

### BFFRPD (Cont. from 18)

pipeline project is located about 100 feet within the BFFRPD area of coverage. There is a good chance the Fire Department will be first on the scene in that area, and access has been requested should the district need to navigate a security system. The Colorado Springs Utilities water storage tank is located off Highway 83 and opposite Old Northgate Road, he said.

#### Evacuation planning

Rebitski said a county and state evacuation program called ZoneHaven is expected to be set up in mid-February and go live sometime in March or April. Residents will be required to download the ZoneHaven app to a phone or tablet to receive notifications to evacuate, remain on standby to evacuate, or shelter in place. ZoneHaven grids the county into evacuation zones, and each fire district is responsible for controlling those zones. The app will be linked to local news media and social media, it is designed to create a landslide of far-reaching notification, and it will be a great tool for our region, he said.

Langmaid said the platform has had great success in California. The app will help control the area to be evacuated, the speed of evacuation, and the return to property. The biggest issue in the past was the creation of gridlocks when everyone is evacuating at once. The public will need to know the zone they reside in and respond when alerted.

#### Training update

Piepenburg said the department completed about 1,729 hours of training in December, and in 2022 completed a total of 17,337 training

hours—we cannot ask for more training than that. The department completed only 500 hours of training before he arrived in 2019. Each shift continues to raise the bar going against each other to be the best at the end of the month, and he said:

- An eight-hour department leadership training session was completed with Echelon Front and Nick Lavery on Dec. 3. See [www.ocn.me/v23n1.htm#bffrpd](http://www.ocn.me/v23n1.htm#bffrpd).
- Ice rescue training took place at the end of December.
- Several staff members continue certification testing.
- The district is planning to hire wildland technicians in February for March early wildland deployments.

Dunn said a film crew had attended an all-hands training event in December. See [www.bffire.org](http://www.bffire.org).

**Note:** Monument Fire District covered for BFFRPD Station 2 on Dec. 3 from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. to allow employees to attend training throughout the day. See the MFD article on page 21.

Langmaid said the following:

- The department will hold work sessions to come up with solutions for the remodeling of Station 2. The station is full to the brim with staff and regardless of the outcome of the Flying Horse North development, a plan is needed.
- The Station Alerting system cost \$90,000 to \$95,000, and a lot of capital improvements were made in 2022.
- Even if the board approves the purchase of a brush truck in 2023, the apparatus and

equipment availability is still unknown.

#### Board election nominations 2023

Dunn said the window for self-nominations for two board director positions would be posted on the district website from Jan. 22 until Feb. 24. For information, visit [www.bffire.org](http://www.bffire.org).

**Note:** The seats for the May 2023 election will be for four-year terms for the seats that are set to expire in May and are currently held by Hinton and Abendschan. Self-nomination forms must be signed, witnessed, and submitted by Feb. 24.

#### Public meeting notifications

Dowden requested the board approve resolution 2023-01, approving the location for the posting and conducting of meetings, and the time and dates for the BFFRPD Board of Directors. The announcements for both regular and special meetings will be posted to the district website, [www.bffire.org](http://www.bffire.org), at least 24 hours before each meeting, he said.

The board unanimously approved the resolution.

The meeting adjourned at 7:49 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 is scheduled for Wednesday, Feb. 15 at 7 p.m. For joining instructions, updates, agendas, minutes, and reports, 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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### Donald Wescott Fire Protection District, Jan. 25

## Sun Hills storage agreement approved; subdistrict dissolution process begins

By Natalie Barszcz

At the Donald Wescott Fire Protection District (DWFPD) meeting on Jan. 25, the board approved the Sun Hills property (formerly Station 3) for use as a storage facility; discussed the subdistrict dissolution process; heard about a 911 Hero award recipient; approved an accounting firm, a letter of engagement for the 2022 audit; and received multiple updates to include the Board of Directors' election and new station apparatus.

Secretary Larry Schwarz and Director Mike Forsythe were excused.

