

cost \$56,960 to be split by both districts.

Wescott Interim Fire Chief Warren Jones said revenues and expenditures will be reviewed, along with capital assets, to identify the agency's financial stability. He said staffing and personnel management will be reviewed, but no one has mentioned that Wescott functions largely due to its large number of volunteers.

Note: Last month both districts held a meeting and discussed four possible unification solutions. The chiefs said they are looking at the first two solutions predominantly. These options will be reviewed separately from the feasibility study. See Vol. 21 No. 6 - June 5, 2017 (ocn.me).

During the public comments portion of the meeting, resident Steve Simpson said he likes the direction the district is going regarding "unification or merger." He also advocated for an executive summary in the feasibility study to help create a compelling argument, "why from a financial perspective [unification] would be better" for the district.

Both chiefs came from agencies that provided regional services. Kovacs suggested Wescott's Station 1 could act as a southeastern station if it is absorbed into TLMFPD, rather than having to spend months building a new station.

Other decisions and discussion items

- The district's attorney, Emily Powell, said retiring Chief Vinny Burns remained on payroll while using his accrued leave. After 41 years of service, his last day was June 22. A retirement agreement was approved by the board, and a party to honor him is set for Aug. 15.
- Administrative Assistant Stacey Popovich said the annual Special District Association conference will be held in Keystone this year on Sept. 14 through 16. Two board members may attend, but no one has been selected to attend yet.
- Jones said he continues to follow the short-term action plan he presented to the board during the May meeting. See Vol. 21 No. 6 - June 5, 2017 (ocn.me). This includes a discussion for 2022 budget preparation. He said some current practices don't have a financial policy associated with them.
- Jones asked the board to allow for staff time to be put toward creating options for Station 3. Director Charlie Fleece abstained from the vote because his property borders the station. It was unclear if the vote was approved, as Director Joyce Hartung was not heard during the verbal vote and a quorum was not available.
- Popovich said the district has received \$43,000 in state funding for COVID-19 reimbursements. A second reimbursement of \$91,000 was just recently awarded to Wescott, but the money had not yet been received.

Public comments

Simpson suggested allowing in-person attendance and asked the board to consider moving meetings to later in the evening to allow more residents to attend. During the pandemic, the meetings were moved up to 4 p.m. Fleece complimented all the work staff has done, saying the firefighters go out of their way to be caring. The meeting adjourned at 5:31 p.m.

If the meeting is held in person, it will be at Station 1, 15415 Gleneagle Dr. For a virtual meeting, the phone number is 669-900-9128, and the meeting code is

980 378 2073. Meetings are usually on the third Tuesday of each month at 7 p.m. The next Donald Wescott fire district meeting is scheduled for July 20 at 4 p.m. For information, call Executive Administrator Stacey Popovich at 719-488-8680 or see www.wescottfire.org.

Allison Robinstein can be contacted at allisonrobinstein@ocn.me

Black Forest Fire/Rescue Protection District, June 16

Administrator and accountant hired

By Natalie Barszcz

At the Black Forest Fire/Rescue Protection District (BFFRPD) board meeting June 16, the board heard about the newly hired administrator

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