

In the planning stages of the investigation, it was determined that the cost of deposing 29 individuals would be too expensive, so they pared the number of witnesses to 14. Pocock said it was believed that this was a fair number to get an adequate representation "of what conditions were but everyone was still guaranteed confidentiality. And so when the final report came out, it was pretty darn damning, and that's why we've been stonewalling the press, stonewalling the people who've asked for release of this."

Pocock said he has narrowed down the report into "five categories" and had hoped to get the attorney's blessings on that and that "he would allow us to release that to the press and to the public ... tonight."

**Wilson: "This is the worst I've ever seen it"**

Director Rod Wilson said that he had been a member of this department for more than 22 years. He became emotional as he described how he started out as a volunteer and became a volunteer EMT, "one of the proudest accomplishments of my life." In 2006, he was approached by members of the Woodmoor-Monument Fire Protection District and its union to work on a problem," he said. The resolution of the problem was significant for the beginning of the Tri-Lakes Monument Fire Protection District. So, he said, "when I get a letter that they (the union) strongly encourage me to come around to their view ... words can't express what I felt."

"We need to come together," Wilson said. "I mean this is the worst I've ever seen it." He described some of the "old board meetings, when we were trying to bring the two departments together, (that) would last for three hours" where participants screamed at each other. He indicated that they persevered and worked together. "We need to do that now."

"The reason I voted 'no' on the termination of Chief Denboske," he continued, "was I felt that we needed an attorney's guidance." Ingram made a motion, "it was brought up for a vote, and it was not passed." He stated that he had heard that certain members of the board did not keep him in the loop because they thought he would then talk to Denboske; Wilson said that was insulting to him. He said the board represents the constituents of the district and that they trusted the board.

"How does this look that we're at each other's throats, questioning each other's ability?" Wilson said he is 100 percent for getting the union, the community, and everyone to move forward.

Wilson also said the board has to "put the brakes on the talks with Wescott (fire district) until we get our house in order," referring to a proposed merger between the two districts. He noted that the same evening (July 25) the Tri-Lakes Monument district would have an election of officers and perhaps a discussion of term limits because he believed the board needed new blood.

Pocock later said that the term limits issue had come up once before and that the public had voted it down. "To go back to term limits would be a step backward," Pocock concluded. There was no further discussion of the issue.

**Pocock denies previous email**  
Ingram said that the discussion of the email that Pocock had sent prior to the July 5 meeting regarding the recall had been left out of that meeting's minutes. Pocock then denied he had sent the email, and Directors Hildebrandt, Barbara Kelly, Lance, and Bruce Fritzsche all denied receiving an email. But this reporter's tape recording of the July 5

meeting appears to note otherwise (see the article about the board's July 5 meeting on page 1).

At that meeting, Pocock discussed an email that he had received from Fritzsche regarding the pending recall of certain board members. Pocock said, "... I sent out an email to, ... let's see, that went to Rog, Barbara, John, and Bruce and said well, it's kinda up to you ... you guys vote..." Pocock then said, "I'd like to read the answer to the email from Bruce."

Quoting Fritzsche's email, he read, "Charlie, I have given much consideration to your e-mail. First, I encourage the recall. If Rob (Denboske) and (Si) Sibell think I am unfit to be on the board, then it is their right to recall." Fritzsche's responding email dealt with the recall and his feelings about it. It appears that Ingram was correct in asking for a correction to the minutes.

**District is under budget**

Treasurer Hildebrandt reported that through June, the district had received \$2 million in revenues, or 68.61 percent of the annual budgeted amount. Normal for the first half of the year would be 50 percent, which puts revenues ahead of the budgeted amount by 18.61 percent at the end of June. Specific ownership taxes received were \$135,996, or 54.54 percent of the annual budgeted income from this source, which puts this income level ahead by 4.54 percent. Ambulance revenues were

5.97 percent behind budgeted income levels; \$242,171 had been collected through June.

Overall expenses were 0.81 percent under budget. Director Ingram requested that all cash balances and investments be made available to the board. The district bookkeeper said that information would be made available from now on.

In a discussion of methods of payment for fuel and the costs of fuel, Hildebrandt noted that fuel costs were under budget and costs were down.

**Elections—and commotion**

The election of officers did not change the makeup of the board. The officers are president, Pocock; vice president, Ingram; secretary, Wilson; and treasurer, Hildebrandt.

In the middle of the election process, some discussion in the audience prompted Pocock to shout, "Would you please be quiet!" He then stated, "The next one will be an invitation for you to leave." Audience members said something else, and Pocock ordered, "Go then, please." With that, Dorothy and Si Sibell and two others got up and left the room. A short discussion between Hildebrandt, Pocock, and Office Manager Jennifer Martin followed about the negative aspect of the comments that preceded the disturbance.

**Mill levy increase proposal**

During a discussion of the need for a tax increase, it was mentioned that the union

would assist with funds to support the district's efforts to obtain voter approval in November. Nothing was said about cost reductions the district could make. Nor was there a discussion about the fact that district employees do not contribute anything to their health and pension programs, which had been brought up at the March board meeting. Also, nothing was said about the 5 percent pay increase that Pocock had suggested in a previous meeting, which would follow the 3 percent increase approved in 2011.

Pocock suggested that following the Labor Day parade, literature advocating a mill levy increase could be distributed at

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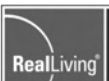
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