

public hearing will be Dec. 18.

- Watching closely on directional drilling to make sure no sewer lines are damaged as MCI Inc. and Force Broadband are putting in fiber-optic cable along Third Street and up toward Palmer Lake.

Monument Sanitation District meetings are normally held at 9 a.m. on the third Wednesday of the month in the district conference room at 130 Second St., Monument. See <https://colorado.gov/msd>. For a district

service map, see <https://colorado.gov/pacific/msd/district-map-0>. Information: 481-4886.

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**Black Forest Fire Rescue Protection District, Aug. 20**

# Interim chief extended again; 2018 audit is "clean"

By Natalie Barszcz

At the Black Forest Fire/Rescue Protection District (BFFRPD) meeting on Aug. 20, the board approved a second extension for the interim chief, gave him more leeway to set some policies, decided to perform bi-annual inspections, and accepted the 2018 financial audit.

**Interim chief extended, given more latitude**  
Board Chairman Rick Nearhoof proposed that interim Chief PJ Langmaid's term be extended through December before starting the process of finding a permanent chief on Jan. 2, 2020. Nearhoof said that Langmaid is uncovering new problems every day from years past.

Langmaid said it is natural to have growing pains when moving from a small rural agency to a suburban one. "Calls have increased, the types of calls are different, and we are trying to catch up in a rapid fashion to today's professional standards." The board approved 5-0 to extend Langmaid in the position of interim chief.

**Background:** Langmaid was the board chairman until he stepped down and was appointed interim chief on May 1. He also continues a full-time firefighter position with the Colorado Springs Fire Department (CSFD) during this transition period, working a combined 60-80 hours a week.

Langmaid asked the board to rescind the previous mission and vision statement of 2017 and adopt the new separation of district and department policies. Instead of continuing to have the board set all policies, he wanted to separate the board-set district policies from day-to-day policies decided on by the chief. Treasurer Jack Hinton said the chief will not "be saddled with policies all created by the board." The board voted 5-0 to adopt Policy 104.

**Bi-annual inspections**

Hinton said, "Back when we had a chief change (and Langmaid became interim chief), we found problems with staffing, equipment, and bunker gear. We are having to amend the 2019 budget because of it." He then proposed that two board members appointed by the chairman will inspect both stations bi-annually in January and June to ensure accountability for equipment.

Langmaid voiced his disagreement with bi-annual inspections and argued that an annual June inspection would be sufficient prior to setting the next bud-

get, citing the industry practice is annual and beyond that it becomes cumbersome for the department staff. "Any member of the board is of course welcome on any day to stop by and inspect the department," said Langmaid.

However, the board approved 5-0 for Hinton to write a district policy for the implementation of bi-annual assessments of the district assets for the September board meeting.

**2018 audit presentation**

Auditor Dawn Schilling of Schilling & Co. Inc. Certified Public Accountants presented the 2018 audit to the BFFRPD directors and gave it an unmodified or "clean" opinion. Schilling commented that there were no difficulties or disagreements and only three insignificant adjustments compared to 10 adjustments last year.

Schilling thanked Administrative Assistant Melissa Bottorff, Finance Director Frances Esty and Langmaid for their assistance during the preparation of the 2018 audit.

The BFFRPD budget information can be viewed at [www.bffire.org/financials](http://www.bffire.org/financials).

**SAFER grant**

Approval from the state for an Adequate Fire & Emergency Response (SAFER) ambulance grant of \$181,400 will now go toward the purchase of two new ambulances by June 2020, with a total cost to the district of \$230,000. Deputy Chief Jim Rebitski is working with staff to decide on the ambulance specifications and will visit Iowa to research the purchase of identical ambulances.

**Note:** A previous request for a SAFER grant to increase staffing levels was denied in October 2018 by the state due to an excess of funds. Subsequently, Rebitski was successful after re-applying for a state grant in May 2019 for the funding of two ambulances.

Hinton proposed separating the Reserve Fund from the General Fund in January 2020. The reserve fund would be used only for emergencies, and by separating the funds any future rejection of grant applications by the state should be prevented, he said. Langmaid asked the board to define what it would consider an emergency. Hinton agreed to work on

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