

to input information such as special medical equipment and pets on the premises. Participants will be required to confirm and update information annually, and will be prompted for a couple of months before data is deleted.

Kovacs said staff will begin collecting information from about 650 businesses in the district. Details will include information such as occupancy, building height, type of store, square footage, special hazards, and stairwells. The information will be loaded into the system by the district staff, identifying the higher-risk buildings first.

Ridings said First Due will tie into the accreditation process. Lance said

the software will push the district further toward achieving higher accreditation.

Kovacs said the district will notify the residents and business owners at the end of May with a district-wide mailer, with some print advertising and social media links to encourage participation.

**Zonehaven**

Kovacs said Zonehaven software was adopted and purchased by the El Paso County Sheriff's Office for every agency in the county. Zonehaven is designed to assist with evacuations and lockdown situations, and will tie into the

district wildland pre-plans. Residents do need to sign up individually for Peak Alerts to receive notifications, he said. To sign up for Peak Alerts, visit [www.monumentfire.org](http://www.monumentfire.org).

**Emergency Incident Support**

Emergency Incident Support (EIS) board President Gary Nelson thanked Kovacs for a recent invitation to support a mass casualty incident event in June. Without the monetary support from Tri-Lakes Women's Club, Pikes Peak Club, and more recently Monument Hill Foundation, EIS would not be in a position to provide those services to first responders. EIS is proud

to support the event, he said. For more information, visit [www.epceis.com](http://www.epceis.com).

The meeting adjourned at 7:50 p.m.  
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Meetings are usually held on the fourth Wednesday of every month at Station 1, 18650 Highway 105. The next regular board meeting is scheduled for May 24 at 6:30 p.m. Meeting attendance is open to the public in person or via Zoom. For joining instructions, agendas, minutes, and updates, 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).

*Donald Wescott Fire Protection District, April 26*

# Northern subdistrict dissolution plan underway; 2022 supplemental budget approved

By Natalie Barszcz

At the Donald Wescott Fire Protection District (DWFPD) "special meeting" on April 26, the board met to sign an intergovernmental agreement for the northern subdistrict to continue receiving emergency services from Tri-Lakes Monument Fire Protection District dba Monument Fire District (MFD) and to approve the start of the subdistrict dissolution process and a supplement to the 2022 budget.

**Northern subdistrict dissolution process**

Emily Powell of Ireland Stapleton Pryor Pascoe PC law firm, the district's attorney, said her firm was getting ready to file the order for the subdistrict dissolution with the court on May 1. To file the

order with the district court, the district has to show the dissolution is in the best interests of the district and show what will happen to the employees, infrastructure, and debt, she said. The document is short because of the actions that have already taken place with MFD. Service will continue to be provided by MFD under the contract that is already in place. Powell requested the board approve and sign two documents for the district and the northern subdistrict, and provide a copy of the district financial report from March, she said.

Powell requested the board approve and sign the intergovernmental agreement for the continuation of emergency services with the district and the northern subdistrict, sign the

resolution for the dissolution of the DWFPD northern subdistrict, and set forth a plan of dissolution.

President Mark Gunderman asked if the document will set the stage for the election in November.

Powell said the documents will set the stage for a court action, to petition for dissolution and order an election, and the court will be informed that the subdistrict has decided it is in its best interest to be dissolved, but only if the district (south Voyager Parkway) has an election to increase the mill levy at the same time, and it passes. See [www.ocn.me/v23n2.htm#dwfpd](http://www.ocn.me/v23n2.htm#dwfpd). The court will be told the district passed a resolution for plan of dissolution and a plan to continue emergency services. The court can order an election if a designated election official is named. She suggested Fire Chief Andy Kovacs be the designated official with Director of Administration Jennifer Martin named

as a backup to avoid going back to the court should Kovacs be unable to officiate. After the court orders the election, the district can proceed as it would with a regular election, Powell said.

The board unanimously approved the resolution.

**2022 supplemental budget amendment**

Fire Chief Andy Kovacs said former interim Fire Chief Warren Jones had requested equalization pay in December 2021 to allow the salaries of the DWFPD personnel during the consolidation of the two departments to match the MFD salaries in 2022. Jones identified cost savings of \$237,418 to allow for the equalization pay of \$236,463, however the 2022 budget had already been approved and adopted, and the dollar amount to pay for the fire services that MFD would begin providing in 2022 had not been determined in the original 2022 budget. Fast forward



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