



Above: At the June 24 Tri-Lakes Monument Fire Protection District board meeting, Fire Chief Chris Truty, right, swore in new Battalion Chief Michael Keough, while his two boys David and Thomas stood close by, and his wife Andrea (not pictured) pinned on his new badge. *Photo by Lisa Hatfield.*

Chief's report

Truty's comments included:

- Various roof leaks, sink-holes, driveway damage, bay door configurations, and electrical problems are under repair at the three sta-

tions.

- Instead of a well for Station 1, it might be possible to connect with a neighboring water district, but it would require going under Colorado Highway 105.

- Grant money to help pay for two new ambulances was received.
- The new brush truck has been ordered.
- New battalion chief vehicle specifications are being finalized. It will be a pickup truck style instead of an SUV.
- Three firefighters completed a swift water rescue class.

Truty said that at the June 22 Pikes Peak Fire Chiefs meeting with Sheriff Bill Elder, Elder talked about his plans for joining emergency communications with the whole county including the City of Colorado Springs. He also would like to create an oversight board by an independent agency separate from any organizational issues. Truty said Elder has been a very good individual to work with so far and that he and his staff have been open to ideas and communication on how to make things work better.

District staff is researching options for health care coverage

changes that will need to be made by 2016 when the intergovernmental agreement with other area entities is dissolved.

He said in 2017, the Affordable Care Act may change how ambulance billing is handled, and this might result in a 10 percent loss of revenue to the district.

Public relations

Administrative Assistant Jennifer Martin said the firefighters attended seven public events in June, including a ride for Army SPC Matthew Spang and his family to their new specially built wheelchair-friendly home in Monument, courtesy of Homes for Our Troops. See www.ocn.me/v14n12.htm#photos.

She said she had received requests from senior citizens needing help doing fire fuels mitigation around their homes and had recruited two volunteer groups to help them get the work done.

The meeting adjourned at 7:35 p.m.

The next meeting will be held at 6:30 p.m. on Wednesday, July 22 in the Monument Town Hall at 645 Beacon Lite Road. Meetings are usually held on the fourth Wednesday of each month. For information, contact Jennifer Martin at 719-484-0911.

Lisa Hatfield can be contacted at lisahatfield@ocn.me.

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Lewis-Palmer D-38 Board of Education, June 18

Board installs new director, approves 2015-16 budget, discusses code of conduct policy

By Harriet Halbig

The Lewis-Palmer D-38 Board of Education conducted several end-of-year actions at its June 18 meeting. Among these was the installation of a new director who will replace Robb Pike, who resigned at the May meeting, until the November election.

The new director is former Palmer Lake Elementary School Principal Julie Jadomski. Board President Mark Pfoff said that the board interviewed four qualified candidates for the position, and felt that Jadomski's close ties with the district and her 12 years of experience best qualified her.

The board appointed Vicki Wood as its election official and instructed her to notify county officials of the district's intent to participate in the November election, when four of the five board positions will be up for election due the fact that two of the current members were appointed since the last election.

2015-16 budget

Before the business meeting, the board held a public hearing regarding the budget for the 2015-16 fiscal year (July 1 through June 30). There were no public comments during the hearing.

Assistant Superintendent Cheryl Wangeman said that the district's goals for the coming year are to fund the position of director of Technology, maintain class sizes, increase compensation for district employees, and maintain the ability of the district to hire experienced teachers. Teachers come into the district with an average of seven years of experience.

Wangeman said that funding from the state is anticipated to

increase by 3.8 per cent from last year, of which 2.4 per cent will compensate for inflation.

Wangeman explained some changes made in the budget since the May meeting. These included an increase in the hiring pool to four teachers if needed to maintain class sizes, an increase in the technology supply budget, and an increase in spending on salaries.

Pfoff commented that the district maintains a balanced budget that meets or exceeds all Colorado Department of Education requirements.

The board approved the budget as presented, noting that the budget is revisited and adjusted throughout the school year.

Wangeman reported that if anticipated enrollment is not achieved, capital improvements may be postponed if necessary to maintain a balanced budget. All contracts must be approved by the board.

The board acknowledged Christian Brothers Automotive as a community partner with the district. The owners of the business said that they have lived here for about a year and wish to contribute to the community by providing jobs and giving back to the school system.

The board also thanked Tri-Lakes Views, the organization which maintains the sculpture park near Big Red, for its partnership with the district. Officials of Tri-Lakes Views were unable to attend the meeting due to the installation of new art works.

Superintendent Karen Brofft reported that the past year was solid and successful with a good team of staff,

administrators, and board. She reported that a grant request to fund nurses and counselors was declined for the coming year and will expire in December. In the meantime, a search for alternate funding will be made.

Brofft reported on the success in the use of Reading Plus, a Web-based program, which came into use midyear. She said that the program stresses efficiency and silent reading and is used by all ages and gifted students as well as those who need help. The students seem to love it and have a choice of reading material. Reading scores have improved significantly, and the district approved signing a three-year contract.

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1:00 pm - 8:00 pm**

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We will host a Parks Plan community open house to seek your input on our parks plan.



Tuesday, July 21, 4-7 p.m.
Arrive anytime during the open house, no formal presentation.
Bear Creek Elementary School
1330 Creekside Dr.

View the conceptual drawings on our website:
www.townofmonument.org/departments/parks-and-recreation-plans/conceptual-parks-plan/

