

of the sanitary sewer line infrastructure study. The board unanimously approved a motion to place a temporary suspension of sanitary sewer tap permits effective Oct. 10. The intention was that this motion would be formalized into a resolution in the near future.

At the Nov. 14 meeting, another local builder spoke during public comments asking if a waiting list would be created so that if and when any taps were made available for purchase, they could be issued on a first-come, first-served basis. He handed Orcutt completed plans for a home he is ready to start building as soon as he can and asked to be placed on such a list. The board consensus was that it was all unknown.

Later in the meeting, after the executive session, Orcutt told OCN that the board approved creation of a waiting list for those who may wish to purchase a tap once the suspension is removed.

The board also discussed how Orcutt should handle a legal and technical situation with another builder who had applied for one sewer tap before the Oct. 10 deadline, but eventually would need five more taps in that same development. The question was whether or not he should construct the one allowed tap on a service line or on a more expensive line extension, which is what would be required when and if the other five taps were issued.

The official resolution about the suspension of issuance of sewer taps is yet to come.

What prompted the question to the engineers?

Board member Joseph Stallsmith reminded the public that in 1968, when he was on the town council, Palmer Lake's homes and businesses all had septic systems. But the state health department said in order to avoid a health and safety issue, Palmer Lake could not allow any more building until a sanitary sewer system was built for the town.

Orcutt said that the current PLSD collection system was built in 1972, and that "this kind of growth was not anticipated, with so many subdivisions and multiple homes, every little piece of property being subdivided. There was no way of ever knowing it would happen like it has. It's a tough situation. ... We are almost at the same point now. You can't continue if you can't take care of it."

Recently, Orcutt has had two development proposals within PLSD's service area, both includ-

ing 30 or 40 homes, and before she committed to them she asked GMS to do brief, rough calculations. That's when Morton said the flow in some sections was far above the desired 75 percent level at peak times. "We can't allow people to continue to tap in and just wait and see what happens," Orcutt said. Septic systems are only an option for lots that are 2.5 acres or bigger, Chairman Mark Bruce said.

When the \$60,000 study is done, it will specify if and where there are trouble spots in the system and indicate if sections of lines need to be replaced or reconfigured.

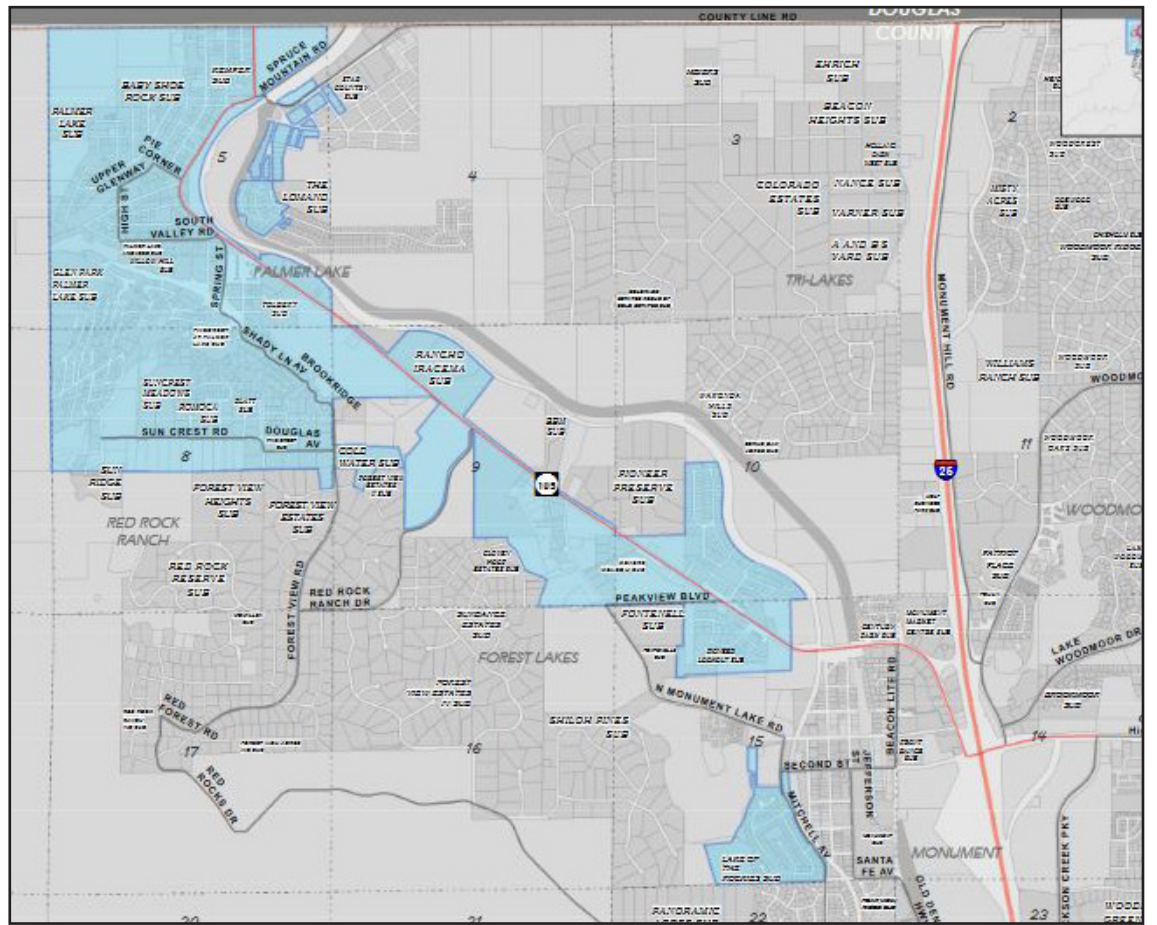
Stallsmith said the goal was to "avoid stuff (raw sewage) upon the ground." Orcutt added, "It is scary. We are trying to do the right thing." Board member Reid Wiecks mentioned that concerns about the suspension of sewer tap permits had been mentioned at the Nov. 9 Palmer Lake Town Council (PLTC) meeting. See related PLTC article on page 16.

