisitions, receive legal advice, to negotiations, regarding water delivery infrastructure, water, and property acquisitions.

The district administrator confirmed that no decisions were made or approved when the board returned to the regular meeting.

The meeting adjourned around 8:35 p.m.

Meetings are usually held on the third Thursday every month at the district office at 16055 Old Forest Point, Suite 302. The next regular board meeting is scheduled for Feb. 16 at 5:30 p.m. For meeting agendas, minutes, and updates, visit <https://triviewmetro.com>.

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Black Forest Fire/Rescue Protection District, Jan. 18

Deputy chief receives recognition upon retirement; property loss averted

By Natalie Barszcz

At the Black Forest Fire Rescue Protection District (BFFRPD) meeting on Jan. 18, the board recognized Deputy Chief James Rebitski on his retirement from the fire service, heard how crews averted a disaster, received multiple department updates, and heard about a new evacuation notification mobile application for smart phones and tablets.

Director Kiersten Tarvainen attended via Zoom.

Recognition received upon retirement

Chairman Nate Dowden announced the retirement of Rebitski after a 32-year career in the fire service. Dowden thanked Rebitski for his 14 years of service with the department, noting that he has been a mainstay and a stabilizing influence for the district. It has been a pleasure to work with him, said Dowden. He then requested the board approve Resolution 2023-02, recognizing Rebitski for his professionalism and outstanding, faithful dedication to the department, and for his leadership during a challenging period from August 2014 to Jan. 5, 2015 when he served as the interim fire chief.

The board unanimously approved the award. See photo and caption.

Rebitski thanked the board, the executive staff, and the community and said it had been a distinct honor to serve with the department, and the fire service had been everything to him. It has been fantastic to have the opportunity to finish his career with the current executive staff, he said, and he will never forget the adventures, the people he has worked with, and the citizens that are always supportive of the department. Rebitski said he was going on to a new adventure as he transitioned to retirement and would be a Hazmat coordinator with the El Paso County Office of Emergency Management.

Resident Linda Smith congratulated Rebitski for serving the district, and she wished him well in his new role.

Property loss averted

Deputy Chief of Operations Chris Piepenburg said the district responded to a house fire on Pinery Drive around mid-December. The district crews did a phenomenal job on this fire, he said, with the extensive training coming into play as fire was coming out of the chimney and moving into the attic. The job was completed after a couple of hours of overhaul with some salvage work. A 10-year-old alerted her family to the fire, saving lives and property, he said.

Fire Chief PJ Langmaid said about 99.9% of



Above: From left are Treasurer Jack Hinton, Chairman Nate Dowden, Deputy Chief James Rebitski (holding his badge), Vice Chairman Jim Abendschan, and Director Chad Bhenken. The directors thanked the retiring Rebitski for his unwavering dedication to the fire service. Dowden presented Rebitski with a fire chief's badge before the photo was taken. *Photo courtesy of BFFRPD.*

the homeowner's personal property was saved, and he told the homeowner that about five years ago, the district had limited resources and staffing, and without the community investment in the department, the outcome could have been different.

Note: Monument Fire District (MFD) provided mutual aid, sending three engines to assist with the structure fire. *See the MFD article on page 21.*

Financial report

Treasurer Jack Hinton said that at the end of 2022, the district's assets were about \$1.939 million, which includes:

- \$724,402 in a money market deposit account.
- \$236,331 in the Emergency Reserve Fund.
- \$193,460 in the Capital Improvement Fund.
- \$137,157 in the TABOR Reserve Fund.

The board unanimously accepted the November and December financial reports as presented.

Langmaid said the district will be spending conservatively during the first quarter of 2023, averaging about \$325,000 per month for general operations from January through March.

The district has about \$945,000 for general operations for February through March and expects to receive the largest installment of property tax revenue by mid-March, said Hinton.

Administrative report

Administrative Officer Rachel Dunn said the district had received the following revenues:

- Ambulance revenue for November was \$8,834 and for December was \$12,608.
- Tax revenue for November was \$29,238 and

\$31,270 in December.

Dunn said she was compiling a list of replacement auditors, with recommendations from neighboring fire districts. The list would be compiled for the next meeting.

Hinton said the district would need to jump on a replacement auditor fairly quickly to avoid a late audit.

Fleet/logistic update

Rebitski said the following:

- The 2005 Pierce mid-mount aerial ladder truck is further delayed due a supply shortage of replacement parts for the water way system. See www.ocn.me/v23n1.htm#bffrpd.
 - District mechanic Gavin Smith had completed minor repairs to vehicles throughout December.
 - A final inspection of the heaters installed in the barn/vehicle repair facility is pending.
- Langmaid said that modifications are being made to the Station 1 Community Room to secure and protect the department's investments before the public will be allowed to use the room.

Northern Delivery System access

Vice Chairman Jim Abendschan requested an update on the district's comments submitted in regard to the Northern Delivery System (NDS) pipeline project. See www.ocn.me/v22n11.htm#tvmtd and www.ocn.me/v23n1.htm#bffrpd.

Rebitski said a very small piece of the NDS