

Green discussed a potential discretionary board contribution to Tri-Lakes Views for additional pedestals for mounting loaned outdoor art for one-year display. To date Tri-Lakes Views has spent

approximately \$45,000 and the town has donated \$1,000. The board agreed to donate another \$1,000.

Plans for Second Street tree planting were also discussed. The meeting adjourned at 7:53 p.m.

The next meeting will be held at 6:30 p.m. on May 7 at Town Hall, 645 Beacon Lite Road. Meetings are normally held the first and third Monday of the month. Information: 884-8017.

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Donald Wescott Fire Protection District, April 25

Transition to operating two stations full time continues

By Jim Kendrick

On April 25, the Donald Wescott Fire Protection District board reviewed the first data from operating its new Shamrock Station 2 on Highway 83 in concert with the Gleneagle Drive station near Baptist

Road. There had not been enough data on simultaneous operations yet to determine any trends. The final invoice from contractor Colarelli Construction had not yet been received, but will not exceed the planned amount. All other aspects of the construction had been completed.

All members of the board were present.

The March financial statement showed that all the major accounts are tracking on schedule and was unanimously approved. The final values for the 2011 budget showed that only 92 percent of the planned expenditures were spent. The 2011 audit was scheduled to begin on May 1.

Chief's report

There were 136 calls in March, an increase of 7.9 percent from February. There were 126 runs in March last year. Assistant Chief Scott Ridings gave a lengthy technical briefing on new analysis tools that are now available to chart numerous response and staffing statistics.

Ridings and Chief Vinny Burns discussed a structure fire call Wescott had responded to in early April for a relatively new home on Middle Creek Parkway "that was anything but routine." The fire started in a small closed room under the first-floor foyer. The firefighters used correct procedures to determine the strength of the floor before entering the home, and the floor immediately collapsed. Anyone who entered the front door would have fallen directly into the main fire with catastrophic injuries.

They said this demonstrated the vulnerability of new lightweight building materials to a loss of structural integrity much faster than standard 2-by-4 joists used in older buildings. Smoke was already down to the floor when Wescott crews arrived in minimum time, totally obscuring interior visibility. Burns said he would present a more complete debriefing at the May board meeting.

There was a discussion about International Fire Code sprinkler system regulations that Regional Building and the El Paso Board of County Commissioners declined to adopt last month. Wescott will work with other North Group districts to create a basic water-flow supply code for rural structures that do not have sprinkler systems, hydrants, cisterns, or storage ponds maintained by nearby homeowners associations. Fire Marshal Margo Humes will coordinate Wescott's efforts with county Fire Marshal Brett Lacey.

The board unanimously approved purchase of a large used chipping machine to improve the district's ability to provide this wildfire mitigation service in wooded communities like Pleasant View Estates.

The meeting adjourned at 8:29 p.m.


The next board meeting will be held at 7 p.m. on May 23 in Station 1, 15415 Gleneagle Drive. Meetings are normally held on the fourth Wednesday of the month. Information: www.wescottfire.org or call 488-8680.

Summer Safety Fair, June 2

Wescott will hold its annual Summer Safety Fair on Saturday, June 2, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at Station 1, 15415 Gleneagle Drive. For more information, see www.wescottfire.org or call 488-8680.

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