

ing requesting a material modification to its service plan where VCMD and the town disagreed about the actual cost of maintaining roads inside VCMD. The discussion was continued to Oct. 2, but no trustee made a motion on VCMD's request, so nothing was voted on then.

On Nov. 20, after an emotional discussion about who did and did not want to communicate with whom, the board consensus was to allow VCMD to make another board presentation after the first of the year, and meanwhile Romanello would reach out to Lowe.

Chamber of Commerce goals explained

Terri Hayes, president of Tri-Lakes Chamber of Commerce, Economic Development (Coalition) (EDC) and visitors center, presented the trustees and the audience with three facets of the Chamber's roles. They included:

- Providing information to new residents and visitors. Hayes hopes to find a volunteer to staff the Chamber on Saturday mornings.
- Attracting both primary businesses (which generate revenue from outside the Front Range) and secondary businesses (which redistribute local revenue) and figuring out how to put our energy into things we can influence. See www.ocn.me/v15n5.htm#mbot0406.
- Hosting the July 4 Street Fair and Beer Garden in historic downtown, up to eight summer concerts at Limbach Park, the Bines and Brews Festival at Limbach Park, and at the Chamber facility on Second Street hosting the Chamber Breakfast Networking group, monthly business education series, and many public group meetings.

Bornstein thanked Hayes for all the events on the west side of town and then suggested having a concert on east side of the highway at the clock tower north of Texas Roadhouse. Hayes said she would check into the logistics.

Countywide water planning

Lowe said that at Trustee Dennis Murphy's suggestion, Lowe went with Public Works Director Tom Tharnish and Principal Planner Larry Manning to meet with Craig Dossey, executive director, El Paso County Planning and Community Development Department, to talk about countywide water planning.

The result was "refreshing," since Dossey told Lowe the county was a neutral party that could facilitate between water providers and developers, and the town was invited to participate in the steering committee meetings. Lowe said leadership needs to come from the county to help the numerous special districts and municipalities collaborate on securing future renewable water supplies.

Checks over \$5,000

The BOT approved the consent agenda unanimously. It included the following checks over \$5,000:

- Colorado Springs City Finance, MPD 2017 radio user fees - \$6,160
- Triview Metro District sales, motor vehicle, and regional building use tax - \$172,574
- El Paso County Treasurer, 2016 PPT on Mitchell Land - \$7,282
- Berkadia, 1979 GO Bond for water - \$19,960, final payment
- CWRPDA, April 1, 1997 Limited GO Water bonds - \$73,920
- CWRPDA, Oct. 1, 1997 Limited GO water bonds - \$73,920, final payment
- CWCB, Aug. 1, Monument dam loan - \$54,099, final payment
- Wells Fargo Capital Lease, June 14 - \$39,071
- Wells Fargo Capital Lease, due Dec. 4 - \$39,071, final payment
- Wells Fargo Capital Lease, April 1 - \$69,431
- Wells Fargo Capital Lease, April 1 - \$65,135
- Wells Fargo Capital Lease, July 15 - \$49,688

The consent agenda also included a resolution extending the term of Municipal Judge John Ciccolella through Dec. 31, 2018.

Public comments

- Resident Nancy Swearingin asked the trustees if they were so adamant about the \$52,000 police salary, how many of them had voted down affordable multi-family or subsidized housing that someone making that salary could afford to live in?
- Joseph Whitman asked about the Comprehensive Plan and if the town was doing its planning in a vacuum. What other towns are being used as a model for Monument's future? Or are we going off-azimuth into the desert? What about our support elements to keep up with growth?

At 8:25 p.m., the board went into executive session for receiving legal advice on the Forest View Estates litigation. Town Clerk Laura Hogan told OCN that the board did not take any votes or make any announcements after the meeting resumed.

The Monument Board of Trustees usually meets at 6:30 p.m. on the first and third Mondays of each month at Monument Town Hall, 645 Beacon Lite Road. A special meeting to work and vote on the budget is scheduled for Saturday, Dec. 2. The next regular meeting is scheduled for Dec. 4.

Call 884-8014 or see www.townofmonument.org for information about live video streaming of meetings. To see upcoming agendas and complete board packets for the Board of Trustees or to download audio recordings of past meetings, see <http://monument-townco.minutesondemand.com> and click on Board of Trustees.

Note: "Planning 101, An Overview of the Planning Process from Start to Finish," is a workshop for the Board of Trustees, Planning Commission, Board of Adjustments, and the public on Jan. 8, 2018, at 5:30 p.m. at the Monument Town Hall.

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Palmer Lake Town Council, Nov. 9

Discussion of Great Outdoors Colorado grant becomes heated

By James Howald

The Palmer Town Council met once in November, on Nov. 9, when the trustees discussed the town's preliminary 2018 budget. Also, Michelle Connolly, the forester for the Coalition for the Upper South Platte (CUSP), presented the findings of the Home Ignition Zone assessment she and her team did on the town of Palmer Lake. Jeff Hulsmann and Bill Fisher, representing the Awake the Lake committee, reported to the Town Council on the current state of the Great Outdoors Colorado (GOCO) grant.

Direction for GOCO grant sparks debate

Hulsmann addressed the Town Council, describing the work the Awake the Lake committee is doing to add a bridge spanning the railroad tracks and connecting the park with the town of Palmer Lake. He

emphasized the need for a bridge that would provide a safe way for users of the park to cross the railroad tracks and get to the town's businesses. Hulsmann said Awake the Lake was ready to move forward with the construction of the bridge, but felt there was reluctance to proceed on the part of the Town Council. He asked the board to approve the expenditure of \$130,000 to move earth in preparation for the construction of the bridge.

Palmer Lake Park includes areas on both sides of the railroad tracks and had a previous Master Plan in 2007 that was updated for the \$350,000 GOCO grant the town received in 2015.

Architect Fisher, who designed the proposed bridge, said final approval from the railroad was imminent, and that he had been told Awake the Lake could "proceed with confidence."

Several trustees expressed concerns with the idea of approving the expenditure requested by Hulsmann. Trustee Mark Schuler said that no contractor had yet bid on the work, and that final approval from the railroad was not in hand. Town Attorney Maureen Juran said she saw a risk that the town might pay for the earthwork and then the final approval from the railroad might not appear. Trustee Paul Banta and Mayor John Cressman also expressed concerns about approving the funds for the earthwork.

Banta went on to say he felt Awake the Lake had done a great job with fundraising, but the town was still responsible for the grant. He said he felt there needed to be better coordination and teamwork between the town and Awake the Lake.

These concerns led to a frustrated response from Hulsmann, who argued that it was not practical to wait to move forward with the project until all these issues were resolved.

After further discussion that sometimes grew heated, Hulsmann agreed that Awake the Lake would be responsible for the costs of the earthwork. Juran said this would address her concern about spending town money before final approvals were in place. Hulsmann said he felt the town and Awake the Lake were not pulling in the same direction, but he was glad the project could move forward.

The town doesn't want to spend the GOCO funds until Awake the Lake actually gets the approval from the railroad on the bridge design. But the dirt moving should happen now to avoid weather delays, since



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