

ment Police Department (Shirk is the Monument police chief) had a program that had stirred some interest from the city of Aurora because of its excellence and effectiveness. He then encouraged the board to "look at that." He continued, "We do have a thousand dollar line item in the new budget to cover some expenses" to have three Tri-Lakes firefighters participate initially.

Shirk asked the board to examine the possibility of compensating those individuals who are already involved in rescue teams on a voluntary basis. Several directors suggested allowing the incoming chief to pursue that question. Hildebrandt indicated that he didn't know that that program had "gone away." Jack said, "It was suspended by the previous administration." He added that he was unaware of the "rationale" behind that action. Lovato expressed his concern that the program not be abandoned.

Jack advised board members that they had accepted the SAFER grant, which would allow the district to hire six additional firefighters who would be financed by the federal government for two years. He noted that this does not include costs of the firing process. However, full coverage of base hours, insurance, and pensions will be provided. The district is responsible for testing, supplying personal protective equipment, and medical and physical exams.

**2013 budget**

Jack then reviewed the 2013 budget for the second hearing. The budget will be finalized at the

Dec. 5 board meeting. He noted that two dental plans had been examined and one was dropped. The vision plan was dropped in its entirety as being too expensive for the benefits received.

Jack said the SAFER grant would be reimbursed to the district on a quarterly basis. He added that the first year's expense that would be compensated by the federal government would be based on six employees at pay grade 1 and the second year would be calculated on pay grade 2.

Jack stated that district Resolution 12-004 mandated that the six employees covered by the two-year SAFER grant were to be retained and compensated in the following years through the mill levy increase just approved. The resolution could be changed and or amended at any time by vote of the board. Hildebrandt added that about \$300,000 of the mill levy was allocated for the third year of the mill levy funds to compensate those employees.

Jack indicated that with the passage of 5C, the repair and maintenance expenses for the medical equipment utilized on the ambulances were added back into the prospective budget. He added that no funds had been set aside for capital medical expenditures that were expected to be necessary in 2014. This would include cardiac monitor replacement.

Jack noted that the proposed budget for the fire chief's salary had been adjusted to reflect a pay range of \$80,000 to \$95,000. He also added that there is a signifi-

cant increase for training expenses. These amounted to a budget increase from \$7,000 to \$22,500 for firefighter training and from \$7,000 to \$22,000 for medical training. One of the noteworthy utility increases was the water expense for fire Station 3, which rose from \$3,500 to \$7,000 due to Woodmoor Water's increase in water fees. Vehicle repair and maintenance expenses increased from \$40,000 to \$55,000. One of the major considerations was that engine 3 was now out of warranty and requires cylinder work.

Resolution 12-006 was introduced and read into the record. This resolution essentially rescinds part of a previous resolution that requires the district to conform to International Fire Code (IFC) 2009 and its local amendments and reverts to conformance with IFC 2003. This resolution does not affect the Town of Monument. It also requires that the district fire chief submit a revised version of IFC 2009 with amendments for approval by the board. The reason for this action is that the El Paso County Commissioners have not approved the original action of the district as indicated in the previous resolution. No copy of this document was provided to the press.

The board also approved the 2013 fee schedule for services provided by the district through the fire marshal's office.

The board also approved the 2013 meeting schedule. The meetings are all at 6:30 p.m. in the Tri-Lakes Monument Administrative Complex at 166 Second

St., Monument. The dates are as follows: Jan. 23, Feb. 27, March 27, April 24, May 22, June 26, July 24, Aug. 28, Sept. 25, Oct. 23, Nov. 13, and Dec. 4, 2013.

The board entered an executive session "to determine positions relative to negotiations."

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The next regular meeting will be

held at 6:30 p.m. on Wednesday, Dec. 5, in the Administration Center at 166 Second St. in Monument. For further information regarding this meeting, contact Jennifer Martin at 719-484-0911.

Bernard Minetti can be contacted at [bernardminetti@ocn.me](mailto:bernardminetti@ocn.me).

**Donald Wescott Fire Protection District Board, Nov. 13**

**2013 pension budget approved**

By Jim Kendrick

On Nov. 13, the Donald Wescott Fire Protection District Board held two meetings—the semi-annual pension board meeting, then the regular November board meeting. The 2013 pension budget was approved at the pension board meeting.

Directors Harland Baker and Joyce Hartung were absent for both meetings. The pension board also has two volunteer firefighters as directors. Lt. Bryan Ackerman was present. Lt. Tim Hampton was excused.

Chief Vinny Burns' absence for the regular board meeting was excused.

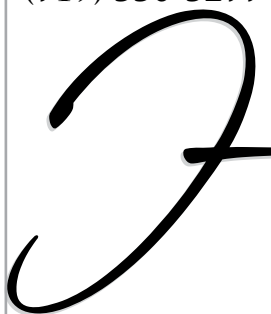
**Pension board meeting**  
On July 11, the pension board

approved increasing the monthly pension amounts for retirees in accordance with the Plan B published in the district's Actuarial Study of 2011. Ackerman stated

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