

jected expense budget set at about \$10.9 million.

**Note:** The combined bank balances total at year end was about \$14.3 million. The district had about \$8.1 million in the General Operating Fund year end. About \$1.3 million was distributed among the Capital Fund account, the Fleet Capital/Public Fund, and the TABOR reserve fund.

Kovacs said the 2022 budget was very difficult because of the consolidation process of merging DWFPD with MFD and due to the unexpected departure of AMR from Station 4 (Gleneagle Drive) on Jan. 1, 2022. The departure created the need for a fourth ambulance, along with the increased cost of fuel, toilet paper, utilities, and the increased shared cost of the building management at the administration offices. The district also had to bring the Wescott fleet up to district standards in 2022. The district remained under budget despite all the additional expenses last year, and he is confident that most of the costs were one-time expenditures and there were no frivolous expenses, he said.

The board accepted the financial report as presented, 5-0.

#### Board/citizen/staff comments

Hildebrandt said the end-of-year healthy financial report substantiates the board's decision to approve the mill levy match to offset the state Legislature's two-year temporary reduction in the Residential Assessment Rate. See [www.ocn.me/v22n11.htm#mfid](http://www.ocn.me/v22n11.htm#mfid).

Gary Nelson, president of Emergency Incident Support, thanked the board and the executive staff for managing to remain 5% under budget and 3% over the projected revenue at the end of 2022, especially after the merger of DWFPD and MFD. See *DWFPD article on page 20*.

**Note:** The 2022 and 2023 budget documents can be viewed at [www.monumentfire.org](http://www.monumentfire.org). Tri-Lakes Monument Fire Protection District is doing business as Monument Fire District but has not legally changed the district name.

#### Station 1 Training Center update

Division Chief of Operations Jonathan Bradley said the district is still evaluating the options for the MFD Training Center but determined the Town of Monument site off Mitchell Avenue was not big enough to accommodate the district training site. The district is looking at a 4-acre site off Baptist Road/Terrazzo Drive and also evalu-

ating a regional training approach with Colorado Springs Fire Department and Black Forest Fire Rescue Protection District.

Director Terri Hayes asked about the future of the 14 acres the district purchased adjacent to Station 1 in 2019 and said the site should not go unused after the expense of purchasing the property. See [www.ocn.me/v20n10.htm#tlmfpd](http://www.ocn.me/v20n10.htm#tlmfpd).

Kovacs said there was a possibility of Front Range Fire Apparatus using the site for an apparatus repair facility. If acreage cannot be purchased in the southwest of the district, the site will be used for training. It will not go to waste, he said.

#### Chief's report

Kovacs highlighted the following from the November and December monthly activity report and said:

- Firefighter Christian Schmidt was elected as the new Local 4319 president. The district and the board are looking forward to working with him in 2023.
- Lt. Jon Bodinsky received the department's "step-up" award for raising \$14,770 for the annual Fill the Boot campaign in support of Muscular Dystrophy.
- An orientation to introduce the new hires and their families to the district gave everyone the opportunity to visit all the crews at the five stations and meet with the Local 4319. The event was well received, and the staff enjoyed the meeting.
- The district is working with OZ Architects to rebuild Station 3 on Woodmoor Drive. The relocated station will include district administrative offices on land just north of the YMCA.
- The 2005 Smeal Type 1 Engine was sold to Elliot Fire Department, Iowa, for \$40,000.
- An ambulance went in for repair at a Ford dealership and returned with \$1,500 worth of lights missing. The district filed a police report, and the dealership will be reimbursing the district for the lights.
- The district completed 1,571 training hours for November through December, 2022.

**Note:** Included in the chief's December report was the provision of staffing by MFD Company 512 to an all-hands Black Forest Fire Rescue Protection District training day, to allow their Station 2 staff to attend training. MFD also provided mutual aid assistance to a house fire on Pinery

Drive in December. See *BFFRPD article on page 18*. DWFPD and MFD district boards receive the same monthly activity report. See *DWFPD article on page 20*. The reports can be viewed at [www.monumentfire.org](http://www.monumentfire.org).

#### Board of Directors' election 2023

Resolution 2023-01 calls for a regular election to elect four board directors, the seats currently held by Directors Buckingham, Hayes, Lance, and Tom Tharnish.

