

of petitioning to be de-included from one district or the other with the arrival of CSFD Station 22 at 711 Copper Center Parkway.

Burns' comments included:

- It is hard to plan for the future when CSFD does not communicate with DWFPD.
- We are going to have to find a way to continue operations and in what form.
- The consensus at the first two homeowners associations (HOA) input meetings was that residents would like us to have an election about a mill levy increase.
- Waiting until 2017 (instead of voting in 2016) will give us time to work this through and find an agreeable mill levy where we stay in operation and give voters the best possible service we can for the money
- These HOA input meetings will continue until we are ready to make a decision by July 2017 for the Novem-

ber 2017 ballot.

The first two HOA input meetings included just one representative from each of the district's HOAs on June 7 and 14. Resident Bill Lowes, a former Wescott board president, said it was vital to have more of a board presence at future HOA input meetings, since this component was missing in the last district MLO election in November 2013 that failed. Director Bo McAllister agreed, saying, "It is incumbent on us to get the word out."

2015 audit accepted

Auditor Tom Sistare, of Hoelting and Co., presented an unmodified, or "clean," opinion for 2015. He said accounts receivable increased by \$229,000 in 2015 and that this is made up mostly of property taxes receivable. Sistare will work with Executive Administrator Stacey Popovich about how to continue to improve the number of internal controls in this small district.

The board voted unanimously to accept the 2015 audit as presented.

At 7:49 p.m., the board voted to go into executive session to determine positions relative to matters that may be subject to negotiations, developing strategy for negotiations, and instructing negotiators. The meeting adjourned at 8:30 p.m. Popovich said no votes were taken and no announcements were made after the directors returned to regular session to immediately adjourn.

The next Donald Wescott Fire Protection District Board of Directors meeting is scheduled for 7 p.m. July 19 at Station 1, 15415 Gleneagle Drive. Please call 488-8680, a nonemergency number, for more information, or visit www.wescottfire.org. The district is also on Facebook.

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

Tri-Lakes Monument Fire Protection District station tour, June 22

TLMFPD board tours fire stations



Above: The Tri-Lakes Monument Fire Protection District (TLMFPD) board members toured four fire stations on June 22 as part of their regular meeting. The tour started at the new Colorado Springs Fire Department Station 22 (on Voyager Parkway just south of Northgate Road, pictured on the left), because Fire Chief Chris Truty wanted the board to see it as a model of a "modern fire station." Then they visited TLMFPD Stations 1 (on Highway 105, pictured on the right), 2, and 3 to see where the district's firefighters and paramedics spend time in between

calls and training. Battalion Chief Michael Keough explained that none of the three stations was being used for the same purpose for which it had originally been designed due to changes in how the district is staffed. Many spaces have had to be repurposed to try to meet current needs, and staff members have done many of their own alterations and upgrades to make the spaces safer and more homelike. *Photos by Lisa Hatfield.*

Baptist Road Rural Transportation Authority, June 17

All BRRTA bonds redeemed, 2015 audit approved

By Jim Kendrick

On June 17, Elaine Johnsen, EPC Funding Optimization manager and district manager for the Baptist Road Rural Transportation Authority (BRRTA), advised the BRRTA Board of Directors that all of BRRTA's remaining outstanding 2007 privately held road construction revenue bonds had been paid off through an extraordinary mandatory redemption on June 1—as directed by the board on March 18. June 31, 2016, was the first eligible redemption date in the bond covenants after BRRTA received a final state reimbursement through the Colorado Department of Revenue. On March 18, Johnsen said the estimated total cost of early redemption is \$14.8 million for principal, interest, and trustee fees, while BRRTA's current total bond resources are \$14.9 million as of Feb. 29, for a remaining excess of \$85,594. (For more information see <http://ocn.me/v16n4.htm#brarta0318>)

CPA Braden Hammond and Certified Fraud Examiner Josephus Le Roux, of CPA firm BiggsKofford P.C. of Colorado Springs, reported an unconditional (or "clean") opinion in its final 2015 audit, which the board unanimously approved. At least one more annual full audit for 2016 by BiggsKofford is required due to several large 2016 financial transactions. BRRTA road use fees and use taxes were terminated at the March 18, 2016, BRRTA board meeting. About \$700,000 will remain in BRRTA's general fund after BRRTA receives its June sales tax revenues late in August. By state law the earliest date BRRTA's temporary one-cent sales tax in the BRRTA service area could be ended after the final BRRTA revenue bond redemption was June 30, 2016.

Note: The BRRTA board consists of two Town of Monument elected officials and three elected El Paso County officials. The current members are Monument Mayor Jeff Kaiser (chair), Monument Mayor Pro Tem Don Wilson, County Commissioner Darryl Glenn, County Commis-

sioner Dennis Hisey, and County Assessor Steve Schleiker. The absence of Glenn was excused.

Termination timeline troublesome

There was a lengthy technical discussion about BRRTA's termination timeline. Since there are so few deliberately defined government agency demises, the board and staff are dealing with a dearth of definitive data on how to determine decision deadlines in the most efficient and economical manner. Many remaining actions by the board and staff may each still create yet another new legal requirement to maintain another separate cash reserve in case there is a lawsuit for damages or overpayment of taxes or fees or any other minor future construction projects. BRRTA, if not careful, could create new administrative fund reserve requirements under the various related statutes of limitation of up to three years each.

It was the board's and staff's consensus that none of the looming termination timeline decisions could be made at this meeting and will require further staff research.

Citizen requests

The board unanimously approved a \$3,500 charitable sponsorship donation request from Sky Hall of Tri-Lakes Views for one of the 12 stainless steel aspen tree sculptures to be installed in the new roundabout at the intersection of West Baptist Road and Old Denver Road. All of the 12 trees now have sponsors.

Gary Rusnak of Gleneagle asked the board to consider using some of the remaining \$700,000 in BRRTA's general fund to replace the gravel path on the north side of Baptist Road and east of the King Soopers shopping center with a cement sidewalk. The board concurred that this was a good project for BRRTA sponsorship because the path is part of the Baptist Road right-of-way. The board also decided that any remaining funds also might be used for partially replacing the gravel in the Baptist Road median with concrete, as originally planned but unaffordable



Above: On June 17, during the Baptist Road Rural Transportation Authority (BRRTA) meeting Citizen Request agenda item, Gary Rusnak asked the board to use some of the approximately \$700,000 that will be left in the BRRTA general fund, now that all BRRTA revenue bonds have been redeemed, for construction of a concrete sidewalk on the north side of Baptist Road between Leather Chaps Road and Jackson Creek Parkway. The existing gravel hiking path that BRRTA constructed when Baptist Road was widened from two lanes is deeply eroded and weed-infested, as shown by this photo of a basketball and soccer ball fitting side-by-side below grade in the existing eroded area. *Photo by Jim Kendrick.*

at the time of the road-widening project. The BRRTA staff will seek other recommendations for final low-cost projects within the Baptist Road right-of-way, as required by state law.

The scheduled Aug. 12 board meeting was postponed