

that will eventually replace Engine 2111 to the 2019 budget. The TLMFPD board voted unanimously to authorize the lease-purchase of a duplicate firefighting vehicle to replace engine 1, from Pierce Manufacturing, putting down a deposit of \$100,000. It will be financed over 10 years.

The board subsequently approved and adopted all resolutions presented in the final 2019 budget, 5-0.

Note: When voters approved the mill levy increase in the 2017 election, TLMFPD's publicized objectives were to increase the budget for wages, building capital outlay, communications, equipment, and create a separate savings fund for future purchases. See www.ocn.me/v17n12.htm#tlmfpd.

Collective Bargaining Agreement (CBA) negotiation

Truty said, "Speaking from my perspective we have had two favorable meetings with the union and excellent discussions."

Engineer Mike Rauenzahn, who is the union representative for the Local 4319 International Association of Firefighters (IAFF), responded, "The meetings and the collaboration have been good, and we are moving forward in a positive direction for the community."

"There is no financial reason for backtracking on the CBA and January 1st will be the start date for negotiations," said Hildebrandt. Truty said decisions made could be retroactive to Jan. 1.

The collective bargaining idea was first introduced at TLMFPD in March.

See www.ocn.me/v18n4.htm#tlmfpd, www.ocn.me/v18n12.htm#tlmfpd.

Gallagher update

Truty gave an update on the potential effects of Gallagher amendment legislation, which limits how much residential property taxes local governments can collect. He is unsure that any constitutional amendment will come out of the current legislative session, which is due to end mid-May.

If TLMFPD were to propose a ballot question for the November 2019 election to ask voters to "de-Gallagherize" TLMFPD, the county would need to be notified by the end of July with a final submission date of Sept. 1. For more information regarding the Gallagher amendment, visit: <http://tlmfire.org/gallagher>.

Wescott consolidation update

Truty said the current status of negotiations with Donald Wescott Fire Protection District (DWFPD) on the potential merger is as follows:

- There has been no formal update in the previous two weeks regarding whether or not they will go forward with a merger.
- It is unknown if any further progress will be made before the Jan. 23 TLMFPD board meeting.
- The DWFPD board will need to approve the budget for 2019.
- The only sticking point is about DWFPD's financials and when those questions will be answered.
- At the January TLMFPD board meeting, a discussion will be held in executive session to determine

the next step in the consolidation process and where it goes from there.

Treasurer John Hildebrandt said he had received some email communication from a DWFPD board member in early November and otherwise had been relying on OCN to garner any further information on the process in the interim.

Latest financial report

Hildebrandt updated the TLMFPD board on the October financials, which represent 83.33 percent of the year to date.

- Property taxes received were \$7.497 million, 99 percent of the budgeted \$7.560 million.
- Specific Ownership Taxes received were \$729,781, 143 percent of the budgeted \$510,000.
- Ambulance revenues were \$727,088, 90 percent of the budgeted \$800,000.
- Impact fees (from development) were at \$156,955, 209 percent of expected revenue of \$75,000.

Expenses continue to climb or go over budget in categories including total overtime, training, equipment, vehicle maintenance, medical, and administration, but Hildebrandt didn't elaborate on the causes. Truty's report said, "Total overtime expenses have dramatically diminished. Since our new people have come on line, we are no longer 10-15 percent above annual budget and now down to 3 percent for the year." Hildebrandt said the bottom line is TLMFPD is under budget for

overall expenses by 3-4 percent for the year to date.

Other good news

- Director Tom Tharnish said the Town of Monument had approved funding to purchase a boat and shed for Monument Lake, which will be available to TLMFPD for water rescue training in 2019.
- Tharnish said that when the town builds its second water tank, in Forest View Estates, it could be possible to add fire hydrants on the pipeline's route along Red Rock Ranch Road and down Highway 105 to Station 1.
- Vice President Roger Lance said that Pikes Peak Regional Fire Rehab Services is rebranding as "Emergency Incident Support Team," so its mission to "rapidly provide food and rest to first responders during emergencies" is more clear to the public. To volunteer or contribute, see www.pikespeakfire.org/fire-rehab/.