Kovacs said the 2023 election will complete the process of going from even- to odd-year elections, and terms will be for four years. Self-nomination forms will need to be submitted by Feb. 24. If the district receives more than four self-nomination forms, an election will be held. For self-nomination instructions, visit [www.monumentfire.org](http://www.monumentfire.org).

Vice President Roger Lance announced that he will not run for re-election in 2023.

In a roll call vote, the board approved the election, 5-0.

The board also approved the 2023 Board of Directors Policy Manual, 5-0.

#### Executive session

The board moved into an executive session at 7:45 p.m., pursuant to Colorado Revised Statute 24-6-402(4)(b), to confer with district attorney Maureen Juran of Widner Juran LLP for the purposes of receiving legal advice on a specific legal question to review a meet and confer plus agreement; and pursuant to 24-6-402(4)(e), to instruct negotiators on a matter subject to negotiations concerning the provision of ambulance service within Palmer Lake.

Kovacs confirmed after the meeting returned to the regular meeting that no action was taken. The meeting adjourned at 8:50 p.m.

\*\*\*\*\*

Meetings are usually held every month on the fourth Wednesday of the month at Station 1, 18650 Highway 105. The next regular board meeting is scheduled for Feb. 22 at 6:30 p.m. Meeting attendance is open to the public in person or via Zoom. For joining instructions, agendas, minutes, and updated, visit [www.monumentfire.org](http://www.monumentfire.org) or contact Director of Administration Jennifer Martin at 719-484-9011.

*Natalie Barszcz can be reached at [nataliebarszcz@ocn.me](mailto:nataliebarszcz@ocn.me).*

### El Paso Board of County Commissioners, Jan. 10, 17, and 24

## New chair and vice chair appointed

*By Helen Walklett*

During January, the El Paso Board of County Commissioners (BOCC) appointed a new chair and vice chair.

#### Chair and vice chair appointed

At the Jan. 10 BOCC meeting, the commissioners appointed Commissioner Cami Bremer as chair and Commissioner Carrie Geitner as vice chair. Bremer takes over the role from Commissioner Stan VanderWerf, who chaired the board for the previous two years. Bremer served as his vice chair.

#### License agreement with the Town of Monument

Also at the Jan. 10 meeting, the commissioners approved a license agreement with the Town of Monument relating to the New Santa Fe Regional Trail, which is operated and maintained in the county by the Community Services Department. The license agreement enables the town to construct a water transmission line underneath the trail near Fourth Street as part of its 2-million-gallon water tank project.

#### Highway 105A project

During January, the commissioners made two decisions relating to the Highway 105A project. They approved a memorandum of agreement and a special warranty deed concerning property owned by Cheyenne Village Inc. for which

county will pay \$252,000. The commissioners also approved a reimbursement agreement between county, the Pikes Peak Regional Transportation Authority, and Qwest Corp. dba CenturyLink QC (Lumen) concerning the relocation, adjustment, or installation of facilities owned by Lumen necessitated by the project. The Highway 105A project will improve the highway to four lanes between I-25 and Lake Woodmoor Drive.

#### Other decisions

- Jan. 10—the commissioners approved the issuance of an ambulance service license

### Northern El Paso County Coalition of Community Associations (NEPCO), Jan. 21

## New board introduced; guest speakers discuss transportation, impact fees

*By Marlene Brown*

Northern El Paso County Coalition of Community Associations (NEPCO) held its bi-monthly meeting on Jan. 21. The first order of business was the introduction of the new Board of Directors that was voted in at the November meeting.

The new board is made up of President Mike Aspenson (Vista Clara Villas HOA), absent; Vice President Bob Swedenburg (Gleneagle North HOA); Secretary Roy Martinez (High Pines Own-

ers Association); Treasurer Tim Miller (Tall Pines Ranch HOA); Director of Community Outreach Dave Betzler (Red Rock Ranch HOA); Larry Oliver, director of Membership (Gleneagle Civic Association); Member-at-Large Harold Larson (Heights Property Owners Association).

- Jan. 10—approved the acceptance of certain streets within the Settlers Ranch filing No. 2C subdivision into county's road maintenance system.
- Jan. 17—approved the final release of a \$58,712 bond for the Flying Horse North golf course and associated private roads.

*Helen Walklett can be reached at [helenwalklett@ocn.me](mailto:helenwalklett@ocn.me).*

Committee reports included one by Betzler that NEPCO is applying for a grant for a new laptop, speakers, projector, and microphone with upgrading capabilities for meeting presentations