

there would be penalties through FDIC, which insures to \$250,000. The combined account would be over that amount, and while the interest rate may be higher, the board must have assurance that all monies will be protected if the bank fails.

Rottinghaus explained that the Public Deposit Protection Act (PDPA) protects public funds beyond the FDIC amount.

The purpose of the PDPA is to ensure that public funds held on deposit in banks are protected in the event that the bank holding the public deposits fails.

The bank must be certified with the PDPA to hold public funds and must pledge 102 percent of the uninsured funds to cover everything over \$250,000 if the bank were to fail.

Fredell expressed concern over the risk of placing faith

in marketable securities and wondered if PDPA will save uninsured money. Rottinghaus explained that under the PDPA public funds were still protected and contended that because of other robust departments within the bank it can pledge to support public funds.

McAllister asked Rottinghaus if the Peak Fund was the best option, and Rottinghaus said that because public funds had to be liquid money, the Peak Fund was the best option over CDs. The board agreed that more research was needed to understand what money needed to be liquid and what money could be put in longer-term investments.

Gent and the board agreed to present this information to the auditor and see if it is indeed a good course of action. Ridings will send the board information

in the Colorado revised statutes pertaining to restraints of investing public money.

April financial statement and minutes

The April financial statement was read by Stacey Popovich, Wescott administrative assistant, and was approved unanimously. The minutes were also approved unanimously with a revision that clarifies the query into the banking transfer. The Peak Fund, if the transfer is approved, will hold \$620,000. Fredell would like to ask the auditor if there is increased risk for having \$620,000 in one account. The other option is putting \$250,000, which is the FDIC insured amount, into different banks.

Run report

Ridings covered the run report, stating that the call volume in April 2014 was 158. The April

2015 call volume increased 72 percent over April 2014 with 271 calls. Most of the increase was AMR ambulance calls. Ridings explained that when the staff says they are getting busier it isn't in their heads. "If they are on an ambulance, they aren't sleeping much," he said.

2014 audit

Chief Burns reported on the 2014 audit, saying that the auditor was only at the station for five hours thanks to the advance efforts by him, Popovich, and the board. He did mention that changes are recommended to the way the district funds designated and reserve accounts. They are currently going into the same account, but the auditor contends that by making them separate, transactions would be easier to track. The auditor will attend the June board meeting to cover the 2014 audit

and answer any open questions on the bank transfer.

Employee manual revision

The employee manual is being revised to clean up language, flow better, and make it easier to navigate. Burns will have this available for the board to review at the June meeting.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:54 p.m.

The Donald Wescott Fire Protection District Board of Directors' next meeting is scheduled for 7 p.m. June 16 at Station 1 15415 Gleneagle Dr. Please call 488-8680, a non-emergency number, for more information, or visit www.wescottfire.org. The district is also on Facebook.

Jennifer Green-Lanchoney can be contacted at Jenlanchoney@ocn.me.

Tri-Lakes Monument Fire Protection District, May 27

Potential future revenues discussed; director sought

By Lisa Hatfield

On May 27, the directors of the Tri-Lakes Monument Fire Protection District (TLMFPD) contemplated their future budget revenues and discussed plans to fill the director position vacated by Director Bruce Fritzsche. Director Larry Smith was excused.

Board vacancy to be filled in June

Fritzsche resigned on April 23, and there is now a board vacancy to be filled. According to statutes, the board should fill the vacancy by appointment within 60 days, which would be June 23, but the district is not required to post the position, according to President Jake Shirk.

As of May 27, three people had expressed interest in the director position. They and any other interested candidates will be scheduled to present their qualifications at the June 24 board meeting, where the directors will appoint one new member from the qualified applicants. See <http://tlmfire.org/district-board> for information.

Budget shortfall predicted

Chief Chris Truty reviewed revenue projections for the 2016 budget and beyond. He emphasized the unpredictability of the district's three main sources of revenue: property taxes from the current mill levy, ambulance revenue from EMS care provided, and specific ownership taxes from motor vehicle sales.

Of the three revenue sources, the only one that the district has the ability to influence is property taxes, which account for about 80 percent of the district's total revenue, he said. In 2012, the district was successful in obtaining a mill levy increase of 3 mills (to 11.5 mills) to sustain operations, however, "it was significantly short from a long-term perspective," Truty said. In addition, 2015 is the first year since 2008 where total valuation has increased based on previous

year property valuation, but it is still "far below what the district needs to meet its annual expense increase obligations," he said.

At the April 22 meeting, Truty noted a projected budget shortfall of \$3 million to \$20 million over the next five years, depending on expectations for the district determined by the board. At the June 24 meeting, Truty plans to combine expense and revenue projections together to show potential shortages and make recommendations for options. If the board decides to participate in the November 2015 election regarding a mill levy question, they would need to notify the county by July 24, he said.

Financial report

Treasurer John Hildebrandt reported that overall expenses were 2.77 percent below budget as of April 30. Total cash reserves in five separate accounts totaled \$2.9 million as of April 30, according to the treasurer's report.

Chief's report

Truty and Deputy Chief Randy Trost congratulated firefighter Mike Keough on achieving the rank of lieutenant and said there was one internal applicant so far for the vacant battalion chief position Keough was appointed to.

Truty described pending jurisdictional questions about emergency medical services and firefighting coverage in the area around Mount Herman and Raspberry Mountain, which is not part of TLMFPD. However, district vehicles could often reach that area sooner than other agency's vehicles sent by county dispatch

(such as AMR), so a discussion is ongoing about the best way to provide service to this region.

Trost described current vehicle repairs under way and building repairs at Stations 1 and 2 where there are leaks and lighting problems.

Truty said that Fire Marshal John Vincent has been doing presentations for school and safety groups. In spring 2016, TLMFPD is scheduled to host the tri-county Pikes Peak Wildfire Protections Partners conference. See <http://ppwpp.org/> for information.

NextDoor.com site use encouraged

TLMFPD has connected with the free neighborhood-based social networking site NextDoor.com to increase its ability to communicate back and forth with residents of the district, Truty said. He added that individual residents in any neighborhood in the country should see www.NextDoor.com for information or to sign up in a new way to get connected with their neighbors. The consensus of the directors was that this could be a valuable resource for communication in the area.


At 7:30 p.m., the board went into executive session for the purpose of discussing personnel matters regarding the performance of Fire Chief Chris Truty.

Truty reported to OCN that there were no announcements, comments or further business after the board's executive session.

The next meeting will be held at 6:30 p.m. on Wednesday, June 24 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.*



11a - 4th Anniversary Beer Release
12p - FREE Hotdogs
2p - El Paso County Search & Rescue Demo
3p - Hammer-schlagen Tournament
4p - El Paso County SAR Giveaway - Corn Hole Set
5p - Food Truck
7p - Live Music

Thanks for 4 Years!




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10:45 AM: FAMILY SERVICE WITH CHILDREN'S CHURCH
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