

tax-exempt rates. Estimates for what the district could potentially achieve included a Aaa Moody's rating, Bank of America bond insurance, green bond qualification, a true interest cost of or near 2.96%, and annual debt service of about \$625,000 after 2022. The resolution maintained its 30-year financing and the \$12.75 million cap with the district's goal to keep proceeds at or under \$12.5 million. Eckloff suggested that the financing gives the district a good sum of money at a very low interest cost for the variety of tax-exempt projects it expects to fund over the next few years.

In a related move, McGrady presented a memorandum of understanding (MOU) that expressed an intention to support and participate in the design of the Northern Water Delivery System as well as acquisition of an El Paso County 1041 permit. Taking the role of project sponsor, Triview would circulate the MOU for signatures from the remaining water districts—the Town of Monument, Woodmoor Water and Sanitation, the Town of Palmer Lake, Donala Water and Sanitation District, and Forest Lakes Metropolitan District—to communicate general expectations and demonstrate a collaborative attitude among the entities to the county. Cummins explained that the agreement did not commit any districts or any money.

The board approved resolution 2020-15 and authorized McGrady to sign the MOU.

A-yard building progress

New bids to restart construction of a steel building in the district's A-yard located along Jackson Creek Parkway (JCP) fell slightly above the million-dollar range, indicated McGrady. Forgoing the traditional approach, McGrady

explained his plan to "value engineer" the construction by hiring a construction manager to direct the project. His most recent estimate of the building's prefabricated steel frame combined with the expense of grading the site, building the foundation, installing utilities, and paying the project manager, reached \$860,000.

The building, outfitted with six bays and personnel amenities, is intended to garage the district's vehicles plus snowplow and mowing equipment, shelter staff who repair and maintain equipment, and provide administrative space. McGrady proposed that the expenses be split between the remaining 2020 budget capital project funds and the funds designated in the draft 2021 budget.

Directors supported completion of the building and asked if the current plan was sufficient for the public works and parks and open space crews' needs. McGrady confirmed that the current size design satisfied their needs, and expansion to the west was possible if necessary.

The board directed McGrady to proceed with the construction of the building.

Additional reports and actions:

- The district recognized Ben Garcia as a new utility staff member. McGrady praised Garcia's knowledge and experience and welcomed him as a valuable addition to Triview.
- Water Superintendent Shawn Sexton expressed kudos for Rob Lewis in achieving 100% compliance on the district's backflow prevention requirements.
- McGrady confirmed that the final payment for the JCP construction

would be paid soon. A combination of credit and savings under the guaranteed maximum price contract reduced the final payment from \$396,000 to \$345,000.

- Features of the 2021 budget forecast included completing the mill and overlay of Leather Chaps Drive and a potential further reduction of tax property mills collected by the district. During 2020, Triview collected 32 of its 35-mill cap.
- McGrady reported that the district's website would be upgraded to improve searchability and user friendliness.
- At the Oct. 6 meeting, directors authorized McGrady to explore moving the Triview office to a larger space in its current Old Forest Point building.
- Directors approved two additional resolutions. Resolution 2020-14 updated the district's records retention policy to reflect the 2008 Colorado Special Districts retention schedule. Resolution 2020-16 established a policy pertaining to the rare occasion when a homeowner must connect to Triview's wastewater infrastructure with a privately owned lift station.
- Triview was scheduled to participate in a Nov. 6 interagency discussion about the Pueblo Reservoir excess capacity agreement. Bureau of Reclamation representatives would also attend. McGrady asserted the crucial aspect of ensuring that all of the district's water storage needs from various water sources and potential environmental impacts are addressed.
- McGrady expressed confidence

that the well house in Sanctuary Pointe would be complete by the end of November, weather permitting. The next steps would be to complete interior work and connect the wells to the district's B plant for water treatment.

At 7:11 p.m., the board entered executive session §24-6-402(4)(a)(b) and (e) legal advice and negotiations regarding the general topics settlement discussions in pending FMIC Change Case No. 16CW3010; negotiations associated with water delivery infrastructure, wastewater infrastructure, and water storage on the Arkansas River and its tributaries; negotiations with potential contractors and miners concerning the Stonewall Springs Reservoir Complex; and negotiations regarding acquisition of renewable water resources. OCN later confirmed that the board did not take actions nor make decisions following the executive session.

The next Triview board meeting is scheduled for 5:30 p.m. Nov. 19 and will include a public hearing for the 2021 budget. Due to state's the budgeting deadline, the meeting to review and adopt the budget will be held Dec. 10. The board will resume meeting on the third Thursday of the month in 2021. Check the district's event calendar at <https://triviewmetro.com/home> or call 488-6868 for meeting schedule updates and to confirm if the meeting will be in-person or via conference call. In-person board meetings are held at the district office, 16055 Old Forest Point, Suite 300, Monument. See also "Triview Metropolitan District" on Facebook or Twitter.com/@TriviewMetro.

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Donald Wescott Fire Protection District, Oct. 20

COVID-19 guidelines continue; updates received

By Allison Robenstein

Donald Wescott Fire Protection District Chief Vinny Burns said on Oct. 20 that all COVID-19 standard operating guidelines remain in place. To date, the fire district has spent \$50,000 related to the pandemic. Because of Wescott's financial stability, it is less likely to be considered for state grants. "We don't meet the financial burden that other fire departments do," said Burns. According to the state, the district should be using money in its reserves to pay for

any outlying expenses.

Wildland fire deployments

Burns said members of Wescott have been to 11 wildland fires. For some of these, it has sent multiple resources and crew swaps. The district has submitted \$480,000 for wildland fire reimbursements, but so far has only received \$139,000. Administrative Assistant Stacey Popovich said typically the money spent will be reimbursed six to seven weeks after returning from deployment. Resident Steve Simpson

thanked the members of the district for their contributions to wildland fire prevention.

Other announcements and updates

- In September, the district had 94 calls for service, a 19% increase from the same month in 2019. There was no loss of property due to fire during the month.
- A new volunteer class started Sept. 27, bringing the total number of volunteers to 23. The new class

has been brought up to speed on general station safety. The group ranges in age from 20 to 40 years old. Some are active or retired military, or "just general citizens just looking to start a career in the fire service." They are beginning their phase I probation that must be completed in four months.

- The power unit for the only auto extrication kit has stopped working. Battalion Chief Shannon Balvanz said they are working to get it fixed and secure a loaner. Director Larry Schwarz asked, "Should we discuss in the 2021 budget process?"
- The board will hold a public hearing at its Nov. 17 meeting to present the draft 2021 budget.
- Balvanz said the station exhaust project is moving forward. The required environmental health plan was submitted to the state and approved. The next step is to meet with the Denver-based Federal Emergency Management Agency group.

The meeting adjourned at 5:04 p.m.

The next Donald Wescott fire district meeting is scheduled for Nov. 17 at 4 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. For information, call Executive Administrator Stacey Popovich at 719-488-8680 or see www.wescottfire.org.

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