Board members sworn in, goals outlined

By Natalie Barszcz

At the May 23 Tri-Lakes Monument Fire Protection District (TLMFPD) board meeting, recently re-elected directors were sworn in and financial issues were discussed.

Treasurer John Hildebrandt and Director Jason Buckingham were excused.

Board members continue
Office Administrator Jennifer Martin read the oath of office for President Jake Shirk and Secretary Mike Smaldino for another four years on the TLMFPD board in their previously held positions. The board then voted unanimously for the re-election of Roger Land to continue a further two years in his current position and Hildebrandt to continue a further four years as treasurer. For complete results, see http://districtmanager.info.

“De-Gallagherization”
Deputy Chief Randy Trost updated the board, stating that legislation to exempt the Gallagher Amendment from the statewide, uniform property tax rate assessment process is very much alive. Smaldino added, “We should absolutely go after (a possible ballot issue looking for voter approval to de-Gallagherize.) It is how districts survive and for safety issues.” For more information regarding the Gallagher amendment, visit: http://tlmfpd.org.

“Good energy” at Firewise training
District resident Lisa Hatfield stated that the Firewise Training Day held on May 12 at Station 1 assisted about 60 local residents with presentation from regional experts on how to reduce risk of wildfire destroying their homes and how to help whole neighborhods work together to make progress. “There was a lot of good energy there,” she said.

Trost said that based on feedback comments from Robin Adair, the Community Emergency Preparedness coordinator for El Paso County, it was a very successful day. See related wildfire defense tactics information on page 27.

Trost stated later in the meeting that pre-approval is now complete for future dipping with “Bambi Buckets,” in the event of a wildland fire, from Woodmoor, Monument, Brietlecone Lakes, and Palmer Lake to include the Town of Palmer Lakes’ two drinking water reservoirs.

Equipment status report
Trost announced that delivery of the new engine is expected in early February 2019. A team of three committee members will take a tour of the Pierce Manufacturing Plant in Appleton, Wis. to go over the specifications of the new engine and experience how an engine is built. See www.ocn.me/v18n5.

Training update
Battalion Chief of Training Jonathan Bradley reported that on June 1, TLMFPD will welcome five new graduates for an orientation of the department. Graduates will begin shifts on June 14, focusing on defensive tactics and equipment.

Financial report
TLMFPD is under budget on salary in part due to five members plus one training instructor absent at the training academy. TLMFPD has three open positions and, in conjunction with assisting on recent wildland fires, the cost of overtime is 12 percent over budget for the year to date, Trost said.

Meetings are usually held the fourth Wednesday of each month. The next meeting is scheduled for 6:30 p.m. June 27 at TLMFPD Station 1, 18600 Highway 105. For information, contact Jennifer Martin at (719) 484-9011. For upcoming agendas, see http://tlmfpd.org/board.

Natalie Barszcz can be reached at nataliebarszcz@ocn.me.

Tri-Lakes Monument Fire Protection District, May 23

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