

the costs.

- TLMFPD is fully staffed 24/7 with three stations for backup and has an ambulance that is always staffed with a paramedic to provide advanced life support service rather than the basic life support service currently provided by the PLVFD EMT.
- It is hard to find volunteers who can staff the PLVFD station during weekdays when most go to work at their regular jobs.
- Chief Truty was concerned about the level of fire protection in Palmer Lake and feels it is at risk for a very significant fire.
- The location of TLMFPD Station 1 on Highway 105 is "within response standards."
- PLVFD volunteers could continue with TLMFPD doing the same work they are now, and getting training, vehicles, and uniforms from TLMFPD.
- TLMFPD could get training on navigating the Glen's roads.

"You've got great people here, very dedicated," Truty said. TLMFPD is not trying to take over anything in Palmer Lake, but just offering options, he said.

TLMFPD continues to discuss a possible merger with the Larkspur district north of Palmer Lake. See article at www.ocn.me/v14n6.htm#TLMFPD0528 and on page 20 of this issue.

See www.ocn.me/v14n7.htm#plvfd0607 for a summary of the first PLVFD Future Committee meeting on June 7.

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Above: From left, PLVFD Capt. Abby Vierling and PLVFD Future Committee members Cindy Powell and Jane Garrabrant shared information with residents at the July 19 community meeting at Palmer Lake Town Hall. Fire Trustee Rich Kuehster said "a really bad budget" and the need to pay for ambulance service overhead costs require town residents to make some decisions whether the town should, or should not, increase funding and keep the PLVFD independent. Photo by Ben Curnell.

Donald Wescott Fire Protection District, July 15

Fire protection rating improves

By Lisa Hatfield

At the brief July 15 meeting, Donald Wescott Fire Protection District board members got good news about the re-evaluation of the district's public fire protection services and voted against a statewide increase in employee pension contributions.

Assistant Chief Scott Ridings was excused.

Protection rating improves

Chief Vinny Burns told the board that the recent re-evaluation of Wescott's Insurance Service Office (ISO) rating had improved from an ISO Protection Class 5 to a Class 3. By classifying the ability to suppress fires, ISO helps communities evaluate their public fire-protection services.

"This is a very big deal for us," he said, adding that this will provide some insurances savings, especially in neighborhoods with fire hydrants. Neighborhoods without fire hydrants have a slightly worse rating.

Board rejects employee withholding increase

In a recent statewide vote of the Fire and Police Pension Association to gradually increase employees' contributions to their pension funds from 8 to 12 percent of their salary over the next eight years was approved by 68 percent of these employees (65 percent was the threshold needed). All fire and police employers statewide, including boards like Wescott, must now vote on the referendum, with 50 percent approval required for this increase

to take place.

The goal is ostensibly to ensure solvency of the pension fund, which is 98 percent funded, since it suffered with the economic downturn in 2008. Employer contributions will remain at 8 percent of salary regardless of the outcome of the statewide vote on employee contributions.

Administrative Assistant Stacey Popovich told the directors that the request for their vote arrived on her desk one day before the July 15 meeting, and the results are due back before the August Wescott meeting, so the board needed to vote at this meeting without time to research it. Burns explained that the firefighters across the state have already approved this referendum.

The Wescott board voted against the resolution 2-3. The directors who voted against it felt that not enough information was provided.

Financial report

Popovich listed the current bank balances: People's—\$46,000, Colorado Peak Fund—\$180,000, ColoTrust—\$439,000, and Wells Fargo Public Trust—\$1.1 million.

The directors asked Popovich for clarification at next month's meeting about the budget item covering the self-contained breathing apparatus (SCBA) equipment that arrived.

Editor's note: The total ending balance for the 2013 general fund was \$1.29 million. This was incor-

rectly reported in the July 2 issue of OCN because of an editing error.

At 7:44 p.m., the board went into executive session to determine positions relative to matters that may be subject to negotiations, developing strategy for negotiations, and instructing negotiators. No announcements were expected to be made after the executive session.

The Wescott board usually meets at 7 p.m. on the third Thursday of the month at 15415 Gleneagle Drive. The next meeting will be Aug. 19, starting with a pension board meeting at 6:30 p.m. Call 488-8680 for more information.

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Woodmoor Improvement Association Board of Directors, July 23

Vice president's replacement approved

By Jackie Burhans

Woodmoor Improvement Association (WIA) board President Jim Hale reported July 23 that Vice President Kirstin Reimann had resigned because her family was moving out of state on military orders. Hale nominated Secretary Jeff Gerhart to replace Reimann as vice president. The nomination was passed unanimously. Five people asked to be considered for the open director position. They introduced themselves and provided personal information:

- Richard Wretschko has lived on Rosewood Lane for about a year. He

is a retiree who worked for Colorado Springs Utilities for 30 years where he developed and administered contracts and worked in mechanical and engineering. When he worked with and then joined the WIA Architectural Control Committee (ACC) and said he is impressed with its dedication to consistency and fairness.

- Scott Towne closed on his house in Winding Hills on June 24 and previously lived for nine years on the other side of Baptist Road. He has been a small-business owner for 20 years in

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