2019 budget in discussion

Orcutt has already presented a draft of the 2019 budget, which will be revised slightly to include the final 2019 number owed to the TLWWTF. That draft was approved at the Nov. 13 TLWWTF Joint Use Committee (JUC) meeting, which also includes Woodmoor Water and Sanitation District and Monument Sanitation District. Vice Chairman Patricia Smith attends those monthly meetings and summarized the discussions about the JUC budget. See www.ocn.me/v18n11.htm#tlwtfjuc.

Orcutt said she has included normal line repair estimates in the PLSD budget but nothing about possible re-piping the town because she has no specifics on when or how much that might cost. After the GMS study is done next year, the board might amend its budget to include costs related to that anticipated infrastructure upgrade work.

The public hearing on



Above: Palmer Lake Sanitation District (PLSD) has temporarily stopped issuing new sewer tap permits until a system-wide engineering study is complete. PLSD's service area (shown in blue) includes parts of the Town of Palmer Lake and other neighborhoods as far south as Lake of the Rockies, which is in the Town of Monument. District Manager Becky Orcutt said she hoped the engineers would be done evaluating the entire collection system's capacity by April 2019, when possible infrastructure improvements might be recommended. See <http://plsd.org/> for a more detailed district map. Map courtesy of El Paso County Assessor.

the PLSD budget will be held at PLSD's regular meeting on Dec. 12, after which the board will approve the budget.

At 10:14, the board went into executive session to determine the district's position on matters that may be subject to negotiations with regard to potential third-party wastewater service opportunities with Colorado Springs Utilities. They did not take any formal action on the subject after the meeting returned to open session.

Meetings are held on the second Wednesday of each month at 9 a.m. at PLSD's offices at 120 Middle Glenway, Palmer Lake. The next meeting is scheduled for Dec. 12. Contact PLSD at 481-2732 or Becky.orcutt@plsd.org with questions.

Lisa Hatfield can be reached at lisahatfield@ocn.me.

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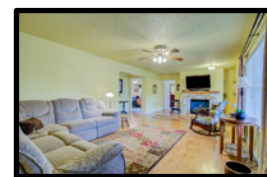
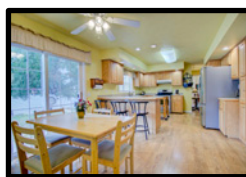
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 - Across from active creek!
 - No HOA
 - Rare Land Opportunity in the Glen!
 - Beautiful views!
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★ 0 Fair Street (Mystic Lane) ★
Palmer Lake
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