

done by the end of May. The council voted unanimously to approve this scope of

work. The meeting adjourned at 8:35 a.m.

\*\*\*\*\* The next meeting will be at 6 p.m. May 14 at Town Hall, 42

Valley Crescent. Meetings are normally held on the second Thursday of the month. Informa-

tion: 481-2953. James Howald can be reached at jameshowald@ocn.me.

## Donald Wescott Fire Protection District, April 21 Volunteer firefighter sworn in



**Above:** Wescott District Director Greg Gent swears in Wescott's newest volunteer firefighter, Brian Kirkpatrick, at the Board of Directors meeting April 21. Prior to being sworn in, Kirkpatrick completed a yearlong probationary period in which extensive training exercises and education prepare potential volunteers for service to the community. *Photo courtesy of the Donald Wescott Fire Protection District.*

*By Jennifer Green-Lanchoney*  
Volunteer firefighter Brian Kirkpatrick was sworn in by Director Greg Gent during the Donald Wescott Fire Protection District Board of Directors meeting April 21. Kirkpatrick received his Wescott badge at the meeting and is the newest member of the volunteer team. Prior to being

sworn in, he was on a probationary period that included training exercises and education for about one year. This probationary period is a required step in becoming a volunteer firefighter.

The meeting was called to order by Gent at 7:05 p.m. District Directors Bo McAllister and John Fredell were present, as was

the executive staff, Chief Vinny Burns and Assistant Chief Scott Ridings. Director Joyce Hartung had an excused absence and Director Harland Baker was absent.

### February and March financial statements

Stacey Popovich, Wescott administrative assistant, covered the February and March financial statements. The February financial statement showed a deficit of \$49,507. Specific ownership tax revenues were received in March, leaving the district with a surplus of \$484,604.

Year-to-date, \$26,792 of the \$45,000 equipment budget was spent to update the server and purchase radios for fire trucks. The purchase of the radios came under budget, leaving a savings of about \$4,000 in the equipment budget.

March meeting minutes as well as the financial reports for February and March were approved unanimously.

### Banking transfer to be discussed

Peoples National Bank is scheduled to talk to the board during the May meeting about moving funds from Colorado Trust, which gives about \$1.74 a month in interest for more than \$400,000, to Peoples, which offers a higher interest rate. Peoples will discuss different options available for district money that will add additional earned interest. Roughly, that would increase the earned interest from \$186.60 to \$619.80 a year if the money is moved.

There is concern that penalties will be applied through the FDIC, which is insured to \$500,000. The combined account will exceed that amount, and concern has been raised that this will affect FDIC protection. The money must also be in a zero-risk account per the legal requirement for public funds. The discussion will continue at the May meeting.

### Run report

Ridings covered the run report, stating that the March 2014 call volume was 173 and March 2015 call volume increased 64 percent over March 2014 with 283 calls. Most of the increase was AMR calls. One call was to a structure fire when a vehicle caught fire in a garage. The fire was contained to the garage, and the total loss is estimated at \$25,000.

Chief Burns included that fire mitigation work at Station 2 has been successful.

### Pension Board of Directors meeting

Prior to the district Board of Directors meeting, a Pension Board of Directors meeting was held. The Pension board meeting was called to order at 6:32 p.m.

District Directors Bo McAllister and John Fredell were present, as was the executive staff, Lt. Bryan Ackerman and Lt. Tim Hampton. Director Joyce Hartung had an excused absence and Director Harland Baker was absent.

May 20 session minutes were approved unanimously with no discussion.

### Actuarial report

The board is gathering information on the averages being paid out for volunteer pensions across the state. It is waiting for an actuarial study to see where the Wescott volunteer retiree pension falls in relation to pensions across the state. The board is also waiting to see if the proposed increase in pension will deplete the funds for future volunteer retirees. Volunteer firefighters will get a pension after they are vested at 10 years.

The next Pension Board meeting will be scheduled later this year when the study is completed.

### Safety Fair scheduled

The annual Wescott Summer Safety Fair is scheduled for June 6 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at Station 1. The fair offers information for all ages on safety concerns from car seats to teen driving awareness. Vendors will also be on hand as well as a barbecue served by Wescott firefighters. The fair will feature tours of the firehouse and emergency vehicles. The Penrose Blood Drive will also be held at the station during the fair.

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The Donald Wescott Fire Protection District Board of Directors' next meeting is scheduled for 7 p.m. May 19 at Station 1, 15415 Gleneagle Dr. Please call 488-8680, a non-emergency number, for more information, or visit [www.wescottfire.org](http://www.wescottfire.org). The district is also on Facebook.

*Jennifer Green-Lanchoney can be contacted at [Jenlanchoney@ocn.me](mailto:Jenlanchoney@ocn.me).*

## Tri-Lakes Monument Fire Protection District, April 22

# Community asked to give input; director position open

*By Lisa Hatfield*  
Chief Chris Truty and the directors discussed potential district expenses at the April 22 meeting of the Tri-Lakes Monument Fire Protection District (TLMFPD). President Jake Shirk and Directors Bill Ingram and Bruce Fritzsche were absent. Vice President Roger Lance presided.

Truty said critical financial decisions are coming up, including a possible mill levy ballot question in 2015 if the board agrees to it after this spring's discussions about revenues and costs. Assessed valuations may increase as the economy improves, he said, but the district cannot budget that way.

He said the district is far behind on maintaining existing levels of service, and so it might be necessary to ask the taxpayers for their input on how to keep equipment and infrastructure up-to-date to be ready for all emergencies and how to bring staff wages "up to average."

He also would like to see

proactive budgeting for the district so it can avoid paying interest and leasing charges and therefore make taxpayers' money work more efficiently. The board's consensus was that the public needs to see a fact sheet showing the cost savings that could be achieved by paying cash for equipment.

Truty said that Fritzsche resigned from the board effective April 23 because he will no longer live in the district. Residents of TLMFPD who would like to apply for this open board position should contact the district. The meeting adjourned at 7:25 p.m.

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The next meeting will be held at 6:30 p.m. on Wednesday, May 27 in the Monument Town Hall at 645 Beacon Lite Road. Meetings are usually held the fourth Wednesday of each month. For information, contact Jennifer Martin at 719-484-0911.

*Lisa Hatfield can be reached at [lisahatfield@ocn.me](mailto:lisahatfield@ocn.me).*

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