

separate ColoTrust account.

There were no public comments during the meeting. The meeting was adjourned at 8:07 p.m.

The next meeting will be held at 7 p.m. on Feb. 19 at Station 1, 15415 Gleneagle Drive. Meetings are normally

held on the third Tuesday of the month. Information: 488-8680.

Lisa Hatfield can be reached at lisahatfield@ocn.me.

Tri-Lakes Monument Fire Protection District, Jan. 23

Final 2012 expenditures within 1 percent of budget

By Bernard L. Minetti

At the Jan. 23 meeting of the Tri-Lakes Monument Fire Protection District, Treasurer John Hildebrandt congratulated Interim Fire Chief Bryan Jack, Battalion Chiefs Greg Lovato and Mike Dooley, and Interim Battalion Chief Kris Mola for the expense budgeting process they managed in 2012. The projected budget expenditure total was within 1 percent of the actual total. This was despite a \$25,000 payment to conduct the mill levy override.

Hildebrandt said property tax revenues ended the year at \$2.9 million, or 99.80 percent of the budgeted estimate. Specific ownership tax revenue was \$277,855, or 111.43 percent over the budgeted total for 2012. Ambulance revenues amounted to \$506,148, or 7.97 percent under budget.

He briefly explained that administrative expenses ended the year over budget by 0.14 percent and were slightly out of the tolerance level due to the legal expenses from the internal personnel investigation earlier in 2012. Overall expenses amounted to 99.03 percent of the budgeted amount. Hildebrandt advised the board that this was a commendable effort on the part of the district staff.

A motion was made by Hildebrandt to not require two signatures on checks drafted for amounts under \$500. It was unanimously approved.

Shirk discussed the accountability board, which is composed of two board members and two district staff fire personnel. He noted that he was pleased by the interactions and that he felt that so far the work of this group had been successful. This board was designed to promote confidence between the board and fire personnel in their day-to-day operations.

Fire chief application deadline extended

The fire chief hiring committee represented by Jack noted that they had discussed the progress of the hiring procedure with Mark Spiroff, Mountains States Employers Council Human Resources representative and former South Metro Fire Human Relations director. He had stated that 40 to 100 applicants would be a workable representation. Jack reported that only 24 had applied. The board agreed that the deadline for receiving applications should be extended to Feb. 8.

Jack also reported that Dooley, Lovato, Fire Marshal John Vincent, firefighter Rudi Gillette, and fire medic Elliot Link had attended the Colorado Wildfire and Incident Management Academy at the University of Colorado at Colorado Springs. Dooley had passed his S-260 Fire Business Management Course with a 97 percent grade. Jack noted that all the fire personnel had achieved remarkable grades in these courses.

Also, Linke and firefighter Kevin Richmond successfully completed courses in Instructional Methodology, which are required for State Fire Instructor certification. Jack attended the first course in the 2013 Special District Association Leadership Academy.

Recruit academy

Jack also reported on the progress of the recruit academy, which began Jan. 7 and will end Feb. 2. Twelve candidates began the class; two dropped out and were replaced. Jack said that he was very impressed with the professionalism and dedication of the attendees and the instructors. He noted that this group included the six Staffing for Adequate Fire and Emergency Response (SAFER) grant hires. He also reported that there had been 86 applicants for this class.

No district training hours for personnel fire, medical, or physical training were provided, although Our Community News had requested them in advance.

Jack reported that he commended Fire Marshal Vincent for being a representative of the only district in El Paso County to have the county commissioners ratify the 2009 International Fire Code with local amendments for the district. He noted that his work in this area was exceptional.

It was also reported that Lovato is working on the policy manual review. He stated that progress was being accomplished, but it was time consuming.

The district executive staff met on Jan. 18 to discuss the new response matrix, agency health/safety/wellness, post-academy graduation staffing models, and the emergency medical service field training process for new hires.

In his summary, Jack stated, "I am very excited about where we are headed and proud to work with such an exemplary group."

Three individuals made presentations before the

board. The Rev. John A. Bauers of Threefold Cord Ministries, asked to be considered as the district chaplain. Board President and Monument Police Chief Jacob Shirk stated that this should be a designation by the district fire personnel and not by the board.

Maureen Herr Juran applied to become legal counsel for the district. She is a law partner with the firm of Widner Michow & Cox LLP. She said she had experience representing Colorado municipalities and special districts on a broad range of government matters. The board advised that her request would be considered.

Leon Gomez of Special District Management Services requested that his firm be considered for employment to conduct a wide range of administrative and legal services. The board also advised that this would be considered.

The next regular meeting will be held at 6:30 p.m. on Wednesday, Feb. 27, 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 reached at bernardminetti@ocn.me.



Above: (Left) The Rev. John A. Bauers of Threefold Cord Ministries asked to be named district chaplain. The board advised him that fire personnel would make that decision. **(Right)** Maureen Herr Juran, attorney and partner with Widner Michow & Cox, discussed a possible position as legal counsel with the district. Board President Jacob Shirk stated that the board would take her application under advisement. Photos by Bernard Minetti.

Lewis Palmer D-38 Board of Education, Jan. 17

Preschool and teacher receive recognition

By Harriet Halbig

The preschool at Bear Creek Elementary has been accredited by the National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC). The preschool is one of 81 in Colorado, and one of three in a public school setting to receive this accreditation.

Members of the staff explained the process of accreditation at the Jan. 17 meeting of the Board of Education. The school is evaluated on 10 criteria, including family relationships, curriculum, teaching, health, teachers, physical environment, leadership, and management. The school was required to submit an extensive portfolio addressing 480 standards, and the facility and teaching were observed during a visit by representatives of the NAEYC.

The school has grown from 28 students in 2008 at the Grace Best facility to a present population of 80 students, six sessions, and two Wrap sessions providing before- and after-school care.

Representatives of the preschool thanked the board for its support of this activity.

Math teacher receives national board certification

Teresa Brown, a math teacher at Lewis-Palmer Middle

School, has received certification from the National Board for Professional Teaching in the area of math in early adolescence.

Brown is the third teacher in the district to achieve this certification. Requirements for the certification are an intensive self-evaluation and submission of an analysis of teaching skills and effectiveness.

Brown expressed appreciation to her team and her students for their support. She said that the students enjoyed the process of determining which teaching methods were effective.


Superintendent update

Superintendent John Borman reported that the second semester began with the administration of final exams, which were cancelled due to a snow day in December.


In the previous week, there was a series of presentations by "The Scary Man," a liberally tattooed individual who spoke on the subject of bullying, name calling, and the use of hurtful language. Borman said that the program was thought provoking and he heard many positive comments from parents and students.

School resource officer update

Assistant Superintendent Cheryl Wangeman reported that the El Paso County Sheriff's Office has confirmed that the



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