

Forest View Acres Water District, July 24

Board votes to improve infrastructure

By Nancy Wilkins

At the July 24 meeting of the Forest View Acres Water District board, President Eugene Ashe counted a unanimous “yes” from Directors Timothy Sobik, Eckehart Zimmerman, Anne Bevis, and Treasurer Hans Zimmerman on several motions to replace and improve the water delivery system.

John McGinn, president of JDS-Hydro Consultants, will work with Vice President Chris Kirchner from Global Under-

ground Corp. to replace water pipelines at the Villas subdivision area. According to McGinn, phase one of this project will work in areas not affected by protected Preble mouse habitat, nor will it affect areas pending land easement negotiations. The Villas subdivision is located off of Highway 105 east of Red Rocks Ranch Road, near the district’s Arapahoe well.

The board also voted unanimously to improve the backwash pond and make additional improvements near the booster sta-

tion. Project Manager Jennifer Smith from Glacier Construction Co. was at the meeting to receive the accepted bid for the backwash pond.

Rough estimates put the total cost for the projects at \$1 million. The board has discussed and considered design and cost efficiency for years and has a long-term plan for district improvements.

District gets “clean” audit

The district was audited by

Schilling & Co. and received an unmodified, or “clean,” opinion. The Schilling management letter to the board noted more information from management could have been provided, but the missing information did not affect the basic financial statements.

At about 8:30 p.m. the board went into executive session to discuss land easement negotiations and other issues not open for public discussion. Topics listed under the legal section of the June 26 meeting notes include monitoring the Palmer

Lake water court case.

The next meeting is scheduled for 6 p.m. Aug. 28 at the Monument Sanitation District boardroom, 130 Second St. The board usually meets on the fourth Thursday of each month. Information: 488-2110 or www.fvawd.com.

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Tri-Lakes Monument Fire Protection District, July 23

District will evaluate its need for space

By Lisa Hatfield

At least 20 firefighters and paramedics attended the July 23 Tri-Lakes Monument Fire Protection District Board (TLMFPD) board meeting. The board members approved a space-needs analysis for the district, announced a public budget hearing for the August meeting, honored the retirement of Capt. Tom Mace, and heard about some future possible plans for the district. Chief Chris Truty’s performance review was postponed until the August meeting after a long discussion with union members.

President Jake Shirk was excused, and Vice President Roger Lance presided over the meeting.

District will request space study

Since 2009, the town has been leasing “the old Monument Town Hall” building, officially known now as the Administration Complex at 166 Second St., to TLMFPD for \$1 a year for use as a “temporary administrative office.” TLMFPD has been paying for all utilities, services, and upgrades needed (see www.ocn.me/v9n7.htm#bot1). However, the town has just notified TLMFPD that within the next one to three years, it wants the building back for its own use, and TLMFPD will need to move out.

Truty asked the board to approve a solicitation for request for proposals (RFP) for a space-needs analysis study. He would like to identify how much space is needed by TLMFPD now and in the future, which could potentially include 50 percent growth within the district as well as possible mergers with other districts who have more space options to share. Requirements for operations, administration, training, parking, classroom and meeting space, and storage all need to be evaluated, Truty said.

Treasurer John Hildebrandt said, “We’re sort of in the center between Wescott and Larkspur, and a combined training center would be reasonable” (if merger discussions continue). “That’s one scenario,” Truty said. He mentioned the possibilities of sharing a training center with neighboring districts which already have a facility, or creating a regional training center to recoup costs.

The consensus of the board was to have Truty seek RFPs to do the space-needs assessment.

Financial report

Truty presented the financial numbers through the end of June. Fifty percent of the way through the year, the district had received 70 percent of the expected tax revenue, about \$2.8 million.

Expenses overall halfway through the year were at about 52 percent of total annual budgeted, just over the 50 percent expected. Truty said a few line items had run over: expenses for Station 2, legal costs and an unexpected election costing \$40,000, and administration, which was at 77 percent of expected costs instead of 50 percent, but “it will normalize.” Overtime was still within budget, he said. The board approved the financial report unanimously.

Public budget hearing coming in August

At the August meeting, the board needs to make special notification to the public and conduct a budget hearing because of the need to make amendments to the 2014 budget, according to the Colorado Department of Local Affairs. “Budgets are supposed to reflect the actual expenses as close as we can,” Truty said, but amounts on line items including specific ownership tax, overtime wages, the election, legal fees, and technology need to be discussed and possibly reallocated in the budget.

The 2015 budget will be presented at the September board meeting, and the board will ask for public input for the 2015 budget at the Nov. 12 meeting,

through Lt. Franz Hankins, the firefighters had unofficially expressed that they are pleased with Truty. However, Graham said, the union just found out last week about needing to give a written evaluation of the chief, and they need until August to have time to meet as a body and prepare this letter. According to Director Bruce Fritzsche, Hankins—at the June meeting—requested an opportunity for union input on the chief’s performance and was given direction to come back with a plan on how to incorporate their input.

Hildebrandt asked, “Why did it take you three weeks to hear from Hankins?” Fritzsche added, “Next time the union needs to have a process (in place), so it’s not delaying the process of evaluations.” The mechanisms for making the new process work have not yet been ironed out.

Secretary Mike Smaldino asked why the whole board was not informed about the letters requested during the month since the last meeting, where the discussion originated. “I didn’t know about this; I think all of the board should be in on that.”

Lance suggested “giving the union the courtesy of another month ... but let’s

make any decision on pay retroactive to this month when we do this again next month.”

At the May meeting, Truty announced that all resolutions and positions would be subject to a roll-call vote, but this vote was an aye/nay voice vote. The results were confusing due to the absence of President Shirk. Lance wanted to cast a “no” vote, but it was decided that since he was acting as president, and Shirk only votes in the case of a tie, Lance’s vote was not counted. If Lance had voted, the result would have been a 3-3 tie, causing the motion to fail.

The final 3-2 vote approved the motion to delay the chief’s evaluation until August, with any pay changes retroactive to July. The vote was recorded as 3-2, with Fritzsche and Smith voting no, rather than 3-2-1 showing that Lance had abstained.

Chief’s report

Last month, Larkspur’s board consensus was that their chief, Jamey Bumgarner, could go forward with discussions with TLMFPD about a possible merger, Truty said.

Truty said that Donald Wescott Fire Protection District Chief Vinny Burns met

Chief’s review postponed one more month

Although the board had decided at the June meeting that Truty’s annual performance review would be done in July, due to a series of miscommunications between the board and the union, the review will now be done at the August meeting. The union was “not allotted enough time” to discuss it with the union body at one of its monthly meetings and provide written feedback to the board, said Tri-Lakes firefighter Ryan Graham, who is also treasurer of Tri-Lakes’ Local 4319 of the International Association of Firefighters. A lengthy discussion ensued, as board members and union representative tried to clarify what went wrong in the communication.

Graham said that,

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