



**Above:** On July 22, Tri-Lakes Monument Fire Chief Chris Truty read the oath of office to newly promoted Battalion Chief Mike Dooley. Truty said Dooley is a well-respected leader and brings “institutional knowledge and a lot of expertise” to serve in this role. *Photo by Lisa Hatfield*

sons & Rosacker LLP, presented his audit of the 2014 district financial statements. He said it was a clean audit with no significant surprises.

Downs said it is difficult for small districts to achieve the ideal amount of segregation of duties. Accountant “Frances (Esty) is doing all the work” and this did not allow for cross-referencing and checks and balances, he said.

The board voted unanimously to accept the audit.

**Firewise award system**

Fire Marshal John Vincent described a new award system he has developed to encourage residents who are doing fire fuel mitigation around their homes. Firefighter crews who notice work in progress can stop and engage with homeowners and reinforce to homeowners when they are doing something right. Vincent wants all 48 subdivisions in TLMFPD to work toward being Firewise, which includes thinning trees so the ones that remain are healthy and well-spaced and don’t allow fire to creep up into the tree crowns.

The long-term goal is to become a “fire-adapted community” where natural wildfires don’t last as long and are less destructive.

“We will have a wildfire

here. How catastrophic the fire will be is up to the homeowners,” Vincent said. Recent rains may have helped with short-term fire danger, but “what’s green today will be brown tomorrow” and add to the fire fuel load around people’s homes, he warned.

See [www.ocn.me/v14n12.htm#cwmp1101](http://www.ocn.me/v14n12.htm#cwmp1101), [www.tlmfire.org/ready-set-go](http://www.tlmfire.org/ready-set-go) or write to [jvincent@tlmfire.org](mailto:jvincent@tlmfire.org) for more information on your own property’s fuels mitigation needs or how to start a Firewise group in your neighborhood.

Chief Chris Truty announced that the Masonic Lodge in Monument planned to name Vincent “Firefighter of the Year” at a ceremony on July 26. His experience includes myriad roles in the firefighting field, search and rescue, first responder at multiple local and national emergencies including the 2012 Waldo Canyon Fire, and many years of military service including a tour of duty in Afghanistan with the 19<sup>th</sup> Special Forces Group in support of Operation Enduring Freedom. Since April 2012, he has developed district-wide fire prevention and community wildfire awareness programs.

**New battalion chief**

Truty read the oath of office to newly promoted Battalion Chief Mike Dooley. Truty said Dooley

was a BC before the TLMFPD reorganization that occurred a few years ago and has now offered his “institutional knowledge and expertise” to serve as BC again.

**Financial report**

Treasurer John Hildebrandt said that expenses as of the end of June were about 2 percent below budget. Ambulance revenues were 6 percent below budget, but overall revenue was on track. The directors unanimously approved the June 30 financial report.

**Chief’s report**

Truty’s comments included:

- Health care costs are increasing due to the Affordable Care Act.
- The promotional exam for lieutenants is in preparation.
- Tax levy discussion for May 2016 is considering bond levy vs. mill levy options.
- Larkspur Fire Protection District has removed itself from merger talks with TLMFPD, but Donald Wescott is considering doing some operations with the district.
- Sheriff Bill Elder is making it a priority to work on 911 station alerting to fire stations to improve reliability.

Deputy Chief Randy Trost’s comments included:

- TLMFPD sent two firefighters to Denver to honor fallen firefighter John Whelan.
- Maintenance and repairs continue at all three stations.
- The fleet is continuing to do maintenance, and the new brush truck and two four-wheel-drive ambulances are on the way.
- Thank you to Chief Arturo Morales of the Castle Rock Fire/Rescue Department for donating three portable and two mobile radios that match the ones TLMFPD uses.

**Fire station tours scheduled for Oct. 28**

TLMFPD plans to offer tours of all three fire stations before the regular October board meeting. The goal will be to show the status of the fire stations to all the directors and any members of public who would like to get this information.

Administrative Assistant Jennifer Martin described many public relations events that the firefighters have participated in including July 4 parade security, car seat checks, fire mitigation assessments, public education sessions at parks and schools, a benefit ride, and the upcoming Aug. 8 Safety Day at U.S. Taekwondo Center.

**Shirk meets protesters in Denver**

President Jake Shirk said he had just spent three days in downtown Denver at a police chief’s

conference and “had the pleasure of meeting” a contingent of anonymous, masked Occupy Denver participants that were there protesting against the “racist, brutal police chiefs all meeting together to conspire against them.” He said there were uniformed officers in full riot gear there to protect the chiefs going to the conference. “It was pretty interesting,” he said.

The meeting adjourned at 7:36 p.m.

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The next meeting will be held at 6:30 p.m. on Wednesday, Aug. 26 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](mailto:lisahatfield@ocn.me).*

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