

fund balance and then spent in line items for station construction.

There was no public comment during the audit hearing. The board unanimously accepted the 2011 audit as presented.

The board also discussed a resolution to make the corresponding line item changes in the 2011 budget that Sistare had recommended in the 2011 audit. There was no public comment on these changes during the public budget hearing. There was also no public comment during the separate public hearing to amend the format of the 2012 budget to match the changes recommended by Sistare for the 2011 budget and the change in the beginning balance for 2012.

The 2011 audit, amended 2011 budget, and amended 2012 budget were forwarded to the state after this board meeting.

Sistare and the board praised all the members of the staff for individually managing the resources allocated directly to them under Wescott's decentralized financial management policy during and after the new station construction and acquisition of new apparatus. Praise was also given for the oversight and sound management provided by the line item managers to stay within their operating budgets throughout the Station 2 building process, which prevented any need to draw on capital reserves to pay for day-to-day operations.

2013 draft budget presented

Burns and Administrative Assistant Cheryl Marshall proposed a balanced 2013 budget that includes no plans for Wescott to ask its constituents for a mill levy increase. The operations and administration portions of the budget are very similar to those in the 2012 budget and well within estimated property tax revenues that are expected to increase about \$14,000 in 2013. The most significant change is a small increase in the amounts allocated for apparatus maintenance and repair and for fuel costs.

Marshall also noted that she had planned to create a separate budget and database for the district's volunteer pension fund. Sistare endorsed her recommendation as did the board.

Financial statements

Marshall stated that about 74 percent of the 2012 budget had been spent through the end of August. However, about \$33,000 in salaries for wildland deployments had not been reimbursed yet, nor had most of the reimbursements for use of Wescott vehicles at wildland fires been made. At the current expenditure rate of about \$100,000 per month, total expenses are expected to continue to remain well below the total amount budgeted through the end of this year. The district has ample operating reserves that will last through the first few months of 2013 until the first property tax revenues are forwarded by the state.

Chief's report

Burns reported that the district had collected about \$13,000 for the Muscular Dystrophy Association during its annual "Fill the Boot" fundraising campaign during the Labor Day weekend.

A new training class of five volunteers was started on Sept. 15. The five volunteers were selected from 20 applicants.

The district had just completed a two-week wildfire deployment to North Dakota.

Burns advised the board that Assistant Chief Scott Ridings had coordinated a two-hour tour for District 1 County Commissioner Darryl Glenn to see Wescott's facilities and the hazards and types of homes in the district's service area.

Assistant Chief Scott Ridings reported 146 calls in August, which was up 5.8 percent from 2011.

Fire marshal's report

Fire Marshal Margo Humes gave a briefing on how the \$12,000 state grant awarded to the Pleasant View homeowners by the Colorado State Forest Service for wildfire mitigation had been dispersed. The district helps with distributing the grant money on a 50-50 match basis to Pleasant View homeowners. Eight grants have been approved by Wescott

and presented to homeowners to help them mitigate their yards. Two of these grants were for the maximum amount allowed, \$1,000. Humes added that \$5,533 remained to be awarded by April.

Humes briefed the board on fire inspections she had conducted at various businesses and the numerous presentations she had given regarding wildfire mitigation to civic and homeowners associations as well as church groups.

Humes noted that the most recent version of a proposed residential sprinkler system building code amendment for new construction had been presented by the northern county fire districts to the county district attorney and the Housing and Building Association. After the association's counterproposal is received, the fire marshals will submit both proposals to their respective district boards for a final vote on which proposal each district will submit to the Board of County Commissioners for a vote. The sprinkler code would be administered by the Pikes Peak Regional Building Department.

Ridings recommended the acquisition and installation of a new station alerting system for both fire stations at a cost of \$20,000 from the \$273,000 in the reserve fund for building construction and improvements. Board President Scott Campbell asked the staff to present a prioritized list of remaining purchases for the year at the Oct. 15 board meeting.

The meeting adjourned at 8:15 p.m.

The next meeting will be held on Oct. 15 at 7 p.m. at Station 1, 15415 Gleneagle Drive. Meetings are normally held on the fourth Wednesday of the month. Information: 488-8680.

Jim Kendrick can be contacted at jimkendrick@ocn.me.

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- 10:00 am:** Teaching & Community Time (aka Sunday School)
- 10:45 am:** Second Worship Service

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