

Monument Board of Trustees special meeting, July 30

Board asks for extension in approving 2017 audit

By Allison Robenstein

At a special Monument Board of Trustees meeting July 30, Kyle Logan, independent auditor for the Town of Monument, presented the 2017 audit findings to the trustees. He gave an unmodified opinion of the town's finances.

In the management letter, his comments included:

- Sales and use taxes revenue increased by 11.3 percent in 2017, due largely to an increase in commercial and residential development.
- Staff should communicate with vendors who attempt to split invoices over \$5,000 into smaller charges to circumvent the BOT's policy of approving checks over \$5,000.

Trustee Jeffrey Bornstein asked who was at fault with regard to vendors sending invoices

piecemeal instead of the one invoice over the \$5,000 threshold. Acting Town Manager and Treasurer Pamela Smith began to answer, but Bornstein cut her off, saying, "Stop! Stop! I'm speaking to this gentleman", referring to Logan.

By Colorado statute, the board is required to approve the audit by July 31. Trustee Greg Coopman asked why they were receiving the audit at such a late date. We wanted to make sure everything was in order before having the audit, Smith said.

Note: The board received the 2017 annual statement of financial condition for preliminary review at their June 18 meeting. This was due to them by statute on or before June 30.

The board voted 4-2 to request an extension, with Trustees Kelly Elliott and Ron Stephens voting against.

Presentations of parties interested in interim town manager position

The board heard five presentations by firms and individuals interested in filling the interim town manager position, although no formal job posting has occurred. The firms and candidates included:

- CliftonLarsonAllen, a professional services firm that would provide an interim manager. Carrie Bartow presented information on the firm, and Josh Miller offered his services as the interim town manager.
- HR Green, which provides staff augmentation and key staff placements, was represented by Dave Zelenok.
- CPS-HR, an executive search firm, was represented by Deanna Heyn and Josh Jones.

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- Frank Battistelli, a veteran who is moving into civilian life, offered his resume as interim manager.
- Gary Sears, a retired employee who worked as a city manager for three Colorado cities.

Mediated discussion on interim town manager position

Debbie Brinkman of Institute for Excellence in Governance and Kathie Novak led a discussion with the board to help them move forward in hiring an interim town manager. Both women guided the board toward consensus. All six agreed they needed someone to run the day-to-day operations of the government while they search for a permanent

town manager.

Bornstein wanted an executive session to select one of the two candidates who presented at the meeting. Coopman pushed back, saying it would be irresponsible not to post the job first.

The board identified the general profile an interim candidate should fit and set a timeline to receive and review resumes. If a candidate clearly doesn't fit the criteria, board members should email one another and cull that person from the list, Coopman said. Novak sternly warned this may violate open meeting laws.

The board set a date of Aug. 13 to hold a special meeting to interview candidates and possibly vote to make an offer.

Allison Robenstein can be reached at allisonrobenstein@ocn.me.

Monument Academy School Board, July 18

New board elects officers, makes committee assignments

By Jackie Burhans

The Monument Academy (MA) School Board met on July 18 to organize the board positions, hear an update on plans for the high school, and discuss the implementation of lobby security.

Board officers and committee assignments

The newly seated board unanimously elected board officers and approved committee assignments for the 2018-19 school year as follows:

- Patrick Hall, president - Buildings/Facilities Committee
- Mark McWilliams, vice president - School Accountability Advisory Committee
- Mike Molsen, secretary - Governance Committee
- J.W. Boyles, treasurer - Finance Committee
- Melanie Strop - Resource Development Committee/Grants
- Dwayne Cook - Curriculum Committee

High school construction plans

Kurt Connelly, MA's builder's representative, has sent a request for proposal for construction of the high school to seven general contractors (GCs) with extensive charter school experience. Responses are due by Aug. 3, and the best three or four will come to the board for personal interviews.

MA had a second meeting with the El Paso County Planning Commission on July 18 for early assistance with the land use process. No big red flags were raised on the property under consideration. One of the next steps to get the property rezoned will be a traffic study. MA's architectural

firm, CRP Architects, is very familiar with the property and had already done soil testing for D38, though it will have to be updated.

Lobby security

MA will be testing and implementing LobbyGuard, a new visitor management system. The system will include a beacon. Once people are pre-checked, they will get a special fob so that when they are within a hundred feet of the beacon, it will automatically print a visitor badge.

Other highlights

The following items were highlighted at the board meeting:

- The Code of Conduct Annual Declaration—Policy 1514 was signed by all board members.
- The deans and Principal Dr. Elizabeth Davis have selected a "Connection" theme for the school year and will be using over



Above: Monument Academy board members for the 2018-19 school year are, from left, Dwayne Cooke, J.W. Boyles, Patrick Hall, Mike Molsen, Mark McWilliams, and Melanie Strop. Photo by Jackie Burhans.

1,000 Legos to create connections throughout the building.

The next meeting will be on Thursday, Aug. 9 at the Monument Academy library at 1150 Village Ridge Point. The MA School Board usually meets at 6 p.m. on the second Thurs-

day of each month. Information on the MA School Board, including schedule, minutes, committee and finances can be found at <http://www.monumentacademy.net/school-board>.

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