

fire mitigation work, and grant money is allowing them to take advantage of a 50-50 match from the state to help pay for more mitigation work.

Pleasant View is the first neighborhood in the Wescott district to become a Firewise Community, and Ridings now hopes to help other neighborhoods in the Wescott district to get organized in the same way.

The new station alerting system has been not purchased yet, Ridings said, because the district might have another alternative for funding it, so he has slowed down on the project while he does research.

Tri-Lakes Monument Fire Protection District, May 22

Unexpectedly higher rates of tax money

By Bernard L. Minetti

Treasurer John Hildebrandt advised the Tri-Lakes Monument Fire Protection District board May 22 that monthly revenues continued to show significant increases. He said the extra money was significant, but a judgment on whether the tax revenues would continue increasing had not yet been made and the trend might be temporary.

Hildebrandt said that the district had received \$1.8 million or 44.66 percent of its annual budgeted property tax revenues through April. The Specific Ownership Taxes received were \$119,790 or 48.11 percent of the annual budget, with ambulance revenues at \$182,682 or 37.67 percent of projected income. All income levels had markedly surpassed the budgetary projections.

Administrative expenditures were high due to "one-time" insurance and medical exam expenses, and he said that these will "normalize" as the year progresses. He added that all line sub-total items were under budget except salaries, which had increased at a 4.08 percent monthly rate. No explanation was given for the increase in salaries. Medical equipment and uniforms had been over budget in March, but were now under budget for the year to date.

Specific Ownership Taxes were ahead of projections by 14.78 percent. Overall expenses were over budget by 0.98 percent or at the 37.41 percent. The board voted to accept the treasurer's report.

Hildebrandt asked about the status of the annual briefing of the board concerning the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act of 1996 (HIPPA). This legislation is described as, "To amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to improve portability and continuity of health insurance coverage in the group and individual markets, to combat waste, fraud, and abuse in health insurance and health care delivery, to promote the use of medical savings accounts, to improve access to long-term care services and coverage, to simplify the administra-

Financial report

Marshall said the district's financial balances as of April 30 totaled \$1.4 million: People's National Bank \$266,000, Colorado Peak fund \$179,000, ColoTrust Fund \$439,000, and Wells Fargo Public Trust \$547,000. Marshall said there were no unexpected expenses in March or April.

The initial information gathering stage of the annual audit for 2012 is going smoothly, she said.

The next meeting will be held at 7 p.m. June 18 at Station 1, 15415 Gleneagle Drive. Meetings are normally held on the third Tuesday of the month. Residents are always wel-

come to attend. Information: 488-8680.

Lisa Hatfield can be reached at lisahatfield@ocn.me.

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tion of health insurance, and for other purposes."

The board is required to participate in an extensive annual review of HIPPA, especially as related to personal privacy. No specific response was provided to Hildebrandt's query.

Hildebrandt asked about the impact of "Obamacare" on the district financial status. Fire Chief Christopher Truty said that the rules appeared to be changing on a weekly basis as they come out and that it seems that there will be some impact on the district. He added that the subject would be reviewed over the coming month.

Board President Jacob Shirk asked for an update on the Request for Proposals (RFPs) for the district's bookkeeping requirement. Truty said all three of the ap-



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Above (L to R): Tri-Lakes Fire Protection District Chief Christopher Truty is sworn in by board President Jacob Shirk. Truty succeeds Interim Fire Chief Bryan Jack. Photo by Bernard Minetti.

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