

phases are complete, and the design of the facility and its water needs.

- Committee members are researching designs at the Castle Rock Fire/Rescue Department, the Aurora Fire Department, and the Colorado Springs Fire Department.
- The budget for the training center has yet to be determined for 2022, and a design consultant will be required.

Secretary Mike Smaldino said, "I would rather the district spend money upfront and get it done right and the training center will still be there long after we have all gone, even if it is a 12-step phased-in approach, it will be worth it."

Station 1 remodel update

Trost said the Station 1 remodel is "moving along well" and work is progressing to the planned schedule. The anticipated completion date is Oct. 11.

Chief's report

Kovacs said the following:

- A new monthly chief's meeting to enhance communications between the entire administrative staff and the line staff have begun at Station 3 with all on-duty crews on the first shift of each month.
- Frequent medical calls to a local assisted living facility have lessened since early July, after a meeting with the staff at that facility.
- The final touches are being made to the five-year strategic plan for 2022-26.
- The district has completed multiple community chipping events, and new requests will be added to the 2022 calendar.
- The district is planning to budget 13 pre-fire plans for Red Rocks Ranch and other areas with a third-party consultant beginning in 2022. These plans will address evacuation issues for the wildland urban interface areas within the district.

AMR discussion

Kovacs said the following:

- American Medical Response (AMR) is looking to establish a fire contract with the fire transport agencies of four area fire districts.
- The district will meet with some of the Emergency Medical Services (EMS) supervisors from AMR quarterly to find out what can be done to assist them.
- EMS Coordinator Stephanie Soll will gather stats on the number of times AMR transports occur within the district and the number of times TLMFPD is called to transport on behalf of AMR and all other out-of-district agencies.
- AMR is willing to pay \$500 per out-of-district call for TLMFPD assistance.
- The district will ensure that priority is given to the residents of the district.
- The board will receive an update before any decision is made.

Vice President Roger Lance asked if AMR will request that TLMFPD ambulances respond to calls in Colorado Springs and said, "the district experienced problems in the past when AMR requested TLMFPD respond to multiple AMR calls while out of district, and our ambulances were gone half the day."

"It is cheaper for AMR to pay \$500 for out-of-district assistance and avoid fines when they cannot respond, but responding to a cardiac arrest in Colorado Springs from here is ridiculous; EMS mutual aid is intended for large incidents that tax resources," said Smaldino.

Kovacs said he was grateful for the board feedback and the district will set the boundary limitations of how far TLMFPD will travel and only assist with high acuity/Delta Echo/immediate attention calls. The discussions are preliminary to discover how frequently TLMFPD provides mutual aid out-of-district to all agencies, and how many AMR calls are coming into the district, said Kovacs.

Northwest El Paso County Evacuation drill

Division Chief of Community Risk Jamey Bumgarner said the Northwest El Paso County Evacuation drill in-

volving multiple agencies is scheduled to take place on Oct. 2. Meetings with many participating agencies continue, and the event is being coordinated by the Pikes Peak Regional Office of Emergency Management. About 40-100 residents are expected to take part in the drill and they will be the only residents to receive reverse 911 calls and door knocks during the exercise, said Bumgarner.

Note: Residents from Palmer Lake, Lake of the Rockies, Red Rocks Ranch, and Colorado Estates are eligible to participate and are encouraged to sign up at a Pre-Drill Community Meeting on Sept. 15 from 6 to 7 p.m. at Palmer Lake Elementary School, 115 Upper Glenway, Palmer Lake. The deadline to register for the drill is Sept. 22. Registration will close when the limited capacity is reached. For more information, visit: www.elpasoco.com.

The meeting adjourned at 8:03 p.m.

Meetings are usually held on the fourth Wednesday of the month. The next regular meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, Sept. 22 at 6:30 p.m. at the Chamber of Commerce, 166 Second St., downtown Monument. For Zoom meeting instructions, agendas, and minutes, visit www.tlmfire.org or contact Director of Administration Jennifer Martin at 719-484-9011.

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Black Forest Fire/Rescue Protection District, Aug. 25

Exclusion process stalls; staff requested; repairs needed

By Natalie Barszcz

At the Black Forest Fire/Rescue Protection District (BFFRPD) meeting on Aug. 25, the board heard the exclusion process had been delayed again and approved the hiring of three additional line staff. It also approved some of the many repairs and renovations needed at both stations and the sale of a tender. Director James Abendschan was excused.

Exclusion process stalls

Background: Sometime before 2006, the City of Colorado Springs annexed certain parcels of property at the southern end of BFFRPD. That created a dual taxation zone, with residents paying both the Colorado Springs Fire Department (CSFD) and BFFRPD. At that time the city could not provide fire protection and emergency medical services to those properties until August 2013 when Station 21 on Dublin Boulevard opened. In July 2018, the BFFRPD board began the process of excluding the annexed area from the district, but the process has been slow. About 2,200 properties in total are included in the exclusion process, and the first 392 properties were excluded in late December 2020. See www.ocn.me/v20n8.htm#bffrpd, www.ocn.me/v20n9.htm#bffrpd, www.ocn.me/v21n2.htm#bffrpd, www.ocn.me/v21n5.htm#bffrpd, www.ocn.me/v21n8.htm#bffrpd, and www.bffire.org.

