

BFFRPD (Cont. from 18)

VID-19 quarantine protocols. The board discussed fire code variances for new construction, modifications to existing apparatus and an engine purchase, and the collaborative response during the March 13-14 snowstorm.

Fire code variance concern

Fire Chief PJ Langmaid asked for guidance from the board for the ability to grant fire code variances to several small commercial properties that are already under construction in the district and said the following:

- Commercial properties continue to be disapproved under the fire codes and through BFFRPD's formal agreement with the City of Colorado Springs.
- A lack of water and access issues are the two stumbling blocks that small commercial properties face and although access is easier to work around, the water supply is an expensive, cumbersome issue for the smaller commercial structures in the \$500,000 range.
- The community needs to know that consideration is being given to variance requests.
- Not every structure would require a variance, for example: a variance would not be needed if a large hotel were proposed in the north of the district.

Langmaid said the minimum requirement according to the Fire Code for commercial buildings is a flow of 1,750 gallons per minute for a two-hour duration. This translates to 210,000 gallons of water on site for even the smallest of commercial structures. Also, BFFRPD only has one pump capable of drafting 1,500 gallons per minute. For buildings to meet this aspect of the code, two pumps would be required to draft from two separate cisterns and those cisterns would need to be within 500 feet of the building to allow for a fire attack.

Treasurer Jack Hinton said he would be very hesitant to approve any variance for a commercial property. Should anything bad happen, the district may be liable. A financial burden on the applicant is not an excuse for granting a variance, said Hinton.

Chairman Rick Nearhoof said he is sure variances would place a liability on the district.

Dowden asked about alternative water provisions for small commercial properties, such as tanks and sprinkler systems. "I am not an advocate for granting variances," said Dowden.

Langmaid said he would ask the district attorney about liability issues and explore the possibility of alternative solutions with the Colorado Springs fire marshal. Deputy Chief James Rebitski will ask neighboring districts if they are granting variances.

2019 custom engine causing problems

Langmaid said the warranty issues on the 2019 Spartan (which he referred to as a Frankenstein engine) have been fixed by SVI, however, the following issues need to be addressed:

- The 2019 SVI/Spartan Engine issues stem from the pump engagement modular, the pump and roll design, and the 4-by-4 capability in conjunction with the specific design requested by BFFRPD.
- The crews have tested the pump engagement five times a day and sometimes it engages within 10 seconds and other times it goes beyond two minutes, and this has become a consistent problem.
- The hybrid design configuration incorporating a Type 1/Type 3 engine does not exist on any other SVI manufactured apparatus.
- SVI has stated during communication that they have never manufactured this configuration before and never will.
- A meeting with the SVI president will be scheduled to discuss the issues and come up with a reasonable solution.

Hinton said that regardless of the district's design request to manufacture and produce a two-in-one engine with 4-by-4 capability, the SVI/Spartan engineers should not have rubber stamped its production knowing the design flaw and SVI should fix or buy back the engine.

Director Dave Hoffpauir said let's see how far the chief gets; maybe SVI

will fix the problem.

Langmaid requested the board consider bringing the fleet into a standardized alignment and said the following:

- The fleet replacement plan originally requested two identical engines and a tender, but now that request is reduced to one engine and a tender. See www.ocn.me/n20v9.htm#bffrpd.
- The Spartan will need to be kept in service for a few more years since the district cannot sell the engine with the existing flaw and it would not be possible to re-coup the capital already invested.
- Removing the four-wheel drive would reduce the hose bed and allow a gain of 8 inches to better access the ladder.
- The 2019 SVI/Spartan engine is taller than regular height and several staff have incurred minor injuries removing the ladder, and that has resulted in worker compensation expenses.

Nearhoof said that in the past he had fallen off a Colorado Springs Fire Department (CSFD) engine three times trying to access the ladder and although the engine was not identical to the Spartan, CSFD did successfully lower that engine.

Langmaid said the board should consider an intergovernmental purchase agreement with the City of Columbia, S.C., to purchase a Pierce Manufacturing Inc. Type 1 Engine with the correct specifications for about \$620,000.

The board directed the chief contact Pierce Manufacturing and return to the board with more detail.

