

DWFPD (Cont. from 14)

the current fire station locations and discussing whether to remove or upgrade those stations and is looking at rebuilding Station 3 on Woodmoor Drive.

- The district administration offices are officially full, and the district is looking at incorporating future administrative offices into a fire station rebuild.
- The Station 4 (formerly DWFPD Station 1) roof repair had been completed.
- Ambulance revenue billing was higher than average with a 41% increase in the first quarter, with the DWFPD Station 4 third ambulance generating about \$101,237.
- American Medical Response requests for service into Colorado Springs have decreased and were down to 11 in April; the district responded to 10. See www.ocn.me/v22n2.htm#dwfpd and www.ocn.me/v22n3.htm#tlmfpd.

- The 2010 Rosenbauer (DWFPD) and the 2005 Smeal (TLMFPD) engines have been listed for sale with Brindlee Mountain Fire Apparatus for \$75,000 each.

Note: For additional updates, see the TLMFPD article on page 17.

Board member kudos

Gary Nelson, president of Emergency Incident Support (EIS), thanked the board members at DWFPD for their services and support, and for the ambulances provided by TLMFPD and Black Forest Fire Rescue Protection District. Nelson said the group had simultaneously provided support to first responders on May 12-13, and about 760 meals were served in total at four incidents in El Paso County, and at the High Park Fire in Teller County, setting a record for EIS, said Nelson. For more information on the group, visit: www.epceis.com.

Gunderman thanked Nelson and his group for their support to first responders.

Executive session

The board moved into executive session at 5:14 p.m. pursuant to Colorado Revised Statutes §24-6-402(4)(b) to received advice of legal counsel regarding the disposition of real property.

Kovacs confirmed that when the board returned to regular session no action was taken.

The board adjourned at 5:30 p.m.

Meetings are usually held on the third Tuesday of every month at the TLMFPD Station 1, 18650 Highway 105, at 4 p.m. The next regular board meeting is scheduled for June 21 at 4 p.m. Meeting attendance is open to the public both in person and via Zoom. For joining instructions, agendas, minutes, and updates, visit www.wescottfire.org or contact Administrative Assistant Stacey Popovich at 719-488-8680.

Natalie Barszcz can be reached at nataliebarszcz@ocn.me.



Above: Fire Chief Andy Kovacs and Engineer Jody Thorpe, president of the Monument International Association of Firefighters (MIAFF), Local 4319 are pictured at the Regional Cancer Seminar on May 13. About 75 people participated in the event to hear four national experts in the field of cancer education and prevention provide much needed information in an area that is largely unmonitored. The event was sponsored and organized by the MIAFF, Local 4319. Photo courtesy Andy Kovacs.



Above: The Donald Wescott Fire Protection District ladder truck was on display during the event at the Great Wolf Lodge. The ladder truck is currently housed at TLMFPD Station 1, Highway 105, and is held in ready reserve status until the district receives a new mid-mount aerial ladder truck in 2024. Photo by Andy Kovacs.

Black Forest Fire/Rescue Protection District, May 18

Board directors take oath; ladder truck needs explored

By Natalie Barszcz

At the Black Forest Fire Rescue Protection District (BFFRPD) meeting on May 18, the board administered the oath of office to the newly elected directors and determined the board positions. The board also heard about dispatch frustrations and received a needs assessment for a future ladder truck.

Treasurer Jack Hinton was excused.

Directors take oath of office

Chairman Rick Nearhoof administered the oath of office to newly elected officers Chad Behnken, Nate Dowden, and Kiersten Tarvainen.

The director positions were nominated and elected as follows: Dowden, chairman; Jim Abendschan, vice chairman; and Jack Hinton, treasurer.

The board approved the po-



Above: From left, Chairman Richard "Gator" Nearhoof administers the oath of office to Directors Kiersten Tarvainen and Chad Behnken, and Vice Chairman Nathan Dowden. After the oath was administered, the board appointed Dowden as chairman and Director James Abendschan (not pictured) as vice chairman. Photo by Natalie Barszcz.

