

and positions. Martin will fill the new position of recording secretary and take meeting minutes.

TLMFPD considers merger

Chief Chris Truty said that TLMFPD is continuing "high level" discussions with Larkspur Fire Protection District in Douglas County. The first time the merger possibility was presented to the board was at the April meeting, and now Truty said he's about halfway through the process of meeting with all the TLMFPD shifts and companies for their input.

He also plans to meet with the Larkspur board and crews for informal discussions. "We wanted to find out if there were any skeletons in the closet" that might prevent future discussions, Truty said. "So far we have not come up with any significant or even minor opposition to this yet." He said he and Larkspur Chief Jamey Bumgarner wanted to make sure there were no issues among the board members "before getting into the real time-consuming discussions."

Truty said that the staff has a whole host of questions about the details but that

they are "cautiously optimistic about the whole thing." He hopes that by the June board meeting, the high-level discussions will be complete and he would then ask the board's permission to pursue a more detailed analysis and discussion of options.

Hildebrandt said that in April, Donald Wescott Fire Protection District was also considered. Truty agreed that from an operational perspective, it would be a benefit to work with Wescott, and that the staff supports this, but first "Wescott needs to work through whatever issues they have with Black Forest."

Truty said TLMFPD is trying to "do this as transparently as possible," trying to make sure that not only the board but all of the staff knows what is going on "every step of the way, including actually being involved in what the solutions are."

2013 audit approved

Russ White and Jessica Mueller of the Rubin Brown CPA firm presented the results of the 2013 district audit of the general fund. They gave an "unmodified," or clean, opinion of the district's finances

through December 2013, which is "the best you can get," White said. The financial position is "definitely going in right direction," with the increase in mill levy and improvement in economic conditions, and they saw no evidence of fraud or unusual transactions, White summarized.

White and Mueller reported these end-of-year figures for Dec. 31, 2013:

- Total assets – \$8.7 million
- Total revenues – \$5.6 million
- Total expenditures – \$4.9 million
- Ending net cash position – \$2.6 million
- Change in net position from 2012 – \$735,000

Mueller said that in 2012, the final net position was a deficit of about \$224,000, so ending 2013 with a net position of \$735,000 is a positive trend, most likely due to increased district property tax revenues after the mill levy increase.

Background: On Nov. 6, 2012, voters overwhelmingly approved a mill levy increase from 8.5 to 11.5 mills. Campaign materials as well as spokespeople from the district noted that a "yes" vote would keep fire Station 3 open, allow the district to accept a federal grant to help pay for hiring additional firefighters and paramedics, maintain current staffing to retain the district's Insurance Services Office (ISO - www.iso.com) rating for district property owners, and restore both operational reserves and vehicle and fire station maintenance funding.

On May 28, Truty said that at the beginning of the Aug. 27 board meeting he will run a budget workshop regarding a new three- to five-year financial plan.

The district's final budget was only \$9,000 off the original estimate for total expenditures, compared to being "off by a couple of million a year or two years ago," White said. "That's good budgeting."

Saldino asked for the audit packets to be distributed to board members ahead of time so they can compile questions. Truty agreed it should have been included in board packet.

The board approved the audit as presented 6-0.

Financial report

Treasurer Hildebrandt said the district was "spot on" where it was supposed to be at the end of April. Overages did occur in several line items including morale and welfare, communications, and infrastructure. Firefighter overtime expenses were due to physical restrictions of firefighters on "light duty" status creating the need to back fill with unrestricted firefighters, and vehicle maintenance expenses were higher than expected. The pay raises that were approved at the December 2013 meeting were not mentioned. See <http://www.ocn.me/v14n1.htm#tlfmfpd> for more information.

The full cost of the May election had not yet been posted, but is expected to be \$27,000 to \$30,000, Hildebrandt said. A new budget line item for elections is now in the budget and will be funded every other year, he said. Chief Truty said that 4,500 of 20,000 ballots mailed were not returned, which is not a good use of the district's money. Accountant Cheryl Marshall said that the Special District Association (SDA) will look into complaints from smaller districts like TLMFPD about the huge financial burden of requiring mail-in ballot elections.

Hildebrandt said that revenue amounts are good, with specific ownership tax running 25 percent higher than budgeted. He reported the bank balances as of April 30 totaling \$2.3 million: VECTRA Gen Ops, \$382,000; VECTRA Impact \$388,000; VECTRA Money Market, \$1.3 million; FNV Reserve quarterly statement, \$317,000; FNB Flex Spending, \$7,000. The board accepted the financial report for April on a 6-0 vote.

Thanks to TLMFPD fire medics

Lance said, "I just want to say thank you, thank you, thank you," to fire medics Steve Peters and Jon Bodinsky and Lt. Tracey Stapley for their coordination and professionalism when he had to be "on the receiving end of one of these adventures" and was taken to the hospital recently. "Their response was absolutely incredible....You ought to go for a ride in one of our ambulances," he joked.

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