Snowstorm collaborative response by North Group

Langmaid said the following:

- Through collaboration with Tri-Lakes Monument Fire Protection District, Donald Wescott Fire Protection District and Palmer Lake Fire Department, the North Group was able to respond to stranded motorists without the assistance of Pikes Peak Regional Office of Emergency Management (OEM).
- Some OEM requests (not specified) were not met.
- Both of the four-wheel drive, Type 1 and Type 3 Engines slid off the road and required towing back onto the road.
- The after-action report will be provided at the April board meeting.

Hinton thanked the crews for housing over 70 stranded motorists during the storm between both stations. **Note:** This was even more than sheltered in the stations during the 2019 bomb cyclone. See www.ocn.me/v19n4.htm#bffrpd.

"The staff showed great discipline and a sense of duty during the storm—they crushed it," said Langmaid.

Financial report

Hinton gave the following financial update:

- As of Feb. 28, the district has \$806,842, of which \$176,000 is in the checking account and about \$135,000 is in savings, and the remainder is in the reserve account.
- All checks appeared appropriate, and the district spent 10% of the budget in February less than the budgeted 16.33%. The temporary discrepancy is due to the February bills scheduled for payment on March 1.
- In March, the chief transferred \$35,364 into the Reserve Fund account, \$35,364 into the Capital Improvement account, and \$13,263 needed for the TABOR account. All monies were deposited

as budgeted.

- A total of about \$1.2 million in revenue was deposited in March. The March property tax revenues are arriving as expected.

Hinton said the district has changed from a cash accounting method to the Government Accrual Accounting Method and he is not a fan, because the funds are shown in the account but not immediately available in the checking account.

The board accepted the financial report as presented, 5-0.

Chief's report

Langmaid said the following:

- Now that the district has begun to receive property tax revenue, the district will start to prioritize purchases. See www.bffire.org for 2021 approved budget "summary."
- While maintaining an apolitical position, the new administration at the federal level has brought with it significant increases in all operating costs to include fuel, utilities, and supplies, and spending may need to be adjusted throughout the year.
- The district has hired an administrative officer who is transitioning out of the Army, and he will begin full time in June. Note: Administrative Assistant Melissa Bottorff left in December after 17 years.
- The district received 94 applicants for the open entry-level firefighter positions and 19 have been selected for the interview process.
- The district saved about \$500 by using an inhouse mechanic for repairs on the Rosenbauer Type 1 Engine.
- The live-fire training evaluation report is nearing completion with Tri-Lakes Monument Fire Protection District.
- The 2020 Annual Report is now available on the district website. See <http://www.bffire.org>.

Cell tower lease

Nearhoof said he had informed Richard Painter that the cell tower site would remain exactly as it is currently configured and just as the residents agreed upon when they purchased their properties, in accordance with the 99-year lease agreement. See www.ocn.me/n21v1.htm#bffrpd.

Board Secretary Donna Arkowski said the matter had been settled legally and the past attorney letter confirms the agreement.

Hinton recommended the board make a motion to send a letter to Painter confirming the "matter is closed."

The board approved the motion, 5-0.

Attorney choice

Langmaid said the last inclusion of property inadvertently identified that BFFRPD has two attorneys representing the district. In the past, Lief Garrison of Gould, Whitley & Garrison had been the designated attorney for processing inclusions of property. At the end of December, the Colorado Springs City Council sent legal documents to Garrison, but he did nothing with the documents. The district had, however, been expecting Linda Glesne of Collins, Cockrel & Cole to receive the documents but Garrison was the attorney listed with the city to receive inclusion documents. Having two legal counsels presents a legal ethical issue for both attorneys, said Langmaid.

Hinton without hesitation made a motion to select Glesne as the sole district counsel for BFFRPD.

The board accepted the decision, 5-0.

Inclusion of property

Nearhoof asked the board to adopt

WESTERN MUSEUM OF MINING & INDUSTRY

FAMILY DAY
APRIL 10 10AM - 3PM



HAY RIDES ~ GOLD PANNING
BLACKSMITH DEMONSTRATIONS ~ GEOLOGY FUN



LIVE RADIO BROADCAST -- MIKE BOYLE RESTAURANT SHOW
LUNCH DEALS FROM ROCCO'S ITALIAN MOBILE FOOD (10:30 - 1:30)

OUTDOOR EVENTS ARE FREE
REGULAR ADMISSION APPLIES FOR INDOOR EXHIBITS
WMMI.ORG / 719-488-0880 / 225 NORTH GATE BLVD