

MONUMENT (Cont. from 1)**Background**

The election in November brought two significant changes in Monument's governing body: a new board and a new form of governance. Formerly called "trustees," the transfer of governance is slotted to take place at the first meeting of 2023 on Tuesday, Jan. 3, where new "council members" will lead the town. Former Trustee

Mitch LaKind will advance to become the new mayor, and four new members will be seated: Steve King, Sana Abbott, Redmond Ramos, and Kenneth Kimple. Ramos had been serving as an appointed trustee. King, Abbott, and Ramos will serve four-year terms; Kimple will serve a two-year term. Trustee James Romanello will remain as a member, and former Mayor Pro Tem Kelly Elliott's second term expired. Trustees Darcy Schoe-

ning and Ron Stephens did not receive enough votes to remain on the board but finished the month of December 2022 as trustees of the town. In summary:

- Old "Board of Trustees": Mayor Don Wilson, Mayor Pro Tem Elliott, and Trustees Ramos, LaKind, Stephens, Romanello, and Schoening. Wilson resigned after winning a congressional seat.
- New "Council Members": Mayor LaKind and Council Members Ramos, Romanello, King, Abbott, and Kimple. A new council member will be nominated to fill LaKind's seat, and one of the council members will be appointed mayor pro tem.

The special meetings were called to initiate an investigation into the Town of Monument for allegedly violating Colorado campaign finance laws. Elliott accused the town of contributing \$2,500 on May 6 for yard signs and door hangers (see photos on page 3) and substantiated the claim

with documentation and receipts. She also accused the Monument Citizens for Home Rule, led by incoming council member King, of failing to account for all their expenditures, citing only \$5 reported from March through October. Elliott submitted this complaint to the town clerk:

"I want to file a complaint against Monument Citizens for Home Rule with Steve King as their Facebook Administrator. There is no accounting for their funds used for signs and door hangers. They reported \$5.00 March 2022—October 2022. If they refuse to accurately report their finances, then the signs need to be removed as they do not comply with state and town rules."

Special meeting on Dec. 13

Elliott called the special meeting on Dec. 13 to propose Resolution No. 94-2022: "A Resolution to Launch the Investigation on Fair Campaign Practices Act to Investigate in Kind Donation From the Town of Monument to the Monument for Home Rule Issue Committee for Signs and Door Hangers. The Investigation, Paid for by the Town of Monument, Requires that the Town Staff and Any Others to be Investigated Fully Cooperate with the Investigative Attorney During Interviews, Provisions of Document, Access to Emails and Phone Records, and Timely Responses to Phone Calls and Email Questions as Requested by the Attorney. The Investigator Will Provide Weekly Updates to the Town Council on the Approximate Dates: December 19 and December 27 with the Goal to Have the Investigation Completed by December 30, 2022." Though the new town attorney, Kathryn Sellars with Hoffmann, Parker, Wilson & Carberry P.C., was not present to advise the councilmembers, the resolution passed 4-2 with amended wording.

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