Board discusses 2016 budget, seeks advisory committee members

By Lisa Hatfield
The Tri-Lakes Monument Fire Protection District (TLMFPD) board held a hearing for amending the 2015 budget and di-
cussed the 2016 proposed budget, which will be approved at the Dec. 8 meeting. The November meeting was held Nov. 19 after snow on Nov. 17 postponed the meeting. The district did not have a board meeting in October due to lack of quorum. Director Bill Ingram was absent.

2015 amendment and 2016 draft budget

No members of the public spoke during the public hearing about the 2015 amended budget or the 2016 draft budget.

The directors unanimously approved the 2015 amended budget, which involved changes due to the early receipt of grant money for new Lifepack defibrillators that cost $30,000 apiece. The 2016 budget synopsis estimated about $5.9 million in revenue, an estimated increase of 8.1 percent, and about $6.0 million in expenses, an estimated increase of 8.8 percent. Chief Chris Truty has been presenting information to the directors all year about projected changes in the budget for 2016 and beyond. Go to www.ocn.me and search “TLMFPD” for all the back-

ground, or contact TLMFPD with ques-
tions about the details.

Citizens advisory committee

Truty said that TLMFPD is seeking 15 to 20 residents who would be willing to meet monthly to assist in providing long-term direction for the district. He would like to discuss the possibility of some kind of mill levy vote for the district in 2016 since Monument is experiencing rapid popula-
tion growth, and since the community is at risk for wildfire because it borders the “wildland urban interface.” Long-term funding to stabilize existing services would require an additional $20 million over the next five years, Truty said. He asked inter-
ested community members to call him at 719-648-4148 or write to ctruty@tlmfire.org.

Refinancing district debt

The directors approved two resolutions to move two vehicle loans from Zion Bank and Wells Fargo to Peoples National Bank. The move should save the district about $162,000 over five years. Truty said Colorado law requires a vote of the board since even though the net impact on the district would be reduced, new debt is being is-

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