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- The board changed its public comment process to separate comments on agenda items from those on non-agenda issues. MA is now asking for email addresses and phone numbers to respond directly.
- The board tabled an agenda item to appoint board member Melanie Strop to Monument Academy Foundation pending legal review.
- Board members signed the annual Code of Conduct per Board Policy 1514. See <http://bit.ly/ma-policy1514>.
- Treasurer Nancy Tive reported that MA received a proportionate share of 1999 MLO money from D38 offset by administrative fees.

- The board announced “topic-based” meetings going forward to include finance, curriculum, counseling, etc.

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The next meeting will be on Thursday, Sept. 12 at the Monument Academy library at 1150 Village Ridge Point. The MA School Board usually meets at 6 p.m. on the second Thursday of each month. Information on the MA School Board, including schedule, minutes, committee and finances, can be found at <http://www.monumentacademy.net/school-board>.

Jackie Burhans can be reached at [jackieburhans@ocn.me](mailto:jackieburhans@ocn.me).

### PALMER LAKE (Cont. from 1)

the trustees implemented this idea, with Schuler taking on the role of liaison for economic development, Trustee Patricia Mettler in the same role for roads, Trustee Paul Banta acting as liaison with police, and trustee Havenar for parks, and Robert Mutu taking on responsibilities for water. At that meeting, Cressman said he would do more to manage the council meetings, including enforcing more strictly the three-minute limit on public comments.

#### Planning group presents preliminary plan for fire department

At the Aug. 8 meeting, Shana Ball, who was previously the town’s fire chief and has been working with others to plan ways to keep the town’s Fire Department, presented the group’s preliminary plan and costs. Ball said the group proposed that PLVFD continue to receive the 10 mills it is currently receiving and the Police Department continue to receive revenue from the town’s sales tax.

Ball mentioned the following costs:

- \$1.5 million for a combined fire and police station.
- \$100,000 for land for the new station.
- \$112,000 for new equipment.
- \$20,000 to purchase a used ambulance or \$28,000 to lease a new ambulance.
- \$400,000 to replace a fire engine.

Ball said she thought an increase of 13.25 mills would cover the costs the planning group had identified.

#### Proposals for ballot initiative

At the Aug. 22 meeting, Ball presented her suggestions about what the council should put before the voters in November. She said some information, such as ambulance revenue and funds available from grants, was not available to inform decisions.

Ball initially suggested that a 13.25 mill increase, in addition to the 10 mills already allocated to the Fire Department, would be needed to construct a new station for fire and police, add needed equipment, purchase land, increase salaries, add an ambulance, and replace an aging fire engine

At the second meeting, Ball recommended the council focus the proposed ballot initiative on constructing a new station to house both fire and police, and on funds to increase salaries. Ball revised some of the costs she had mentioned in her presentation ear-

lier in the month. She estimated \$1.6 million would be needed for the new station. She also pointed out that an initiative to allow sales of retail cannabis might be on the ballot in November, and, if that were to pass, it might generate revenue that would impact the council’s planning for the Fire Department

Schuler responded that he did not like the idea of having to go back to the voters for additional funding to address issues beyond the station and salaries.

Cressman said the information available at that moment was insufficient to do a bond. He asked for a survey to determine the wishes of residents and pointed out that the proposed plans had increased to 28.5 mills—the current 10 mills plus an additional 18.5 mills. He pointed out that the cost of the plans being considered had risen over two mills in the last few days, and that suggested the plans were still not completely thought through. Cressman also was skeptical about the use of grants to fund the plans.

Town Attorney Maureen Juran suggested the town’s water bills could include survey questions to gather more information about residents’ preferences and expectations.

#### Council votes not to participate in 2019 election

After their lengthy consideration of these issues, a consensus emerged among the council members that the issue of the Fire Department’s future needed more study than could properly be done before the deadline for defining the ballot initiative language. Banta moved that the town not participate in the 2019 election with a proposal to add a mill levy to fund the Fire Department. Trustee Gary Faust seconded Banta’s motion, and the council voted unanimously to approve it, thereby delaying any ballot question for at least a year.

#### Council denies conditional use permits at Illumination Point

At the Aug. 8 meeting, Jeremy Ferranti and Jamie Fischer asked the council to grant two conditional use permits. The first, for 640 Highway 105, a portion of the Illumination Point location, would allow the creation of a mini-warehouse and rental storage unit business, and the second, for 650 Highway 105, would allow the creation of a storage area for construction vehicles. Their request was a follow up to a previous conditional use permit request that the council heard the previous month.

Banta responded that the proposed uses did not align with the town’s code, quoting a section that specified developments should “promote the health, safety, convenience, order, aesthetics, environmental quality and general welfare of residents of Palmer Lake.” Banta objected in particular to the use of shipping containers to construct portions of the project.

Juran pointed out that the conditional use permits before the council were sufficiently changed from the previous versions that the permits should go back to the Planning Commissions for a second review.


The council voted unanimously to deny both conditional use permits.

#### Water line discovered under proposed bridge location

At the Aug. 8 meeting, Town Manager Valerie Remington told the council that the engineer hired to oversee the installation of the pedestrian bridge be-

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