

the neighborly relationship between the two towns, questions about why Monument taxpayer money was being spent on litigation when Palmer Lake hoped for a settlement, and reminders of how refilling Palmer Lake would be a benefit to the whole Tri-Lakes area.

Town Attorney Gary Shupp advised the board not to comment on the matter because it was still in the litigation process. Monument resident and Palmer Lake Restoration committee Chair Jeff Hulsmann requested that the group be put on the Dec. 1 agenda, since they had not been included on the Nov. 17 agenda.

Bulk fill water station still in place

Trails End residents, including Jason and Tammy Barber, are members of the task force working on removing the town-owned bulk fill water station adjacent to their homes on the northwest corner of Wagon Gap Trail and Old Denver Road. The station serves both construction customers and residents of Monument who need to buy potable water since their wells are dry.

The Trails End residents addressed the trustees with their demands to be given a "no later than" date on moving the large water tank station, and the truck traffic associated with it, to a location that is not in the middle of a residential community like theirs. For about 40 minutes, the trustees and residents discussed the issue and repeated their positions. See www.ocn.me/v14n8.htm#mbot0721 for background.

Mayor Rafael Dominguez and Town Manager Pamela Smith said that since they do not yet have a location to move the tank, they cannot make promises on when it could be moved. Dominguez said he is in communication with the Colorado Department of Transportation (CDOT) about locating the tank at the original site the town had chosen, between the Conoco sta-

tion and Arby's on Highway 105, but warned that CDOT is "the most bureaucratic organization in the state." Smith said she never said the town would purchase new land for a site and needs to work with what it already owns or has donated to them for this use. Money has been set aside in the 2015 budget to pay for moving the station if a new location is found.

The Barbers said that the task force has been trying to help find new permanent or even temporary locations, but they felt its suggestions were not being seriously considered by town staff. "I am not going to wait 10 years for this station to move. I am going to put my house on the market, and I am going to move where you guys (trustees) are, since the tank is not there," Tammy Barber said.

Smith told Barber there are complications and constraints in town administration, and getting into the details (with citizens of the task force) is not a proper use of staff's time. "I don't think they should be told how to do their jobs. They know what they're doing. We are looking (for a new location)," she said.

Smith said removing the station and going back to a temporary hydrant is not an option, since the hydrant used the honor system instead of a meter and therefore lost revenue, and also because its location could cause traffic problems. Tammy Barber asked if it was worth upsetting the town for this small amount of revenue.

Another Trails Ends resident mentioned that after the housing developer north of the bulk water station installed a fence on the property line, it was evident that one of the new trees planted by the town to landscape around the station was installed on the wrong side of the line. Public Works Director Tom Tharnish said the trees were planted using the site plan as a reference guide, and now that the trees are planted and watered in, they cannot be



Above: On Nov. 17, Town Gardener Sharon Williams presented a plaque to her mentor, El Paso County Extension Agent Barbara Bates, in recognition of valuable contributions to Monument in establishing an urban tree inventory system and making suggestions to improve the town's long-term forestry management. Photo by Lisa Hatfield

moved without killing them. Tammy Barber said that the new trees promised by Smith in August were supposed to be 10-12 feet tall, but the ones planted were just over 6 feet tall.

Town Clerk Cynthia Sirochman volunteered to do once a month follow-up with a designated point of contact on the task force to provide better communication on progress.

Tree inventory results

Sharon Williams, town gardener for Monument, said that the El Paso County Extension Office recently helped develop an urban forestry management plan for the Public Works Department. The results were a snapshot of the town's cumulative investment in its tree population and goals for how it could and should look in the future.

County Extension Agent Barbara Bates explained the results of the 2013 survey by Colorado master gardener volunteers of 159 trees on town property in parks and the commercial district downtown, including suggestions for improvements in town public space.

Bates said the advantages of increased tree populations included encouraging shoppers to stay downtown longer and reducing erosion and carbon emissions.

She encouraged the town to

include a diverse, healthy urban forest as part of its growth and development, especially if combined with Planning Department recommendations for new development.

Citizen of the Year

Dominguez presented local business owner Maggie Williamson with the 2014 Citizen of the Year Award. He commended her on being a citizen that "really steps up" and is a very active member of community. She is a member of Tri-lakes Chamber Board, the Tri-Lakes Center for the Arts, and the Historic Monument Merchants Association, and a loyal attender of town trustees' meetings.

Dominguez then presented Town Manager Smith with a gift certificate and plaque to thank her for doing extra work since the town has no finance director right now.

LPHS girls volleyball recognized

Trustee Becki Tooley congratulated the Lewis-Palmer High School Girls Volleyball Team, which just won the 2014 Colorado state championship and was ranked No. 1 in the nation by Maxpreps Sports.

Financial reports

Smith presented the month's disbursements over \$5,000, which were approved unanimously by

the trustees:

- Triview Metro District – \$146,900 for sales tax
- NORAA Concrete Construction Corp – \$10,289 for additional curb and gutter repairs
- NORAA Concrete Construction Corp -- \$202,877 for sidewalk project downtown
- Nolte Associates – \$14,211
- National Meter and Automation – \$6,136 for meter replacement project

In the October financial report, Smith said year-to-date general fund revenues were 3 percent ahead of what was expected, while expenses were 8 percent under budget. She said it was encouraging that finances have improved over the last few months, since usually things slow down at this time of the year. Sales tax revenue collected was also better than expected at 3 percent ahead of Oct. 2013. General Fund net revenue was over budget, which was good news, especially since last year at this time the general fund expenditures were over budget. Year-to-date water fund net revenues were under budget by \$194,000, but this was better than last year at this time, she said.

Development Services report

Planning Director Mike Pesicka's comments included:

- The Lake of Rockies development broke ground. Grading and seeding are the next phases.
- Promontory Pointe Phase 5 is almost ready to have permits issued.
- The first phase of the downtown sidewalks project is done. Pesicka said, "We went with the plans and made some field changes that we thought were adequate." A final walk-through with CDOT occurred on Nov. 19.
- The next phase of the sidewalks project in 2015 will be north of Third Street and portions of Beacon Lite.
- A Parks Committee survey on residents' opinions about town parks received 433 re-

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