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Nearhoof thanked the board and staff for putting up with him for eight great years and said, "The department has come a long way since 2014 and has accomplished much."

Dowden thanked the outgoing board directors, Deb Hoffpauir and Nearhoof, for their

service.

Tarvainen said she hoped to contribute and support the community as much as possible, providing what we can to serve the citizens.

Behnken said, as a homeowner with connections in the City of Colorado Springs and El Paso County, he hopes to be a resource and bring questions to the district regarding water and density. I take pride in Black Forest and want to be a voice for homeowners and the community, Black Forest is in a completely different place from eight years ago, said Behnken.

Dowden thanked Tarvainen and Behnken for volunteering and representing the community.

Ladder truck needs assessment

Deputy Chief of Operations Chris Piepenburg presented the board with a needs assessment for a future ladder truck company. Noting the differences between an engine and a ladder truck, and describing how firefighters tackle fires, he said:

- Engines typically carry two ladders, but a mid-mount ladder truck can carry eight or nine ladders plus an aerial tower.
- The district uses multiple ground ladders around a home, and many homes in the district look like a two-story on first approach but could be a three- or four-story residence in the rear.

- A mid-mount tower ladder truck would help get victims out of a burning structure in a timely manner.
 - Allow easier access when entering a window to conduct a vent-and-search operation and provide more versatility with better water hose angles for tackling fire in the ceiling of a structure.
 - The district is growing, with strip malls and hotels in the future, and construction accidents will likely occur with all the new development.
 - The district typically relies on the Tri-Lakes Monument Fire Protection District (TLMFPD) for a rear-mount "quint" ladder truck if one is available, but they do not have the ground ladder capacity necessary.
- Note:** A quintuple "quint" refers to a firefighting apparatus that can perform five functions: pump, water tank, fire hose, aerial device, and ground ladders.

Fire Chief PJ Langmaid said for the district to get a rear-mount ladder truck from TLMFPD Station 1 (Highway 105), it takes 20 minutes to arrive at BFFRPD Station 2 (Hodgen Road), and 30-35 minutes to Station 1, (Teachout Road). He added:

- The closest station with a rear-mount ladder truck is Colorado Springs Fire Department Station 19 (Research Parkway), and it would take 18-20 minutes to arrive via Old Ranch Road, but dispatch hinders the response, and sometimes Cimarron Hills Fire Department responds, although it is farther away than TLMFPD.
- The quint rear-mount ladder trucks that respond do not have the same capability as a mid-mount ladder truck. Loaded with ground ladders, pumps, and water, they are heavy and not likely to be supported on dirt roads.

- CSFD sends 28 firefighters to a fire and BFFRPD sends nine firefighters, so the district is looking to secure SAFER grants to continue hiring top-tier staff, purchase a ladder truck, and secure tax revenue.
- A ladder truck is a supporting element, and the engine will always be the main apparatus.
- There is a huge disconnect when TLMFPD requests a Black Forest tender with ladders because the TLMFPD ladder truck does not have enough ladders.

Note: TLMFPD placed an order for a Pierce mid-mount aerial ladder truck in January for \$1.5 million and expects to take delivery by October 2023. See www.ocn.me/v22n2.htm#tlmfpd and www.ocn.me/v22n3.htm#bffrpd.

Abendschan said he needed more information on the cost differentials between the different types of ladder trucks available. Many driveways that have 3 to 4 inches of asphalt would not bear the load of a ladder truck, and having driven a tandem axle, maneuverability would not work with long driveways, said Abendschan.

Langmaid said it would be a toolbox for the community as it grows, and ground ladders will be used for those driveways that a ladder truck cannot access.

Tarvanian asked what the district proposes to do in the meantime if a truck build takes two years and suggested the district look at better communications with CSFD to get a ladder truck in the district sooner.

Langmaid said there is a dilemma with the El Paso County Sheriff's Office communication center. The CAD-to-CAD software should make it simple, by patching the different networks together, but it is not happening, and phone calls are relied upon to communicate the district needs. The dispatch office needs additional full-time staffing, dedicated to assist fire dispatch.

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