

to revoke but are being asked for clarity on why they voted as they did. During public comments, seven town citizens berated the three board members who voted against the appointments, saying staff lives were affected and asking them to have empathy in their decision making, or else to “just resign and go away.”

Trustee Ron Stephens said he wanted open dialogue and was not happy that three people had been dismissed with no discussion. Elliott said she is concerned that there was no documentation of disciplinary action for the three staff members prior to the failed appointment vote. She added that legal counsel during an executive session would have given them a clearer understanding of the implications of the board’s vote.

Town Human Resources Director Robert Bishop recommended an executive session item to discuss personnel issues and how to go forward with the search to fill the positions. Smith said she would add this to the June 4 meeting.

Coopman said this is not a reappointment phase anymore and the board has an obligation to fill the positions, implying the three have lost their jobs. He suggested either using a temporary agency or by posting the staff positions. Speaking as the acting town manager, Smith said if the board’s intent is not to reappoint the three individuals, they need the courtesy of being told that is the case and go through all the standard termination administrative procedures.

Smith said Coopman was wrong when he assumed that the three town staff members who were not reappointed would continue doing their jobs because they are no longer covered by CIRSA. “It’s a muddy mess with no clear answers,” she said, adding that even though she is acting town manager, CIRSA won’t talk with her because she is also one of the three staff members involved in this situation.

Accusations and different interpretations of the situation continued throughout the discussion, with both contingents of trustees getting heckled by the public factions in the audience.

Additional trustee may be elected, not appointed

Because Wilson was elected mayor, his trustee position needs to be filled, either by appointment by the trustees or by ordering an election. On April 16, the board decided to reach out to the community to find someone to appoint. Four applicants—James Romanello, Jeff Lampman, Kenneth W.

Kimple and Laura Kronick—responded to the request.

Romanello and Kronick came before the board at the May 7 meeting. Lampman, the “next highest vote-getter” in the April 3 board election, withdrew his application just before the May 21 meeting. Kimple, who is currently on the Monument Planning Commission, spoke about his concerns for Monument and asked to be able to continue to serve the people in this capacity. Elliott made a motion to appoint Romanello, but it failed 3-3 with Clark, Coopman and Bornstein voting against.

No trustee offered another motion to vote on one of the other two remaining applicants. Colorado Statute says, “If a vacancy in the board ... is not filled by appointment or an election is not ordered within sixty days after the vacancy occurs, the board shall order an election....” Assuming the vacancy occurred the day Wilson was sworn in as mayor, the board has until June 15 to select a seventh trustee or an election will be required at a minimum cost of \$11,000.

During public comments, county resident Lisa Dominguez asked Clark how she could run on a “fiscally responsible” campaign but still choose to vote down the motion to appoint a seventh trustee.

Town Manager investigation results

In February, Town Manager Chris Lowe was put on administrative leave after charges were filed by Monument Police Chief Jacob Shirk. At the Feb. 5 BOT meeting, after an executive session, the board made a motion to “authorize the Town Attorney to arrange an investigation in cooperation with the Colorado Intergovernmental Risk Sharing Agency (CIRSA) concerning the Town Manager.” The motion, which did not specify a deadline, passed unanimously, including votes from Bornstein, Clark, and Coopman. See www.ocn.me/v18n3.htm#mbot.

Coopman formally asked for a presentation of the findings from the town manager investigation requested by the board. Coopman said he thought the results had been completed weeks ago, and he wanted the trustees to be able to read and digest it in private, before it was presented at a meeting. Smith said they were ready last Monday, that no one on town staff had seen the report yet, and it will be presented at the next regular meeting June 4.

Clark asked if CIRSA represents the town manager or the town and was told by Smith it only represents

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Above: Acting Town Manager Pamela Smith and Town Human Resources Director Robert Bishop sit in seats normally taken by Town Clerk Laura Hogan and Town Attorney Alicia Corley on May 21. Because Hogan and Corley were not reappointed to their positions, and thus not insured through the town’s risk management agency, they were not present. The Board of Trustees is still muddling through the legal ramifications of not appointing these positions, as well as town treasurer, because it’s not clear if these folks have been fired. Photo by Allison Robenstein.