

needs to decide which ambulance to sell and then pay for only the repairs that will make it last until it is sold, and do more extensive repairs on the second one. The budget does have enough money to absorb the cost of replacing one ambulance in 2015 with either be a new ambulance or a re-chassied one, Truty said.

He said that he and accountant Frances Esty recently discovered that because of the way schedules rotate, every 14 years there is an extra pay period. This occurs again at the end of December, so this extra \$110,000 must be paid either at the end of 2014 or the beginning of 2015. The board consensus

was to absorb this cost into the 2014 budget since revenues are high enough to cover it. Esty said she had contacted the Department of Local Affairs (DOLA) for advice and was told as long as it was noted in the audit, there would be no need for an amended 2014 budget.

#### Chief's report

TLMFPD scheduled an optional merger committee orientation session for Oct. 25, with personnel from the Larkspur and Wescott fire districts, Truty said. The goal is to form 12 committees to work over the next 6-18 months to give input on communications, EMS, and other areas to make the best use of all three

districts' resources if a merger should happen down the road. Truty emphasized that it would be best to build this organization "from the ground up" with a vision for a brand new entity covering 160 square miles, having over 80 personnel, and containing seven fire stations.

Truty's other comments included:

- 1 The Board of County Commissioners approved the property at Station 1 as a parcel, so now the well permitting process with state can begin.
- 2 TLMFPD's new website is up and running at [www.tlmfire.org](http://www.tlmfire.org).
- 3 Firefighters have been training with self-contained

breathing apparatus at the Haunted Mines at the Western Museum of Mining. Battalion Chief Dan Davis has been coordinating this training to utilize the "complexities of haunted house layout."

- 4 EMS Coordinator Lt. Janaka Branden has developed a district protection protocol in anticipation of Center for Disease Control guidelines to protect both EMS personnel and the community from the Ebola virus if it appears in El Paso County.
- 5 The 2015 EMS assessment fee notice was sent to Palmer Lake, and it includes the ability for the town to pay on quarterly basis.

6 Office Manager Jennifer Martin reported she had found supplemental, reasonably priced health care insurance that would provide group rates to firefighters who want to purchase it for off-duty critical care medical needs.

The meeting adjourned at 7:31 p.m.

The next meeting will be held at 6:30 p.m. on Wednesday, Nov. 19 in the Administration Center at 166 Second St. in Monument. Meetings are usually held the fourth Wednesday of each month. For information, contact Jennifer Martin at 719-484-0911.

*Lisa Hatfield can be reached at [lisahatfield@ocn.me](mailto:lisahatfield@ocn.me).*

#### District Accountability Advisory Committee, Oct. 14

## Truancy policies, academic standards reviewed

By Harriet Halbig

Director of Personnel and Student Services Bob Foster spoke briefly to the District Account-

ability Advisory Committee about policies regarding truancy, absenteeism, and retention at its Oct. 14 meeting.

Foster said that any child ages 6 to 17 is required to enroll in school. Upon reaching 18, the individual is a legal adult and may make his/her own decision. Exceptions include illness, physical, mental or emotional disability, and suspended or expelled individuals.

The state considers a student truant if he/she has more than four unexcused absences within a month or 10 within a year. Truancy is considered to be an adult issue, assuming that the parents or guardians of a truant student are behaving irresponsibly. If letters and interventions from the district fail to correct the problem, it may be passed to a magistrate to refer the issue to the Department of Human Services.

Retention of students generally is not effective, especially in middle or high school.

Each school develops its own policy on tardiness. A specific number of classroom minutes are required each school year. If these requirements are not met, credit for class may be denied. A high school student who does not complete the requirements within four years may return to complete the requirements until the age of 21.

#### Board of Education update

School Board Liaison John

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### Author Signings in November at the bookstore



Sat., Nov. 8, 1 - 3: Vera Dawson, *Cookies in the Clouds*

Sat., Nov. 15, 11- 1: Sharon Gerdes, *Back in Six Weeks*; and Angie Ricketts, *No Man's War*

Sat., Nov. 22, 11 - 1: Erin Healy, *Motherless*; and TR Fischer, *Prey for Me*

Sat., Nov. 29, 11 - 1: Heather Buchman, *Linger* and her *Crested Butte* series; and Mary Anthi Diehlmann, *Angry Haunting*

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\*nursery is available all morning



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