Fire Chief PJ Langmaid said the following:

- The district hoped to have a resolution to the exclusion process, but unfortunately it received a list of bad addresses from the city.
- The Colorado Springs City Council sent a list of properties that are east of Black Forest Road with one little street to the west, and that would have created a potentially dangerous checkerboard effect.
- The properties the district agreed to are west of Black Forest Road and south of Research Parkway that are within the municipality of Colorado Springs, and there are a couple that are not in the municipality.
- The district received multiple emails with lots of capital letters and exclamation marks regarding the city's error, and hopefully it will be rectified next month.

Request for staff

Langmaid said the following:

- Three new hires began training at a fire academy at Station 1 on Aug. 9; they are expected to join the department at the beginning of September.
- The 2021 budget included an increase of daily staffing from six to seven.

- The preliminary numbers for the 2022 budget indicate the department could sustain an increase from seven to eight, even with cost-of-living adjustments.
- Eventually, eight line staff would provide the community with two three-person engine companies and one two-person tender for structure and wildland fires, a fairly effective firefighting force for a small fire district.

Langmaid requested the board consider hiring the three budgeted firefighters before 2022 considering the persistent turnover, the costs associated with running the fire academies, and the training required for entry level hiring.

Treasurer Jack Hinton said the key to that will be taking on the additional salaries through the end of March when the next property tax revenue is received.

Langmaid said staffing is back to six, but the district is not at seven a day, and just because staff get hired does not mean they will stay. One staff member will deploy to Kuwait for 15 months beginning in October.

The board approved hiring three additional staff by the end of the year, 4-0.

Annual board inspection report

Treasurer Jack Hinton said the board inspection of property and equipment went well and said:

- The radio situation is being resolved and the district has purchased 10 1-year-old radios from the Colorado Springs Fire Department (CSFD) for \$500 each instead of paying the list price of \$5,000 each for brand new radios.
- Seven programable radios have been purchased.
- The district has ordered two more Mobile Data Communication Systems and seven sets of bunker gear.
- The district is working with CSFD to install a donated extraction machine for Station 1 for the decontamination of bunker gear, and the existing smaller machine will move to Station 2.
- When the extraction machine is received, some demolition work and repairs will be required at Station 1, and that will entail caulking and the re-setting of the thresholds.
- The workout equipment will need to be moved into the bay at Station 1.

Hinton thanked the chief and the staff and said, "You have done a pretty amazing job, and the training center has turned out well and now everyone is using it."

Station 2—repairs and upgrades

Hinton said that he did not realize Station 2 was in such

Rabbi Oswald Garagorry

1950-2021



Rabbi Garagorry and wife Sonia

Rabbi Oswald Garagorry, 71, died August 10, 2021 at his home on Woodmoor Mountain that he designed and built himself. He was an unusually gifted academician and man of many talents and interests. His unyielding love for the Torah and life-style principles as taught by Moses were the foundation of a life dedicated to the service of the God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob; along with his wife Sonia of forty-nine years.

Oswald was preceded in death by his father Alfeu Farias Garagorry, his mother Adelma Silveira, and his younger brother Antonio Alfonso Silveria. Oswald was born in Sant'ana Do Livramento, Rio Grande Do Sul, RS in Brazil. He and his wife Sonia immigrated to the United States in April 1975 and became US citizens in 1980. In 1992, he opened Am-Nis construction and Supply, and successfully operated it until his retirement in 2017.

In 2004, he received his Rabbinical Ordination from Jerusalem, Israel and 2005 he became the Rabbi of Aliyah Congregation located in Monument, Colorado and remained at that position until 2018. Oswald's life-long pursuit of education culminated in 2011 with the founding of a Yeshiva Torah Institute in Monument, Colorado. The Yeshiva is a free-standing bona fide post-secondary educational system modeled after the Oxford Bridge Adult Education Delivery system for non-residents and offers a one to four year degrees. The curriculum leads to Licentiate in Jewish Studies and preparing congregational leaders for Rabbinical (Semicha) ordination. The institute is authorized by the Colorado Commission of Higher Education and is now under the direction of Rabbi Steven Gilbertson.

Nomination and acceptance as a Fellow to the Oxford Society of Scholars, D. Phil.-Counseling, Oxford Graduate School, Master of Letters, Oxford Graduate School, M.A.-Teaching, M.A.-Psychology, B.A.-Philosophy, B.A.-Psychology, and B.A.-Theology. He was also fluent in Spanish, Portuguese, and English.

From 2010 to 2020, Oswald wrote a popular monthly column in *Our Community News* called *The Rabbi's Corner*.