

from Tri-Lakes Monument Fire Protection District (TLMFPD).

- Two personnel have deployed to the Grizzly Creek Fire, and it remains unknown if others will replace them on their return.
- Deputy Chief James Rebitski is now receiving Electronic Development Application Review Plan (EDARP) requests for developments and commercial occupancies regularly from El Paso County, which consume a great deal of time.
- Stations 1 and 2 have several maintenance issues that are being fixed.

#### Potential water resource

Langmaid said a recent water flow drill training event in conjunction with TLMFPD and DWFPD revealed that there is currently no water user agreement between BFFRPD and Cherokee Metropolitan District (CMD).

The event also revealed that CMD could easily support Flying Horse North for water supply and wastewater should Classic Homes Inc. choose to enter into an agreement with CMD. Langmaid recommended the board contact Classic Homes to assist with a potential solution that could be beneficial to the community and be a “win, win” for everyone.

**Note:** The current approved plan is individual wells and septic systems for Flying Horse North’s minimum 2.5-acre lots. No water or wastewater infrastructure is being built. See [www.ocn.me/v17n1.htm#bocc](http://www.ocn.me/v17n1.htm#bocc), [www.ocn.me/v18n10.htm#epbocc](http://www.ocn.me/v18n10.htm#epbocc).

#### Impact fees

Chairman Rick Nearhoof and Director Jim Abend-

schan asked if the district could push harder for the collection of impact fees for fire districts in unincorporated El Paso County from new development.

Langmaid gave an update on the current status of the impact fee impasse as follows:

- Colorado Springs collects fire impact fees on new residential properties.
- Zero progress has been made with the Board of County Commissioners.
- Stakeholders and developers are not interested because other districts have asked for impact fees up to \$5,000 per home.
- However, Classic Homes, in previous talks with BFFRPD, have agreed that \$450 per home would be reasonable.
- County Commissioner Holly Williams brought up the subject at a BOCC meeting and was advised that the talks are tabled indefinitely.

Langmaid added that discussions with Pikes Peak Fire Chiefs and developers has come to a grinding halt, but once social distancing has come to an end, he hopes all parties can find common ground and a decision can be reached that would not impede the local economy. See [www.ocn.me/v17n8.htm#tlmfpd](http://www.ocn.me/v17n8.htm#tlmfpd), [www.ocn.me/v17n8.htm#tlmfpd](http://www.ocn.me/v17n8.htm#tlmfpd), [www.ocn.me/v19n4.htm#bfire](http://www.ocn.me/v19n4.htm#bfire).

Langmaid mentioned that construction in Flying Horse North has slowed noticeably so Classic Homes can concentrate on Flying Horse East on Highway 94.

#### IT contract renewal

Langmaid asked for clear direction from the board to renew the current information technology (IT) con-

tract. Deputy Chief Jim Rebitski said that the district receives excellent service and support 24 hours a day, seven days a week, and at times outside the scope of the contract, for \$1,700 per month. See [www.ocn.me/n20.7.htm#bffrpd](http://www.ocn.me/n20.7.htm#bffrpd).

The board approved a motion to continue the contract with the current IT provider, 4-0.

#### Semi-annual inspection

The board approved, 4-0, for Hinton and Director David Hoffpauir to conduct the first semi-annual inspection of equipment and apparatus before the next regular board meeting. See [www.ocn/v19n9.htm#bffrpd](http://www.ocn/v19n9.htm#bffrpd).

#### Citizen comment

Langmaid said he had received a complaint from a resident regarding livestock in trailers being scared by sirens en route to calls. Crews have now been instructed to turn sirens off when approaching and navigating around horse trailers during their response to calls.

The meeting adjourned at 8:48 p.m.

\*\*\*\*\*

Meetings are usually held at 7 p.m. on the third Wednesday of each month at BFFRPD Station 1, 11445 Teachout Road, Colorado Springs. A Pension Board meeting was scheduled for Sept. 3 at 7 p.m. and the next regular board meeting is scheduled a week early on Sept. 9. For updates and minutes, visit [www.bffire.org](http://www.bffire.org).

Natalie Barszcz can be reached at [nataliebarszcz@ocn.me](mailto:nataliebarszcz@ocn.me).

### Tri-Lakes Monument Fire Protection District, Aug. 26

## Fire chief search underway

By Natalie Barszcz

At the Tri-Lakes Monument Fire Protection District (TLMFPD) board meeting on Aug. 26, the board heard details about the search for a new fire chief and that the purchase of administrative office space for its six administrative positions was nearing completion.

Treasurer Jason Buckingham was excused.

#### Fire chief search progressing

Board President John Hildebrandt said the Fire Chief Search Committee had met on Aug. 18 to examine four proposals and the committee members had unanimously agreed that Prothman Company from Issaquah, Wash., was best suited to achieve the goals in the three- to four-month time frame allocated to find a replacement for Chief Chris Truty, who will retire soon.

Hildebrandt said he had signed a contract with Prothman and that Mark Risen from the company is scheduled to visit TLMFPD on Sept. 15-16, at which time it would be preferable if all staff, including firefighters and the board, could meet face to face and come up with a profile for the search. See [www.ocn.me/v20n8.htm#tlmfpd](http://www.ocn.me/v20n8.htm#tlmfpd).

