

said he had raised \$20,000 to spend on the proposed park.

Ehrhardt made an additional request of the board: that an unnamed "crossover" that connects Westward Lane with Meadow Lane be named "Whoa Nellie Lane" in honor of his granddaughter. The crossover needed to be improved, he said, adding it was likely that water would flow over it during a flood.

Town Attorney Matt Krob objected that the naming of the crossover was separate from the replat request and was not formally before the board that night. Collins agreed only the replat was up for a vote. Ehrhardt responded that he had been trying to get direction from town staff on how to rename the crossover but had not gotten a clear answer. Krob said he would research the process and get Ehrhardt an answer.

Trustee Nicole Currier moved to vote on Resolution 52-2021, which requested the replat. The board voted unanimously in favor of the resolution.

Mission statement updated

At its retreat, the board drafted a new mission statement for the town, which reads:

The Town Board of Trustees hereby declares their mission is to provide leadership to preserve our small community dynamic with measured and sustainable growth in partnership with the citizens of the town of Palmer Lake including the following vision:

- To serve the community to meet fundamental needs while respecting the diversity and values of our citizens;

- To foster trust through effective communication, transparency, and partnership with the community; and
- To develop sustainable, durable revenue streams to assure Palmer Lake's future."

The board voted unanimously to approve the mission statement.

Town to participate in state opioid settlement

The state of Colorado has settled with six pharmaceutical companies for their role in causing opioid addiction in the state, resulting in \$400 million in settlement funds for abatement of the crisis.

The board voted unanimously to approve a Memorandum of Understanding authorizing the town to participate in the distribution of funds from the settlement. Information in the board packet said the Palmer Lake Police Department approved of the agreement and intended to use settlement funds for training and Narcan, a medicine that treats opioid overdoses.

Outdoor Hockey Classic approved

In a sign that winter is coming, the board considered a special event application for the First Annual Palmer Lake Outdoor Hockey Classic. Nick Baker and Scott Bradley of Lewis-Palmer High School, told the board they were planning an outdoor hockey game between Lewis-Palmer School District 38's hockey team and the team from Cheyenne Mountain High School. The game, planned for Jan. 6, 2022, would be a fundraiser for the school district and an outreach to the community, as

some time for public ice skating would be in the schedule. The southern part of the lake, adjacent to the bridge, would be prepared for the game, they said. Baker and Bradley emphasized that safety would be the top issue, and that the Palmer Lake Fire Department would help prepare and test the ice before the game.

Havenar asked if the game could be incorporated into the town's traditional Winterfest.

The board voted unanimously to grant the license and to waive the associated fee.

Highlights of operational and board reports

- Bass presented a certificate of appreciation to Water Supervisor Steve Orcutt in recognition of his long service to the town. Bass also recognized Water Operator Jeremie Dunda and Water Technician Charles Roubidoux.
- Fire Chief Christopher McCarthy thanked business owner Dino Salvatore and his family for matching the \$2,500 raised by a car show fundraiser.
- McCarthy and Police Chief Jason Vanderpool were recognized for their contributions to an evacuation drill held on Oct. 2. McCarthy said the drill demonstrated that The Glen is not a safe evacuation path.
- Completion of the new ramp to the library is delayed until a railing is delivered. Completion by December is expected.
- The roof trusses have been in-

stalled in the Town Hall, and that project is on schedule to get to interior finishing by mid-December.

- Residents can send their suggestions for how to use the 28-acre Elephant Rock property using an online form here: <https://www.townofpalmerlake.com/administration/page/seeking-town-input-28-acre-property>.
- A public hearing on the proposed 2022 budget will be held at 5 p.m. Nov. 18 at the Palmer Lake Elementary School Library, 115 Upper Glenway.
- The Master Plan committee has been selected and one application for the Master Plan consultant has been received.

The Board of Trustees is scheduled to hold three meetings in November, a regular meeting on Nov. 12 and a workshop and regular meeting on Nov. 26. See the town's website at www.townofpalmerlake.com to confirm times, dates, and locations. While the Town Hall is being repaired, evening meetings will be held at the Palmer Lake Elementary School Library at 115 Upper Glenway, and daytime meetings will be held at Tri-Lakes Chamber Community Meeting House at 300 Highway 105. Meeting times may change. Meetings are normally held on the second and fourth Thursdays of the month. Information: 481-2953.

James Howald can be reached at jameshowald@ocn.me.

Jackie Burhans can be reached at jackieburhans@ocn.me.

Donald Wescott Fire Protection District, Oct. 19

Staff take oath of office; volunteer retirement pension increase approved

By Natalie Barszcz

At the Donald Wescott Fire Protection District (DWFPD) meeting on Oct. 19 the board witnessed a promotion and the swearing in of four personnel, approved a volunteer retirement pension increase, and received multiple updates.

Secretary Larry Schwarz was excused, and Director Joyce Hartung was not excused.

Personnel take oath

Chairman Mark Gunderman administered the oath during the swearing-in process at the beginning of the regular board meeting for newly promoted Driver Operator Justin Myers and volunteer Firefighter/EMT's David Bowker, Seung Ju Han, and Matthew Griggs. Interim Fire Chief Warren Jones also administered the oath of office at the preceding ceremony in the bay at Station 1, and family members took part

in the pinning-on ceremony in the bay and were also present at the board ceremony.

Volunteer retirement pension actuarial increase

Gunderman made a motion for the board to increase the volunteer retirement pension benefit from \$400 per month to \$450 per month effective Nov. 1, 2021, and pursuant to "Plan B" of the 2021 actuarial study. See www.ocn.me/v21n10.htm#dwfpd.

The board approved the increase, 3-0.

Unification status

Jones said the following:

- DWFPD and the Tri-Lakes Monument Fire Protection District (TLMFPD) are eagerly awaiting the Emergency Services Consulting International feasibility study report from consultant Dan Qualman. See www.ocn.me/v21n9.htm#dwfpd.
- After both district chiefs have reviewed the study and ensured all the information is correct, the findings of the study will be presented to both boards collectively at a joint working session in early November.
- A series of meetings will follow and some subcommittees might be formed, and it is likely a fire authority will be created, followed by a soft merger in the first year as both district operations are combined.
- A contract for an Intergovernmental Agreement is expected, allowing TLMFPD Chief Andy Kovacs to be the fire chief for both agencies.

The process is expected to move quickly, and both districts hope to avoid a

messy, drawn-out merger, but if the unification does not work out, we will have a budget and then begin the search for a chief, said Jones.

Gunderman said the two organizations and personnel work together closely enough that a unification should be possible, and six TLMFPD firefighters he met at the grocery store last month were equally excited, optimistic, and enthusiastic about the possibility of a unification.

2021 budget status

Jones said the following:

- The district will receive a gain of \$100,000 over the anticipated budget revenue for wildland deployments, a bonus since the district budgeted for only \$50,000 in 2021.
 - The district will save about \$30,000 in overtime, but due to a medical leave of absence the overtime savings could be less. The battalion chiefs will be filling in on Engine 2 almost every day.
 - A clearer picture of the 2021 ending fund balance will be known by the November board meeting. See www.ocn.me/v21n8.htm#dwfpd.
- The district's attorney, Emily Powell of Ireland Stapleton Pryor Pascoe PC law firm, said the following:
- Board approval will not be required to roll over the end-of-year balance unless the district is going to expend more than previously budgeted.
 - Drawing from reserves to cover any over expenditure on the 2021 budget would require board approval.
 - The board should wait to see what the total 2021 budget expenditure is at the end of the year before approving any supplemental reve-

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