

Noteworthy fees included impact fees for new construction. This item listed a fee of \$700 per residential lot and \$700 for every 2,000 square feet in a commercial building. There was also a false alarm fee of \$500. Truty said that the \$500 fee might cause violators to correct the false alarm problem.

The fire watch fee, Truty said, was the hourly fee required when an authorized and qualified fire alarm system is not installed in a building and therefore does not meet the installed alarm system criteria. When any building is occupied, a proper

alarm system must be installed and operating. If not, a qualified fire watch person must be on duty to provide a manual alarm notice to the occupants. The district hourly rate for this qualified individual is \$125 an hour. For further information, and/or to obtain copies of the fee schedule, contact the district fire marshal's office at 719-484-0911.

Battalion chief search to be readvertised

Only 12 applications were received in the search for battalion chief replacements. Truty said he wanted at least 25 ap-

plicants and that perhaps the parameters were too high. He added that the search would be readvertised and would continue through Christmas.

2014 budget approved

Treasurer John Hildebrandt made a motion to approve the 2014 TLMFPD budget. This budget had been reviewed at the previous two board meetings, and this was the final review. Total budgeted revenue and expenses are the same, \$5.31million each. The motion passed.

Budget spending authorized

Resolution 2013-005 provides the annual spending authorization for the district once the budget has been approved. The resolution contains an attachment that specified the district's cash positions. The balances were stated as Vectra Bank (checking account) with \$475,640, Vectra Bank (savings account) with \$956,288, Vectra

Bank (impact fee account) with \$337,966, and First National Bank (savings account) with \$316,833. The total cash position for the district was \$2.08 million as of Nov. 30. The resolution passed.

Replacement of Station 1 doors

Truty asked for and received authorization to spend \$10,800 to replace the sliding entry (garage-type) doors at Station 1. He justified the request by advising the board that the door insulation and seals were insufficient. This had been an ongoing problem.

The next meeting will be held at 6:30 p.m. on Wednesday, Jan. 22, in the Administration Building at 166 Second St. in Monument. For further information regarding this meeting, contact the district Fire Administration Office at 719-484-0911.

Bernard Minetti may be contacted at bernardminetti@ocn.me.

**Donald Wescott Fire Protection District, Dec. 3
2014 budget approved**

By Lisa Hatfield

The Donald Wescott Fire Protection District board unanimously approved a resolution to adopt the 2014 operating budget at the Dec. 3 meeting. Administrative Assistant Cheryl Marshall said no public comments about the budget had been received after the required posting of a public notice of the budget review. There were no public comments during the open portion of the budget hearing or appropriation hearing on Dec. 3.

Directors William "Bo" McAllister and Harland Baker were absent.

Five resolutions approved

The Wescott board unanimously approved a resolution to adopt the 2014 budget. Chairman Scott Campbell said the final district property tax revenue document had been received from El Paso County. The final budget revenue lines had been adjusted to reflect these county tax revenue figures. Some of the total amounts in the 2014 budget were:

- Total revenue: \$3 million
- Special ownership tax revenue: \$150,000
- Miscellaneous income: \$79,708
- Total general fund expenditures: \$1.7 million
- End-of-year general fund balance: \$1.16 million

The board unanimously approved a resolution for mill levy certification. The mill levy will remain at 7.0 mills in 2014 and produce \$1.7 million in property tax rev-

enue, which is \$34,990 more than in 2013.

The board then unanimously approved the 2014 appropriation resolution allocating the required amounts of money to each of the district operating funds:

- General fund: \$1.7 million
- Fund balance: \$1.16 million
- Special ownership tax: \$150,000
- Miscellaneous income: \$79,708
- Total revenue: \$3 million

The board also unanimously approved an annual lease-purchase payment, contained in the final 2014 budget, of \$146,440 for the construction loan for Station 2 on Highway 83. The 15-year lease-purchase agreement was made in 2010 with Wells Fargo Securities LLC for a total of \$1.53 million and is renewed annually to comply with TABOR restrictions on creating multi-year funding obligations.

The district budget message was unanimously approved. It states that Wescott is chartered to provide fire protection and first response medical services to the district and that the 2014 budget provides for the continuance of these services:

- Maintain operational expenses for three fire stations.
- Increase vehicle maintenance and fuel expenses.
- Provide salary step increases for career firefighters.

Both Treasurer Joyce Hartung and Marshall mentioned that the focus of the 2014 budget was to fund the operational aspects of the district and curtail some of the community events and fire mitigation events.

Chief's report

Chief Vinny Burns said the district received two donations from local residents totaling \$5,129 in November as thanks for the district's programs and services. "We know that there are people who support the Fire Department," Campbell said.

Burns mentioned plans for the Santa on Patrol community event on Dec. 21.

The meeting adjourned at 7:43 p.m.

The next meeting will be held at 7 p.m. Jan. 21 at Station 1, 15415 Gleneagle Drive. Meetings are normally held on the third Tuesday of the month. Information: 488-8680.

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