

a way to get renewable water into the town's system (search PPRWA at www.ocn.me).

Tharnish said it would be wasting money to pursue both the \$737,000 treated water emergency connection and the raw water emergency connection with WWSD.

Coopman thanked Tharnish for coming up with an alternate option for the emergency water connection that was fiscally responsible.

Trustee Dennis Murphy objected, saying, "Three years is too long to wait. I would like to see an emergency interconnect, connected to a renewable water source like Donala, Triview, or Colorado Springs Utilities. I am wondering how come we are avoiding that."

Tharnish said the town has never been in a situation where it would have needed an emergency interconnection. "I realize this goes back to what occurred in Triview last summer.... If you knew the heart of the matter over there and why things occurred ... we are just not set up the same way as Triview on a lot of different levels.... It is just not the same structure from an operations standpoint that something like that would occur and the type of mistakes that were made.... Not only do we have a better handle on our system, and more experienced guys who know where to look ... but we have much better infrastructure and equipment to detect a problem."

Murphy then asked how approvals for annexations and multi-family home developments could occur when the town's aquifers were being stressed and the town did not yet have access to renewable water supplies.

Wilson said that is why the town had a long-term water master plan, and Tharnish said he would not sign a will-serve letter guaranteeing a development that the town had water for its projected needs for 100 years if there was a risk that potential supplies could not meet them. He cited the town's 20-year water master plan, which has calculated how much capacity would be needed at full build-out. Town Manager Chris Lowe said that applicants are also required to bring their water rights with them into an annexation. "If we don't have the capacity to meet it, we would not allow it to come before you," Tharnish said.

Coopman said his concern was giving a will-serve letter guaranteeing 100 years of water to a development "when we are being told by professionals we better get moving on the reuse plant so that we will have 20-30 years of water instead of just 8-11 years' worth."

Medlicott asked Tharnish to provide as detailed of a build schedule for the proposed reuse plant as he could for the Feb. 21 meeting where the emergency interconnec-

tion options will also be discussed in more detail. The board reached consensus on this direction.

Regarding the proposed Monument-WWSD water reuse, Trustee Jeff Bornstein asked about how the costs of building and operating the facility would be shared, since WWSD has more customers and water consumption than the town's water system west of I-25 does. "Are you looking at a sliding scale for charges based on usage and consumption?" Tharnish said, "I am thinking if you are going to process more water to benefit them, then they would be on the hook for more of that cost, but I would not want to throw a percentage out there." *For the next chapter, see related Feb. 21 Monument BOT article on page 10.*

Xeriscaping ordinance discussed

Xeriscaping is a landscaping method developed especially for arid and semi-arid climates that utilizes water conservation techniques including growing drought-tolerant plants that require less water, incorporating mulch, and using efficient irrigation systems such as drip irrigation. See www.denverwater.org/Conservation/Xeriscape/ for many creative water-wise landscaping ideas from the Denver Water Board.

The current Monument landscaping ordinance has been considered by the Planning Commission several times, but the commissioners were not able to reach a consensus on how exactly to tailor the ordinance to help reduce water used for irrigation. See www.ocn.me/v16n9.htm#mpc.

Principal Planner Manning presented some recommendations to the trustees. The board consensus was to recommend the following criteria to the Planning Commission for further discussion:

- Eight plants per 100 square feet (reduced from 24 currently)
- 4.1 trees per 5,000 square feet (more for parking lots) (reduced from eight currently)
- Add the possibility of "administrative relief" for special circumstances, such as when businesses were either approved or built when more water-intensive landscapes were required for their site plans, but now they would like to opt for more xeric landscaping.

Ordinance review workshop canceled

Wilson said he thought it was inappropriate to have a workshop on this topic.

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