

during the discussion period included Gwisdalla expressing concern that a religious facility would look out of place in the business park—so that the area wouldn't seem to mesh together—and a commission-wide understanding that said religious facility would be a nontaxable entity. It was noted that a religious facility would

provide employment opportunities and a cultural service to the surrounding area, while at the same time generating interest in the development.

Glover was troubled by the loose terminology involved in this amendment, advising that a “religious institution” could be taken to mean a lot of things—a school, for

example—that might lead to confusion in the future. She opined that it would be a good idea to seek legal advice before moving forward with concrete decision-making, and that definitions should be made more explicit.

Barlow of NES Inc.—now representing Conexus's developer—assured the commis-

sion that they could guarantee no secondary licensed school or day care would be built on the property. That would be considered a separate use category.

This proposal passed 4-1, with Glover voting against.

The next Monument Planning Commission meeting will take

place at 6:30 p.m. on Wednesday, Aug. 8 at 645 Beacon Lite Rd. Meetings are normally held on the second Wednesday of the month. Information: 884-8017 or www.townofmonument.org/meetings/

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Monument Board of Trustees, July 16

Police chief lists needs for growing town: “We are not Mayberry”

By Allison Robenstein

On July 16, the Monument Board of Trustees (BOT) heard a presentation by Police Chief Jake Shirk about immediate actions to be taken to support the Monument Police Department (MPD). They also met with Town Attorney Alicia Corley in executive session to receive legal advice on water issues, rejected a resolution brought by Town of Monument Public Works Director Tom Tharnish for an engineering study and approved two development resolutions.

Acting Town Manager and Treasurer Pamela Smith was absent.

Action items from police chief

Shirk presented an overview of MPD to the board as it had requested earlier this year after adding a last-minute raise in police salaries, but not other town staff salaries, to the 2018 budget in November. See www.ocn.me/v17n12.htm#mbot, www.ocn.me/v18n1.htm#mbot.

Shirk said there has been an increase in crimes in the community being committed by career criminals including crimes related to guns and drugs, adding, “We are not Mayberry.” The town’s 2018 budget includes approval for 15 sworn officers, including himself. However, hiring a new officer can take six months to a year, he said. Once hired, an officer receives 12 weeks of field training to acquaint them with the specifics of this department. Due to staffing shortages, the department has been forced to go to 12-hour shifts, and four special assignments—Investigations, Traffic Safety, Community Resource Officer and Sergeant—were pulled back into Patrol.

“The Police Department has only increased by three officers in 13 years, yet the population will soon be double what it was then,” he said.

Shirk made the following suggestions for improving the department’s safety and efficiency:

- Increase the force to 17 officers to make up for growth since 2010 and try to keep up with projected

growth in Willow Springs, Home Place Ranch, Monument Ridge, another senior living facility, and other developments.

- Replace three vehicles due for replacement. No vehicles were approved in the 2018 budget.
- Replace four mobile data computers and in-car mounts. No mobile computer terminals have been approved for replacement since 2014.
- Purchase electronic ticketing and analytical software. Electronic ticketing was removed from the 2018 budget as a way to fund the salary increase received by sworn officers this year.
- Fund the ongoing changes to the town’s IT security in compliance with Criminal Justice Information Services requirements and be eligible for access to state and national arrest records that are vital for MPC officer safety.

Resolution for a development plan

Public Works Director Tom Tharnish brought a resolution to the board for approval of a site development plan based on a 7-acre parcel at Mitchell and Synthes Avenues. The land was purchased by the town in December 2016 for \$710,000 using 2A Water Acquisition, Storage, and Delivery (ASD) funds. The ASD Fund was established for the acquisition of water rights, storage and delivery of any newly acquired wa-

ter. See www.ocn.me/v16n10.htm#mbot0906, www.ocn.me/v16n10.htm#mbot0910, and www.ocn.me/v17n6.htm#mbot0515.



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