

way predicated on our relationship with Donald Wescott (Fire Protection District) or Palmer Lake (Volunteer Fire Department). We should continue working on mutual assistance with Donald Westcott and Palmer Lake and continue working on defining our similarities or correcting any differences with them, but nothing more.”

The approximate annual tax increase for a \$400,000 home, using Pocock’s approximation, would be \$96.

Pocock spoke about “positive things” that should be

done. “(The) first thing is to redefine our organization structure, short term, medium term, and long term. I define short term to be from now to the November election, and medium term will depend on whether the voters approve our mill levy increase.” Battalion Chief Bryan Jack is working on the two budgets—one that assumes the mill levy override would pass and one that assumes it would not, he said.

Budget update

Treasurer John Hildebrandt reported that through May, the district had received about \$4.3 million, or 59.31 percent, of property tax revenues expected in the annual budget. The district has received \$112,472, or 45.10 percent, of the annual budgeted revenue for the specific ownership tax. There was some concern over the ambulance revenues, which had reached only \$200,684, or 36.49 percent, of the annual expectation. He noted that the month’s overall ambulance collections were 2.54 percent under budget.

Hildebrandt said administrative expenses were slightly elevated due to recent liability insurance premium payments and payment of maintenance contracts. He reported that gas for Station 2 and electricity bills for Station 1 continued to be high, along with water and sewer, but he emphasized that overall utilities were under budget. Overall expenses were 42.02 percent of annual budget and 0.36 percent over budget. “We’re pretty darn close to where we are supposed to be at this point in time,” he said.

Pocock said only one candidate applied for a recent opening for a lieutenant, and he had asked a potential candidate why he did not apply. The man told him, “I see the crap the officers are taking; I don’t want any part of it,” according to Pocock. “After we discharged the chief,” Pocock said, “we had six people pick up packets” for the

lieutenant position. “That kind of renews your faith in what’s going on and what we did.”

Other matters

Pocock said several district firefighters who volunteered to fight the Waldo Canyon Fire could not do so because the “U.S. Department of Labor says that you can’t volunteer for somebody that you work for.” Pocock said he told them that “we can’t pay you so you gotta go home.” Eventually, the volunteers went to the Westcott Fire District and were able to offer their services there.

Regarding money-related issues:

- “We need to give everyone a raise of pay of at least 5 percent, since it’s been a long time since our last general pay increase,” Pocock said. The last pay increase, approved in November 2010, was a 3 percent hike effective in 2011. At the March 28 meeting, directors Hildebrandt and Pocock discussed the fact that benefit co-pays (contributions to pension and health premiums) needed to be examined since the district employees pay none. These two directors agreed that this needed to be reviewed in the context of cost cutting.
- Pocock said that office manager Jennifer Martin deserved an extra \$500 per month once she becomes administrative assistant to the board.
- The Colorado Department of Labor and Employment awarded the district a certificate that provides a 5 percent reduction in insurance premiums. The letter also congratulated Martin for making risk management an important aspect of the district.
- The district received two donations: a \$425 cash donation from the Monument Red Hatters and the Girlfrendz Red Hatters to be utilized as the district sees fit; and \$2,000 from the El Pomar Foundation for the purchase of fire shelters.

Pocock read two complimentary letters that had been received into the record. One referred to the outstanding job that Jennifer Martin had been doing in her position as office manager and the other from the Woodmoor Improvement Association thanking the district for assistance that it had received.

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