

Donald Wescott Fire Protection District, Dec. 4

Fire district’s 2013 budget and appropriation approved

By Jim Kendrick

On Dec. 4, the Donald Wescott Fire Protection District board unanimously approved a resolution for the adoption of the final 2013 budget. Board Secretary Greg Gent chaired the meeting in the absence of Chairman Scott Campbell. Property tax revenues for the district are expected to increase about \$14,000 in 2013.

The board also unanimously approved a resolution for the 2013 appropriation that allocated the following amounts for operating the district:

- General fund: \$1.7 million
- Fund balance: \$1.2 million
- Special ownership tax: \$145,000
- Miscellaneous income: \$72,462
- Total revenue: \$3 million

There were no public comments during the open portion of either the budget or appropriation hearings.

The board unanimously approved a resolution for mill levy certification. The mill levy will remain at 7.0 mills in 2013 and produce \$1.7 million in revenue.

The board also unanimously approved a supplementary

lease-purchase to the 2013 budget for \$146,441 for the new Station 2 in 2013.

Board Secretary Greg Gent chaired the meeting in the absence of Chairman Scott Campbell.

Some of the items Chief Vinny Burns reported were:

- Wescott held a successful “community chipping day” with the Pleasantview Estates homeowners.
- Fire prevention training was given to every grade at Antelope Trails elementary school.
- The state had provided reimbursements for two more of Wescott’s wildfire deployments, including its participation in the Waldo Canyon Fire.
- Task Force One conducted formal truck training for driver operators in several regional fire departments, including classes, training, and written and practical skills testing.
- A new full-time firefighter, Cliff Jones, was to be sworn in on Dec. 8.

Assistant Chief Scott Ridings reported that there were 182 calls in November, up from 132 calls in 2011, a 37 per-

cent increase. Total calls through November were 1,794, up from 1,419 last year, a 26 percent increase. He said the increase was caused by more traffic and new construction of houses and commercial buildings. Burns added that the number of calls was catching up to where it should be for the population. There was one mutual aid building fire response in the Tri-Lakes Monument Fire Protection District and one automobile fire on Struthers Road.

The board approved the 2013 district and pension board schedules. Regular board meetings will be held on the third Tuesday of the month, with the exception of Nov. 12 and Dec. 3. The pension board meetings will be held on April 16 and Aug. 20.

The meeting adjourned at 7:49 p.m.

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The next meeting will be held at 7 p.m. Jan. 15 at Station 1, 15415 Gleneagle Drive. Meetings are normally held on the third Tuesday of the month. Information: 488-8680.

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Tri-Lakes Monument Fire Protection District, Dec. 5

Shirk elected board president

By Bernard Minetti

At the Dec. 5 regular meeting of the Tri-Lakes Monument Fire Protection District, Monument Police Chief Jacob Shirk was approved as board president. He was elected on a second ballot after at first tying with Director Bill Ingram. Director Roger Lance was elected vice president. Rod Wilson and John Hildebrandt were each re-elected and retained their positions as secretary and treasurer, respectively.

**Financial report**

Hildebrandt said that the district had received \$2.9 million in property taxes for the year, or 99.79 percent of the expected amount. The district also had received \$255,827 or 102.59 percent of the expected specific ownership tax revenue. Ambulance revenues were at \$466,715, or 85.86 percent of the budgeted amount. This represents a budgetary deficit of 6.8 percent for the year to date. The

Medicare reimbursement that was delinquent at the last meeting had now been paid.

Overall expenses for the district were 0.74 percent under budget for the year. Hildebrandt said that as a result, he did not believe that any adjustment would be required for the 2012 budget.

In a review of the 2013 operating budget, it was noted that the total projected revenue amounted to \$5.52 million, with a pledged reserve of \$166,233, or 3 percent of the budget. The proposed operating expenses for the 2013 budget amounted to \$4.89 million. After some discussion of the proposed 2013 budget, Hildebrandt made a motion to accept the budget proposal and it passed unanimously.

The board voted to increase the payroll limit from \$88,000 to \$92,000. This was necessary due to the additional six fire positions that were being funded by the SAFER (Staffing for Adequate Fire and Emergency Response) grant. This is to be effective in January.

According to the budget message summary, the district had a total \$1.26 million in cash in the four accounts in local banks. The average monthly expenses for the district through November amounted to \$324,184. The cash balance, not counting impact fees, of \$476,419 represented 2.41 months of operating capital.

The district recently received a federal SAFER grant to acquire six additional staff. This is a two-year grant in the amount of \$615,000. The district will receive \$305,000 for 2013, which will be utilized to pay for the new employees’ salaries and benefits.

tive and sound process.

**Fire code resolution passes**

The board passed Resolution 12-006, which rescinded adoption of the 2009 edition of the International Fire Code (IFC) with local amendments. This resolution also provides for revising the 2009 IFC by the fire chief and staff for submission to the board for consideration. This resolution was necessary because the Board of County Commissioners (BOCC) had not accepted the previous version submitted by the district.

The board adopted Resolution 12-008, which specifies that the fire marshal shall submit the 2009 IFC with local amendments to the board for approval. It also states that proposed 2009 IFC with amendments shall not be effective until the BOCC has adopted a resolution or ordinance stating that the IFC 2009 with amendments shall be applicable within the district’s boundaries.

The board transitioned to executive session to discuss “personnel” items.

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The next regular meeting will be held at 6:30 p.m. on Wednesday, Jan. 23, 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 may be contacted at bernardminetti@ocn.me.



Above: During Janaka Branden’s promotion to captain ceremony Dec. 12, his wife, Laura, pins on collar brass while son Kaderen observes. In attendance were B Battalion firefighters and Tri-Lakes Monument Fire Protection District board President Jacob Shirk and members of the Monument Police Department. Photo by Bernard Minetti.

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