

March 2017, a 5 percent increase. He reported that DWFPD responded to one building fire that was an automatic aid call with TLMFPD, performed advanced life support skills in 15 medical calls, and performed basic life support skills in 10 medical calls.

Burns said the new agreement with TLMFPD "will eliminate a high number of responses from this station." **Note:** Ridings did not break out the number of calls made to addresses within the current larger DWFPD service area that still includes some of the Colorado Springs Fire Department Station 22 service area, addresses within the final smallest boundary of DWFPD that excludes currently serviced addresses with the City of Colorado Springs which were annexed from DWFPD, nor addresses within the service area of TLMFPD.

Ridings did not specify the number of DWFPD D and E calls within the Tri-Lakes Monument Fire Protection District (TLMFPD) to give a sense of what the DWFPD actual call demand from TLMFPD will be in 2018 and beyond. (ocn.me/v17n4.htm#dwfpd, ocn.me/v17n4.htm#tlmfpd, ocn.me/v17n2.htm#tlmfpd)

Neither Burns nor Ridings projected a total amount of in-district DWFPD calls for 2017 or 2018, nor did they compare any estimates with the totals of in-district DWFPD calls in previous years.

Castle did not discuss at this meeting whether an estimate for this reduced number of future in-district calls starting in 2018 was part of her analysis of future expenses for the no-mill levy increase or the 15-mill levy increase scenarios she compared.

To date, the DWFPD taxpayers who will remain within the smaller final DWFPD service area have not been provided this information for determining what the actual demand for services within DWFPD will be when they have an opportunity to vote on the proposed 15-mill DWFPD property tax mill levy increase. (End **Note**)

The March 2017 incident report by type included: Fire – 1, Rescue and Emergency Medical Service Incident – 140, Hazardous Condition (No Fire) – 4, Service Call – 16, Good Intent Call – 83, False Alarm and False Call – 10. Sixty-nine of the calls coded as Good Intent were dispatched and canceled en route.

New board member approved

Board President Greg Gent directed the meeting to voting

for a new board member. As of the March board meeting, four letters of application had been received from Rusnak, Matthew Fisher, Louise Link, and Rachel Dunn. Gent remarked, "We appreciate all of you applying very much, it was good to have that kind of turnout.... We'd be fortunate to have any of the applicants on [the board], but the one I ... kind of liked ... was Rachel [Dunn]."

Gent invited comments and discussion. Board members Bo McAllister and Joyce Hartung concurred with Gent's approval of Dunn. She was unanimously accepted and immediately sworn in to fill the vacant position on the DWFPD Board of Directors.

Upcoming events

- Summer Safety Fair – May 13, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at Station 1
- Fire mitigation, chipping, and cleanup day – May 20, 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. at Sun Hills Station
- Gleneagle North HOA cleanup weekend – May 21

Pension Board of Directors meeting

At the pension board meeting before the regular meeting, Lt. Bryan Ackerman reported that requests for the actuarial growth study had been submitted for payouts to volunteers at \$425, \$450, and \$475, an increase of \$25 from current payouts. Lt. Tim Hampton explained that the Fire and Police Pension Association fund's solvency did not support an increase last year, so the 2017 request is \$25 lower than the 2016 payout levels to broaden the range of options and test the solvency of the fund.

The year-to-year comparison of the fund revealed a smaller deficit than the previous year and a decrease in benefits paid despite the addition of two retirees. Regarding the grant match, Ackerman confirmed that the request had been submitted, but because the grant is overfunded, the state will not be matching grant awards.

At 7:43 the board adjourned.

The next Donald Wescott Fire Protection District Board of Directors meeting is scheduled for 7 p.m. on May 16 at Station 1, 15415 Gleneagle Drive. Please call (719) 488-8680, a nonemergency number, for more information, or visit www.wescottfire.org. The district is also on Facebook.

Jennifer Kaylor can be reached at jenniferkaylor@ocn.me.

Jim Kendrick can be reached at jimkendrick@ocn.me.

Tri-Lakes Monument Fire Protection District, April 26

Six paramedic-only hirings approved

By Lisa Hatfield

On April 26, the directors of the Tri-Lakes Monument Fire Protection District (TLMFPD) discussed several issues surrounding the current staffing situation, including approving six paramedic-only positions and contemplating further temporary reductions in minimum staffing levels. Fire Chief Chris Truty also presented a "2017 Mill Levy Proposal Frequently Asked Questions and Answers" document for residents' education.

Secretary Mike Smaldino and Director Terri Hayes were absent.

Six non-fire paramedic hirings approved

Truty presented a proposal to alleviate the burden on current staff, which has been doing overtime shifts for an extended period of time to meet the staffing requirements set by the district while the constant search for new personnel to hire is in progress. The goal is to have 13 staff members on duty

for every shift. But he said that since 2015, the district has lost five paramedics, and the firefighter/paramedic position is becoming a high-demand occupation across the state and the nation, so many qualified candidates are choosing to work in higher-paying districts. Truty said that TLMFPD is operating at a staffing level that's six or seven people fewer

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