the final intention of signing an agreement to join the NMCI later in 2019. The board approved the resolution, 4-0.

Director Mike Hitchcock said having "no downstream liability in the future would be huge!"

Resident Lee Arnett voiced concern about losing local control of rates. However, Nichols and Stimple explained again that they did not see a downside.

For information on other northern entities interested in this project, see https://ocn.me/v18n12.htm#msd, https://ocn.me/v19n1.htm#tvmd, and https://ocn.me/v19n1.htm#mbot-1217.

New surface water treatment plant reduces demand on aquifers

Tom Blunk of CP Real Estate Capital reported the following:

- Distribution of treated Bristlecone Lake water commenced on March 7.
- The water tasted great!
- Full completion will happen within 45 days after a few minor details have been straightened out.

Stimple and Nichols congratulated Blunk for "shepherding the project," which will allow the district to use renewable lake water instead of aquifer well water.

The new Arapahoe well is drilled and expected to be connected to the water system in late summer; any water used from that well would need to be blended with lake water, Stimple said. Water to residents has been previously sourced from the non-renewable Dillon well and will still be available if needed during a drought.

A drought policy is included in homeowner packets, and water restrictions will be monitored by John McGinn from JDS Hydro. McGinn is FLMD's water consultant tasked to figure out how to handle drought conditions if it becomes

necessary. See https://ocn.me/v18n5.htm#flmd.

Public comments

Resident Lee Arnett asked the board many questions during public comments. Stimple's answers included:

- The primary water source for FLMD is now Bristlecone Lake, which is the district's only renewable water source.
- The new Arapahoe Well would be the secondary source, which would be used based on drought conditions
- Currently, 188 homes are being billed with an estimated use of .35 acre-feet.

Nichols also answered:

- It is more expensive to treat the lake water because it is a more involved operation.
- The surface water treatment plant has just come on line and assessment of rates over the next 5-6 months will likely reveal water rates are too low.
- FLMD currently has the lowest water rates in Northern El Paso County.
- The physical reality of Bristlecone Lake dictates that the level of water must reach the spillway in order to deposit any water into Pinon Lake.
- We expect that both lakes will be full with the spring runoff this year if it keeps snowing on the Rampart Range.

Resident Michael Davidson described the presence of noxious weeds in the landscaping around the lakes, and that they were spreading into well-maintained private property. Nichols said usually they hear about weeds in a letter from El Paso County, but FLMD is responsible for the eradication of weeds in the landscaping and they would take care of the problem.

Home construction update

Nichols said she had previously budgeted for 50 additional homes in 2019 for a total of 240 homes. FLMD Secretary James Boulton, vice president/project manager of Classic Homes, confirmed about 30 lots are available in the current filing.

Stimple updated the board, stating:

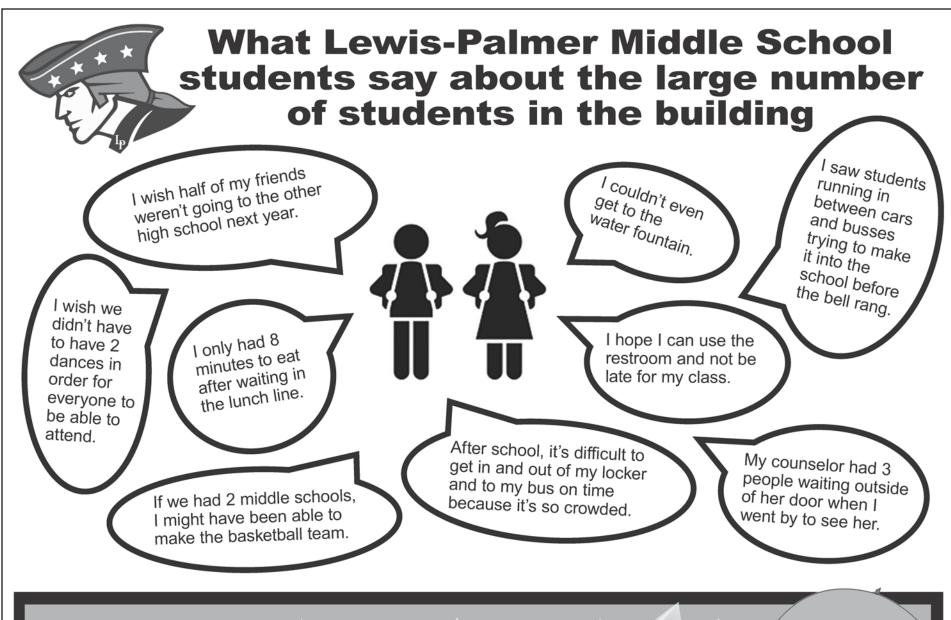
 The long-term development process for the west portion of the develop-





4 Highway 105 in Palmer Lake (above Bella Panini)

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LPSD April Events April 5: No Classes 7-8th Grade, Middle School Conferences

April 6: LPHS Prom, 7:00 p.m.

March 8: No Classes pK-6th Grade

April 13: PRHS Prom, 7:00 p.m.

April 19: Make-up Snow Day, Classes for All Grades

April 15: Board of Education Meeting, 6:00 p.m., Administration Building