

and certified public accountant (CPA) and received an update on the current and future apparatus.

Fire Chief PJ Langmaid was attending a leadership course in Washington State.

Staff hired

Deputy Chief James Rebitski said he has been working closely with newly hired Administrative Officer Rachel Dunn. Dunn started on June 1 and has done a tremendous job already, diving right into the job with her finance logistics background, having previously worked for Donald Wescott Fire Protection District and was a former member of the Wescott board, said Rebitski.

Rebitski also said:

- Rebecca Weese, CPA, LLC was also hired on June 1 and is already a tremendous asset. The district is now caught up and using new procedures to set up the audit request.
- The material requested for the 2020 audit has been submitted to Dawn Schilling of Schilling & Co. Inc.

Staff retirement

Our Community News received confirmation from Langmaid after the June meeting, that Capt. William Kraus officially retired in May after more than 30 years in the fire service in Colorado. Kraus served as the operations captain

at BFFRPD from January 2020 until May 2021.

Spartan engine update

Rebitski said that BFFRPD will keep the four-wheel-drive engine from Spartan Vacuum Industrial (SVI) Co. of Fort Collins and will make some minor improvements to it and continue to use it. After receiving pricing from SVI, the numbers did not pan out and after assessing the market for the four-by-four chassis sale, it was determined there was no market for the old chassis. The engine has now been installed with LED lights, it still works well and crews understand that, said Rebitski. Once the preliminary budget numbers for 2022 are determined at the end of August, the potential sale of the chassis may be re-addressed.

Treasurer Jack Hinton said the four-by-four chassis might have sold for \$100,000, but a new two-by-two chassis would cost the district \$220,000.

Chairman Rick Nearhoof asked who had been involved with the pre-build for the SVI/Spartan four-wheel-drive engine. Rebitski said former employee Larry Bell and former Fire Chief Bryan Jack, and they had a pre-build. Hinton said he remembered the pre-build. See www.ocn.me/v19n10.htm#bffrpd and www.ocn.me/21n4.htm#bffrpd and www.ocn.me/v21n5.htm#bffrpd.

Note: Nearhoof, Hinton, and Langmaid were BFFRPD board members during the pre-build and purchase of the SVI/Spartan engine that was added to the fleet in 2019. See the BFFRPD January 2018 board minutes at www.bffire.org/board.

Pierce engine update

Rebitski said the previously approved two-wheel-drive Pierce Enforcer Pumper engine is expected to be delivered in May 2022, with a pre-build meeting scheduled for September. The crews will go through every specification to arrive at the ideal pre-build specification for the new apparatus. See www.ocn.me/v21n5.htm#bffrpd.

Financial report

- Hinton said the following:
- The Station 1 building bond was paid off in June 2021.
 - BFFRPD has \$2.25 million in the bank, of which \$579,757 is allocated to the reserve funds for emergencies, capital improvement, and TABOR, leaving \$1.672 million for daily operations. See [ocn.](http://www.ocn.me/v21n5.htm#bffrpd)

[me/v21n5.htm#bffrpd](http://www.ocn.me/v21n5.htm#bffrpd).

- Budget spending was at 30% year to date by the end of May 2021, and at the same time in recent years has been about 42% of the budget. Budgeted spending was kept to a minimum out of an abundance of caution during the pandemic and due to an increase in operating costs in 2021.
- Everything other than overtime is looking good.
- The recently hired six firefighters who replaced the staff who resigned in early 2020, and due to staff quarantining in compliance with COVID-19 protocols, overtime expenses have increased, but a reduction in compensation and wages has occurred because the department went without six staff for about three weeks. The district has not yet hired another six firefighters that are budgeted for 2021.
- The potential for a reduction in residential taxes in 2022 and 2023 could result in a loss of up to 25% of revenue for special district budgets. The district previously passed a ballot measure to de-Gallagherize and may be able to adjust the mill levy to match the 2021 budget year revenue without voter approval. The district attorney will be consulted to confirm that a mill levy match can be made. See the related Tri-Lakes Monument Fire Protection District article on page 1.

Rebitski said the district has received one grant of \$19,000 for COVID-19 related expenses from the state. A second grant request will be submitted for the additional COVID-19 related expenses to include the fogging machine and related overtime, but that pool of funding is not a guaranteed reimbursement, said Rebitski.

Nearhoof asked Hinton to confirm that he had reviewed the checks with the fire chief and said he would not counter-sign checks with the chief if the board treasurer was not aware of the purchases.

Hinton said he has taken time to discuss all the checks for outgoing expenses in fine detail with Langmaid.

The board unanimously accepted the financial report as presented. OCN was not provided with the financial statement for May and has never had access to the monthly list of checks generated for purchases and payments above \$2,500, that should be included in the financial report the board receives monthly. Langmaid confirmed after the meeting that OCN will receive copies of the financial report in the future.

Chief's report

- Rebitski said the following:
- Two replacement Holmatro Rescue Equipment extrication tools were purchased and delivered one hour before they were needed at an automobile rescue incident.
 - The district has received a Lifepak 15 cardiac monitor/defibrillator and two sets of bunker gear; all items were previously approved in the 2021 budget.
 - The district is planning an approved purchase of 11 additional (used and re-certified by the manufacturer Scott) Self-Contained Breathing Apparatus.
 - ESO Systems, a new incident reporting system, took effect on June 1. The system reduces the duplicated efforts that previously occurred and aligns the BFFRPD reporting system with both Colorado Springs and neighboring fire departments to the west, and it is a great tool for us.



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