Hildebrandt requested the board approve the consulting fee of \$19,000 plus \$5,000 for candidate travel expenses with the total fee not to exceed \$35,000. The board approved a sum of \$35,000 for the executive search for a replacement fire chief, 6-0.

The Fire Chief Search Committee is made up of: John Hildebrandt, board president; Mike Smaldino, board secretary and Colorado Springs Fire Department public information officer; Jonathan Bradley, battalion chief of Training; Franz Hankins, Local 4319 Union president; and Christian Schmidt, Union Board director.

Vice President Roger Lance said he hoped the whole board would be able to meet the final three to five candidates before the final selection is made.

Truty said the majority of the meetings would need to be advertised and open to the public, and attorney Adele Reester of Lyons Gaddis Attorneys and Counselors would provide information on the statutory rights of how and when to be public during the search.

The board approved the motion for the search committee to move forward until the final candidate selection narrowed down to a few candidates, 6-0.

#### Suites 102/104 purchase

TLMFPD currently rents office space at 16055 Old Forest Point, Suite 103, in Monument for about \$37,000 annually. Truty said that approval from the bank for the purchase of suites 102/104 was received on Aug. 20, the morning of the contractual deadline, and the next step is for the board, through resolution, to approve the financial documents. The cost for the purchase of suites 102/104 is not to exceed \$1.05 million, a sum approved by the board in June.

The district’s attorney, Maureen Juran of Widner and Juran LLP, will provide the board with the financial structure of the financing arrangement. Given the time needed to review the documents, a special Zoom meeting has been arranged for Sept. 3 at 6:30 p.m. to approve the financial documents through resolution. See [www.ocn.me/v20n7.htm#tlmfpd](http://www.ocn.me/v20n7.htm#tlmfpd).

#### Chief’s report

Truty gave the board the following updates:

- No changes for the district have developed with COVID-19, and the district has maintained a three-month supply of Personal Protective Equipment.
- Firefighting resources are scarce throughout the state with the surge in wildland fires.
- A Stage II burn ban will be in effect for a number of weeks or until significant weather changes occur. For updates, see [www.tlmfire.org](http://www.tlmfire.org).
- The first deposit has been made to ColoTrust, a local government investment pool, and that money will be instantly available should the district need it in an emergency. The trust fund offers a higher rate of liquid asset return and is held in a pool with other special districts in Colorado. See [www.ocn.me/v20n5.htm#tlmfpd](http://www.ocn.me/v20n5.htm#tlmfpd).
- Two candidates for the EMS coordinator position are scheduled for final interviews on Sept. 14-15.

Deputy Chief Randy Trost said Lt. Mauricio Ayala and firefighters Robert “Engine Boss” Horne and AJ Armstrong deployed to the Pine Gulch Fire and were extended for an additional week for a total of three weeks, and Capt. Mike Keough deployed to the Williams Fort Fire for two weeks as a division supervisor trainee.

TLMFPD will not be able to supply more staff to other wildfires when the four deployed staff members return, but the “Engine Boss” may go back out to operate the rig if requested, since he is the only one qualified by the National Wildfire Coordinating Group (NWCG) to operate on federal lands.

#### Grant received

Director of Administration Jennifer Martin thanked the Tri-Lakes Women’s Club on behalf of the district for a grant of \$3,013, which Battalion Chief Kris Mola submitted to purchase three Concept 2 static exercise bikes, one for each station. The TLWC grant helps the department invest in fitness, prevent injuries, reduces stress, improve the effectiveness in completing the job, and potentially aids in extending the careers of firefighters and paramedics.

#### Donations received

Martin thanked The Timber Homeowners Association for its donation of \$250 for TLMFPD’s support during the chipping events that firefighters had conducted in June and July. “Kudos to the firefighters who are part of the chipping program for helping with fire mitiga-



**Above:** Museum staff and members of the Palmer Lake HAbove: Firefighter/Paramedic Jeremy Furman uses a Concept 2 BikeErg at TLMFPD Station 1 on July 13. Tri-Lakes Women’s Club granted \$3,013 for the purchase of three Concept 2 BikeErg stationary bikes, one for each of the TLMFPD’s stations. The Concept 2 BikeErg has a sport-based ergometer and heart rate monitor. Photo by Kris Mola.

tion in the area,” said Hildebrandt.

Trost thanked Emergency Incident Support (EIS) for the donations of pediatric cuffs and stethoscopes. **Note:** EIS is a rapid response group of volunteers with experience and skills related to emergency services. It provides critical support services to first responders in El Paso County and surrounding areas. These services include hydration, nourishment, and shelter from the elements. For more information, visit [www.epceis.com](http://www.epceis.com).

The meeting adjourned at 7:20 p.m.

\*\*\*\*\*

Meetings are usually held on the fourth Wednesday of each month. The next meeting is scheduled for 6:30 p.m. Sept. 23 at TLMFPD Station 1, 18650 Highway 105. For information on upcoming agendas and Zoom meeting participation instructions, contact Director of Administration Jennifer Martin at 719-484-9011 or visit [www.tlmfire.org/board](http://www.tlmfire.org/board).

Natalie Barszcz can be reached at [nataliebarszcz@ocn.me](mailto:nataliebarszcz@ocn.me).