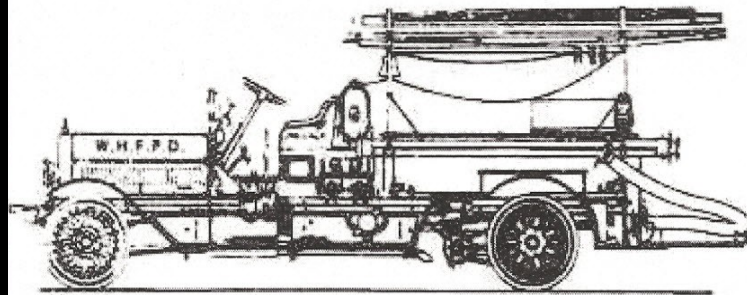


Western Hills Fire Protection District Newsletter

Summer 2013



Current Board Information

Western Hills Fire Protection District Board of Directors meetings are scheduled for the 3rd Monday of each month: exceptions are February (President's Day) and December (budget adoption). You may find the meeting dates on our website at westernhillsfire.com. All residents are encouraged to attend the meetings.

The Board of Directors meeting minutes are posted on the website monthly including the monthly financial reports.

Each month the Greeley Fire Department reports which include the number, types and location of calls are also posted on the website. The reports from Duane McDonald, Greeley Fire Chief, include information on new recruits hired, updates on a new training center that the Fire Department would like to build once the land is acquired and funding is allocated by the City of Greeley.

Greeley Fire Department has entered into an Agreement with Banner Health to provide medical emergency services. Greeley Fire Department, City of Greeley, and Banner ambulance officials have assured the Western Hills Board that due to the W.H.F.P.D. Service agreement with the Greeley Fire Department, the emergency medical service will remain at the previous service levels.

Western Hills Board adopted a Records Retention Schedule which meets the guidelines as set out by the State of Colorado. Some records are to be retained for set periods of time: Anywhere from 2 to 6 years to life.

The Board also adopted a Closing Checklist which will provide a reminder of all upcoming duties deadlines such as monthly, quarterly, annual and bi-annual reporting, filing budget deadlines, etc.

Introduction of W.H.F.P.D Administrative Specialist

Janice Perekrestenko performs various duties for the District including monthly bookkeeping, quarterly and annual reporting, preparing information for the Board of Directors and maintaining records for the ongoing business of the District. She has worked for Western Hills and Greeley Fire for nearly 17 years.

She earned an Associate's degree in Accounting and has over 25 years experience in governmental accounting. In addition, she is certified as a Colorado First Responder for Emergency Medical Service, and is an American Heart Association CPR/First Aid instructor.

Information from Chris Woodruff, Weld County Assessor

All property in Weld County was reappraised in 2013. This included all real property (land and buildings), agricultural land and buildings and oil and gas properties. A reappraisal occurs every two years and is governed by state law.

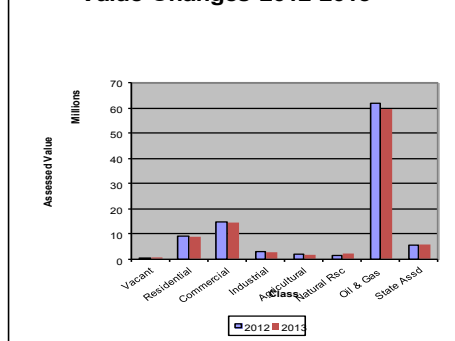
Real property is valued using sales information. For the 2013 reappraisal, the assessor used information from 2011 and the first half of 2012 to set the values. Agricultural land was valued using an income formula based on data from the previous ten year. Oil and gas values are based on the net selling price of the oil and gas produced in the previous year.

Weld County is finally moving on from the effects of the "Great Recession". There was still a loss in value in vacant development land and a smaller loss in residential property. The values were also generally flat for commercial industrial property. Market data from 2013 indicates that the market is improving, but this data will not impact taxable values until the next reappraisal in 2015.

Weld County is also in the midst of an oil boom. However, this boom is not evenly spread throughout the county. Areas, such as Western Hills Fire with more gas production saw a loss in taxable oil and gas value because of a drop in the price of natural gas in 2012.

The overall results for Western Hills Fire District show that the total value of the taxable base dropped \$2.4 million or about 2%. This means that the district will have 2% less in revenue to meet district funding obligations. Only oil and gas will be reappraised in 2014, so there may be an opportunity for increased tax base based on the oil and gas production and values in 2014.

Value Changes 2012-2013



Note from Duane McDonald Greeley Fire Department Chief

Greeley Fire Department's partnership with Western Hills is providing services to the residents of Western Hills through an agreement which began January 1, 2011. This agreement provides a high level of service to residents and visitors to the District 24 hours a day and 365 days a year.

The Chief encourages all residents to practice fire safety each and every day. Have working smoke detectors, establish an escape plan, watch what you heat and be extremely careful when using open flames.