#### Vehicle storage agreement

District attorney Emily Powell of Ireland Stapleton Pryor Pascoe PC law firm said the disposal of the Sun Hills (former Station 3) was on hold. In the interim she had drafted a vehicle storage agreement for the property to allow the American Red Cross and Emergency Incident Support (EIS) to store their vehicles and equipment at Station 3. The contract can be quickly retracted by the district with a 10-day termination provision and a liability clause should either agency damage each other's property/vehicles or any personnel injury occur. The contract allows the facility to be put to community use until a permanent decision is made, said Powell. See [www.ocn.me/v22n11.htm#dwfpd](http://www.ocn.me/v22n11.htm#dwfpd).

Fire Chief Andy Kovacs said that EIS had resumed use of the facility in mid-January to keep their vehicles out of the elements. Each agency will be required to hold a combined \$5 million insurance policy, he said.

Treasurer Duane Garrett recommended the board witness the proof of insurance and proof of insurance be stipulated in the contract.

President Mark Gunderman, Garrett and Director Charles Fleece agreed that Kovacs could simply witness the proof of insurance from EIS President Gary Nelson.

The board approved the vehicle storage agreement as drafted, 3-0.

#### Subdistrict dissolution process

Powell said the transfer process of stations and equipment as part of the merger process between DWFPD and the Monument Fire District (MFD) had been completed. See [www.ocn.me/v22n1.htm#dwfpd](http://www.ocn.me/v22n1.htm#dwfpd). The next phase is to dissolve the subdistrict (the majority of the residents in the north of the district) and raise the regular district's mill levy (southern enclave: small residential area at the south end of Voyager Parkway, between Old Ranch Road and Briargate Boulevard) to something more equitable with MFD. The board will be required to pass a resolution proposing a plan of dissolution to dissolve the subdistrict. The Wescott subdistrict will need to enter into an intergovernmental agreement with the district (southern enclave), agreeing to take over services. MFD is already providing services to DWFPD, she said.

Gunderman said the majority of the Wescott residents will eventually see a drop in the mill levy by a few mills.

Powell said the subdistrict pays a total of 21.9 mills, consisting of 14.9 mills overlaid with the 7 mills that the southern district pays. The intent is to dissolve the subdistrict and then the 14.9 mills will go away. At the same time the district mill levy of 7 mills will be increased, but the vast majority of residents will see a decrease in the mill levy, said Powell.

**Note:** Monument residents are assessed 18.4 mills for fire protection services.

Powell said the documents may be ready for approval at the March meeting, but a special meeting in April (via Zoom only) could be necessary. The process will then require court approval for the plan of dissolution, she said.

#### Gleneagle resident receives award

Division Chief of Operations Jonathan Bradley said the district had participated in a 911 Hero Award presentation to a 10-year-old girl in Gleneagle. The award was in recognition of the girl calmly relaying her message to dispatch services during a medical emergency that occurred at her

home. The award would typically be presented at school, but at her request the award was received at her home along with a sheriff's deputy, and MFD invited Santa along for the ceremony.

#### Chief's report

Kovacs highlighted a few items from the combined November and December report and said that after he became fire chief in January 2021, a five-year strategic plan was implemented in January 2022. The plan, set to expire in 2026, includes internal and external surveys and the ESCI study from May 2019. The district completed all the initiatives for 2022 with the exception of the standards of coverage and community risk assessment as part of the accreditation process and an engine company inspection program. The inspection program will be composed of firefighters providing annual life safety inspections, checking gas safety shutoffs, Knox-Box locations, fire hydrant locations, and special hazards. An independent company is developing program, but it has not been completed, and that is the only reason why that initiative was moved to 2023.

Battalion Chief Scott Ridings is "knee deep" in compiling the accreditation data, and completion is expected in the summer. He is proud of the staff for accomplishing all the 2022 tasks in addition to the unification process. And he said:

- Conversations continue with QuikTrip Corp., with a view to purchasing land for a future fire station/training tower site at Baptist Road and Terrazzo Drive.
- The district received a grant of \$1,488 from The Tri-Lakes Lions Club, and those funds will be used to purchase radio chargers for the squad vehicle.
- The squad vehicle will receive additional equipment and it is in service at "Shamrock" Station 5, Highway 83 and Stage Coach Road.
- A traditional "push-in" ceremony to announce the arrival of the anticipated new Pierce Engine for Station 4, Gleneagle Drive,