

Monument Board of Trustees, Nov. 5

Three trustees avoid special board meeting

By Allison Robenstein

The Monument Board of Trustees scheduled a budget workshop for Nov. 5 to be held at the Tri-Lakes Chamber of Commerce, which was announced at the Oct. 15 board meeting. The consensus of the trustees that night was that they would each send their top two choices for town attorney to Acting Town Manager Pamela Smith so that a contract might be extended to the top candidate. The town has been struggling with staffing since summer when the board failed to renew the contracts of the town treasurer, town attorney, and town clerk; Town Attorney Alicia Corley resigned on Sept. 4. See www.ocn.me/v18n6.htm#mbot, www.ocn.me/v18n10.htm#mbot, www.ocn.me/v18n11.htm#mbot1015.

On Nov. 1, the town website officially posted that the Nov. 5 budget workshop would be preceded by a special board meeting. The meeting was intended to approve a resolution appointing Joseph Rivera as special counsel to the town. At their previous meeting, the board heard from four legal firms willing to represent the town as contract attorneys. Rivera, of Murray, Dahl, Beery and Renaud, LLP, has done legal work for the town in the past. He was not present at the special meeting.

However, before the Nov. 5 meeting began, Trustee Greg Coopman arrived in the building, but refused



Above: Trustee Greg Coopman stood in the doorway of the board of trustee's special meeting on Nov. 5 at the Tri-Lakes Chamber of Commerce, refusing to enter, saying he would not attend the "illegal" meeting. After the meeting adjourned without conducting any business due to a lack of a majority of trustees present, Coopman came into the room to participate in the budget workshop. Photo by Allison Robenstein.

to sit at the dais with Trustee Ron Stephens, Mayor Pro Tem Kelly Elliott and Mayor Don Wilson. Instead, he stood in the hallway. When Elliott asked if he was going to join the others at the meeting, he said, "Not for this illegal meeting."

The meeting opened, Town Clerk Laura Hogan took roll, announcing trustees Jeffrey Bornstein and Laurie Clark were absent. When Hogan called Coopman's name, she waited for him to answer, but when he didn't

she said, "No response." Coopman called from outside the room, "I sent you an email." Coopman did not make any public explanation of his actions.

Because the three trustees who were present didn't represent a majority of the six current trustees, the meeting was adjourned at 6:01 p.m. Coopman then came in and sat down at the dais after the adjournment to participate in the budget workshop.

A similar protest about what con-

stitutes a quorum vs. a voting majority happened at the May 14 and May 16 meetings that were supposed to deal with staffing decisions, when three trustees were present and so opened and closed the meeting due to the stipulations of the Colorado Sunshine Law but could not take any official actions. See www.ocn.me/v18n6.htm#mbot-cx, www.ocn.me/v18n7.htm#mbot.

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Monument Planning Commission, November 14

New Planning Commission members sworn in; three development plans approved

By Kate Pangelinan

Jeremy Lushnat and Chris Wilhelm were both sworn in to the office of

Planning Commissioner at the Nov. 14 meeting of the Monument Planning Commission. Former Planning

Commissioner Jim Fitzpatrick's resignation was also announced, and Commissioner Michelle Glover was elected vice chair of the planning commission following David Gwisdalla's move and subsequent departure from the post. This means she will conduct meetings if Planning Commission Chair Ed Delaney is unavailable.

Topics discussed at the meeting also included the Jackson Creek North Filing 1 Site Plan and Final Plat, along with a zone change and Final Planned Development Site Plan for Cipriani Development, and the Site Plan for an ABRA Auto Body shop. The scheduled Final PD Site Plan and Final Plat for Monument Ridge was postponed. Public notice for future hearing dates will be sent.

This meeting was recorded and can be accessed on YouTube at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mKvpE0mjeZs>. Additional meeting information, including a Planning Commission packet with project summaries, maps, and additional notes, can be found at <https://monumenttownco.documents-on-demand.com/>.

Commission approves Jackson Creek North plan

The Jackson Creek North Filing 1 site location is on the north side of Leather Chaps Drive, just left of Remington Hill Neighborhood, comprising 11½ acres. The project is represented by the property's owner, Vision De-

velopment, Inc. As described in the Planning Commission packet, "The subject area includes the extension of Harness Road, a new public road called Hallmark Trail, 31 residential lots, and three tracts (for the purposes of emergency access, trail, utilities, landscaping, etc.)." Tracts A and B include a "conceptional trail easement" as requested by El Paso County to be used for a future regional trail. The 31 residential lots would be standard rectangular lots, with houses arranged in a circle around about seven houses in the middle. Rock landscaping would be provided between an attached sidewalk and the tract.

Commission members discussed the following concerns regarding the development:

- Glover noted that if these roads were to be plowed completely clear—the way a road expecting more traffic would need to be—the nearby sidewalks would be buried under snow. She said this would prevent students from walking or riding their bikes to the high school. This would force students to commute to school by car or be driven by their parents or guardians. Someone asked if the sidewalks could be moved farther from the road. Glover considered these discussions the one shot the community would have to keep these sidewalks safe during the winter. However, the current plan meets



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