

Jack said that the proposed 2013 budget was available at Fire Stations 1 and 3 and the District Administration Building for review by the public. He also noted that at the next regular meeting on Nov. 5, the board would also read and review the proposed budget. The discussion of the hiring of a fire chief would be put off until after the election, and the election of board officers would occur at the December board meeting along with the final reading and adoption of the 2013 budget.

The board entered an executive session to discuss "negotiations" and "personnel." All personnel not autho-

rized to be there by the board were required to leave the room.

\*\*\*\*\*

The next regular meeting will be held at 6:30 p.m. on Wednesday, Nov. 5, in the Administration Center at

166 Second St. in Monument. For further information regarding this meeting, contact Jennifer Martin at 719-484-0911.

Bernard Minetti can be contacted at [bernardminetti@ocn.me](mailto:bernardminetti@ocn.me).

**Donald Wescott Fire Protection District, Oct. 16**

# New firefighter sworn in

By Jim Kendrick

On Oct. 16, volunteer firefighter Aron Nonko was sworn in by Donald Wescott Fire Protection District board President Scott Campbell. Before his grandmother, Rea Danzl, pinned his new badge on, his mother Denise Nonko noted that Aron was the great-grandson of a Melrose, Minn., who became a volunteer firefighter in 1924. He lived a block from the fire station and was "naturally the first one to arrive" for a fire call and "always had the truck out and ready to go when the others got there."

Denise Nonko also said, "He would be so proud of you today as you follow in his footsteps." She added, "You too are one of the designated few who will put your life on the line, to risk it for others, to help others, and to create a safer community for us all. May God bless you, Aron, and keep you safe always. I love you."

Also attending Nonko's swearing in ceremony were his sister Kaitlin Nonko and his aunt and uncle Brenda and Jim Budnella. Campbell asked Nonko to make a "short 15, 20 minute speech" but he demurred.

The board excused the absence of board Treasurer Joyce Hartung.

**2013 budget details finalized**

The Wescott board approved the final draft of its 2013 budget and scheduled a public hearing for final approval on Nov. 20. No significant changes had been made since the previous board meeting on Sept. 18.

Chief Vinny Burns and Administrative Assistant Cheryl Marshall reviewed the specific figures for items of specific interest to some board members. The operations and administration portions of the budget are very similar to those in the 2012 budget and well within estimated property tax revenues that are expected to increase about \$14,000 in 2013. The most significant change is a small increase in the amounts allocated for apparatus maintenance and repair and for fuel costs.

Marshall also briefed the new separate 2013 budget and database for the district's volunteer pension fund that district auditor Tom Sistare had endorsed during the Sept. 18 board meeting.

**Financial statements**

Marshall stated that about 83 percent of the 2012 budget had been spent through September and "we're right on track for the remainder of the year" with more than a sufficient amount of appropriated funds still available. Fuel costs may exceed the amount budgeted due to unexpectedly high fuel prices.

Marshall presented a wildfire spreadsheet estimate that conservatively estimated that the district had earned about \$126,924 of "profit" from aggressively volunteering

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