The TLMFPD board adjourned at 7:27 p.m.

Meetings are usually held the fourth Wednesday of each month. The next meeting is scheduled for 6:30 p.m. Jan. 23 at TLMFPD Station 1, 18650 Highway 105. For information, contact Office Administrator/HR Jennifer Martin at 719-484-9011. For upcoming agendas, see <http://tlmfire.org/board>.

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Monument Board of Trustees, Dec. 3

Town attorney and seventh trustee sworn in; interim town manager named

By Allison Robenstein

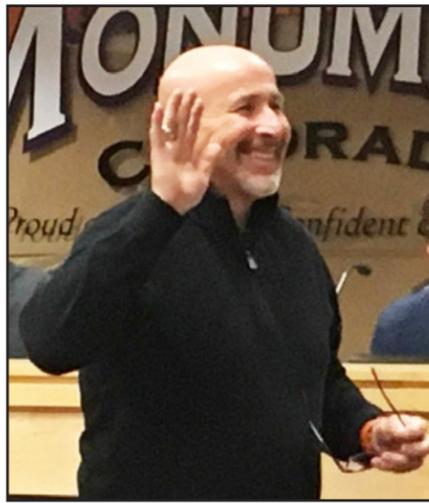
The Monument Board of Trustees (BOT) held a productive meeting on Dec. 3, filling several positions that had been vacant or unappointed. These included the seventh trustee position, the town attorney and the treasurer. The board also agreed to bring in an in-

terim town manager.

Trustee Laurie Clark was noted absent.

Most empty positions filled

Jim Romanello was sworn in as the seventh trustee on the board in a seat left vacant when Don Wilson became mayor. Romanello was voted into the



Above: Jim Romanello was sworn in as the seventh trustee on the board in a seat left vacant when Don Wilson became mayor. Romanello was voted into the seat in the Nov. 6 election defeating Ken Kimple and Ann Howe. Photo courtesy the Town of Monument.

seat in the Nov. 6 election defeating Ken Kimple and Ann Howe.

Joseph Rivera of Murray, Dahl, Beery and Renaud LLP was appointed special counsel to the town. At the Oct. 15 meeting, the board had heard from four legal firms willing to represent the town as contract attorneys. The town has been without legal counsel since Sept. 4 when Alicia Corley left for another job. See <https://www.ocn.me/v18n11.htm>.

Tonight, Pamela Smith was appointed as town treasurer after her appointment to the position was denied by the board at its May 7 meeting. See <https://www.ocn.me/v18n6.htm>.

Before she was designated treasurer though, Trustee Greg Coopman suggested postponing the appoint-

ment after the BOT was directed by El Paso County Sheriff's Office to retain records for an ongoing criminal investigation. Neither he nor Mayor Don Wilson seemed to know the root of the investigation, and Wilson suggested it could be regarding a developer or vendor and not be specific to Smith. He also reminded the board they can make changes to an appointment at any time. Trustee Jeffrey Bornstein said people are innocent until proven otherwise, and Coopman said later that there's no insinuation of guilt until someone is found guilty.

Trustee Ron Stephens said the board has been "delaying this appointment far too long." Romanello motioned to appoint Smith as town treasurer, and the motion was seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Kelly Elliott. It passed 4-1-1 with Coopman voting no and Bornstein abstaining.

At the beginning of the meeting, the board voted unanimously to add an executive session before Item 7, which were discussion items about the town manager and town treasurer. The board went into a brief executive session at 7:42 p.m. to "conference with an attorney for the purpose of receiving legal advice with regard to the Board of Trustees," according to Wilson.

When the board returned, and after some discussion, they decided to hire Mike Foreman as the interim town manager. The vote was 5-1 with Coopman voting against, saying, "No, I cannot." Foreman was one of six managerial candidates interviewed by the board at the Aug. 13 meeting. See www.ocn.me/v18n9.htm#mbot0813.

The town has been without a full-time manager since Feb. 2, when then manager Chris Lowe was put on administrative leave and then fired June 4. Smith has been the acting town



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