

to be lost on April 15, to make room for other owner water entities with higher priority storage rights to completely fill their owned storage capacities.

For more information on Pueblo Reservoir storage see: <http://www.ocn.me/v16n4.htm#dwsd0317>, http://www.usbr.gov/gp-bin/arcweb_puer.pl

The meeting adjourned at 4 p.m.

The next board meeting will be held at 1:30 p.m. on May 19 in

the district conference room at 15850 Holbein Drive. Information: 488-3603 or www.donalawater.org. Meetings are normally held on the third Thursday of the

month.

Jim Kendrick can be reached at jimkendrick@ocn.me.

Donald Wescott Fire Protection District Board of Directors, April 19

New volunteer sworn in; Pension Board meeting held

By Kate Pangelinan

All board members were present for the April 19 Donald Wescott Fire Protection Board of Directors meeting, which saw the swearing in of Lucas Owens, the district's newest volunteer. About 12 people were in attendance for this ceremony. Owens' father pinned on his badge.

The meeting was preceded by the board's bi-annual Pension Board meeting. The next such meeting will take place in August.

Administrative

The bank balance reports were read without much comment. Administrative Assistant Stacey Popovich updated the board on the status of the new report discussed last month, intended

to distinguish banking items that cleared, items that were expensed, and items that didn't clear. This report should be completed in time to discuss during the May 17 meeting, and will help to fully represent the fire district's financial situation.

March run report and chief's report

In March 2016, the Wescott Fire Department ran 243 calls, as compared to the 283 calls run in March 2015. This indicates a 14 percent decrease from last year's numbers.

One property loss structure fire occurred during this time, on March 14. This fire cost an estimated \$60,000 in damages, and spread from a shorted-out hot tub thanks to 40 mph winds. The



Above: (right) New DWFPD volunteer Lucas Owen being sworn-in April 19. Photo by Kate Pangelinan.

house itself was saved. It took the Wescott Fire Department volunteers four minutes and 30 seconds from first receiving the distress call to their arrival at the scene of the fire.

Public comments

During public comments, William Lowes asked the board about the status of Colorado Springs Fire Station 22, which recently opened at 711 Copper Center Parkway, about 7 minutes away from Wescott Station 2. It was reported that as of this April 19 meeting no formal steps had been taken to establish Station 22 with Wescott's area. Lowes also expressed concerns that if business with Station 22 follows historical precedent, homeowners may have to contact the fire district personally to be de-included from one district or the other.

The meeting began at 7:05 p.m., and Treasurer Joyce Hartung motioned to enter an executive session at 7:30 p.m. The session was held to determine

positions relative to matters that may be subject to negotiations; developing strategy for negotiations; and instructing negotiators.

The Donald Wescott Fire Protection District Board of Directors' next meeting is scheduled for 7 p.m. May 17 at Station 1, 15415 Gleneagle Dr. Please call 488-8680, a non-emergency number, for more information, or visit www.wescottfire.org. The district is also on Facebook.

Kate Pangelinan can be reached at katepangelinan@ocn.me.

Tri-Lakes Monument Fire Protection District, April 27

Consolidation ideas and hiring process discussed; mill levy vote postponed

By Lisa Hatfield

The directors talked about the possibility of consolidating with two other fire districts, the best way to hire new firefighters to fill current vacancies, and delaying the mill levy ballot item, among many other topics, at the April 27 meeting of the Tri-Lakes Monument Fire Protection District (TLMFPD).

Directors Bill Ingram and Larry Smith were excused.

Discussions with Donald Wescott and Black Forest

Fire Chief Chris Truty said that he and the chiefs of Donald Wescott Fire Protection District and the Black Forest Fire Rescue Protection District have had months of high-level talks about how some type of consolidated operation might benefit all of them, whether it is a fire authority, enhanced mutual aid, or an actual consolidation. The benefit to TLMFPD would be access to economies of scale on operations and equipment. One concern would be how their different organizational cultures would meld.

He said, "The most notable challenge is obviously the financial situation that Donald Wescott is in ... they are keeping fairly quiet about what their plans are for handling the possible exclusion of a number of their properties ... they could be losing as much as two-thirds of their budget revenue" as the Colorado Springs Fire Department service area expands.

The consensus of the directors was for Truty to continue investigating the options with the other two districts as long as TLMFPD could be isolated from any financial issues the other districts may have.

Hiring process

Truty said the district hiring procedure would now be to advertise for paramedics and then train them as firefighters, which would be more efficient than hiring firefighters and training them as paramedics.

After a lengthy discussion about the current complicated hiring process to fill three vacancies, the board voted unanimously to include a fourth firefighter, previously scheduled to be hired in 2017, in the current hiring effort, pending financial review.

Mill levy discussion postponed to 2017

Truty said that the Mill Levy Committee, in consultation with consultant George K. Baum, decided to postpone a possible district mill levy vote until the end of 2017. Reasons included a possible "very ugly" 2016 election ballot and possible consolidation talks with Wescott and Black Forest. "We will have to make tough decision on the budget in the meantime," he said.

The meeting adjourned 8:37 p.m.

Meetings are usually held the fourth Wednesday of each month. The next meeting is

scheduled for 6:30 p.m. May 25 in the Monument Town Hall at 645 Beacon Lite Road. For information, contact Jennifer Martin at 719-484-0911.

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