

In terms of equipment, Oesterreich proposed adding an ambulance, pointing out that 75 percent of the department's calls are medical. PLVFD's response time is currently four minutes 27 seconds for fire-related calls, and he thought a local ambulance would provide similar response times for medical emergencies. He said other equipment, such as the department's brush trucks, did not need replacement since they have low miles. The brush trucks also generate revenue for the department when they are rented out to the federal government, he said.

For the proposed emergency service building, Oesterreich said three locations are being considered. The new building would provide more locker room space and an improved location for the Police Department. Based on what recent buildings for other districts have cost, he estimated a new building would cost \$1.5

million.

In his presentation of costs for the plan, Oesterreich said he estimated taxpayers would have to provide an additional 7.5 mills to the 10 mills they are already paying, for a total of 17.5 mills.

**Discussion continues in executive session and at the work session**

The June 13 meeting ended with an executive session "with the Town Attorney for legal advice on next steps related to ballot issues for fire service."

The work session on June 27 was also dominated by discussion of issues related to the Fire Department.

In the public comments portion of the work session, resident Meredith Bromfield said she wanted to address rumors of violations at PLVFD. Bromfield said she was afraid the Town Council would shut down the department immediately. She accused the council of going behind the backs of

voters and asked that it stop. She said she would support recalling any council member who wanted to merge PLVFD with TLMFPD.

Resident Mike Bromfield expressed concern about the use of executive sessions to discuss issues related to fire service. He asked if the council was creating a non-existent emergency as an excuse to shut down PLVFD and said that he wanted the issue put to the voters.

Resident and previous council member Rich Kuehster said that he thought some of the liability concerns facing PLVFD could be dealt with temporarily, giving the town time to decide how to keep the Fire Department locally managed. Kuehster mentioned work being done on improving ventilation at the fire house and on locating temporary housing to reduce the overcrowding in the fire station.

The June 27 work session

ended with an executive session "for a personnel matter" and to "develop strategies and instruct negotiators on possible intergovernmental agreement."

**Event permits approved**  
At the work session on June 27, the council approved five special event permits:

- A request by Jennifer Coopman for a permit for a fireworks display on the Fourth of July.
- A request by April Fullman to hold a "Try-athlon" on Aug. 3 for participants 10 years and older who will cross Palmer Lake on inflatable donuts, and then go for a short run and bike ride, taking a total of 30 minutes. The permit was approved on the condition that Fullman get approval from the state for the swimming portion.
- A request from Lanette Prosseda of Lewis-Palmer Middle School for a cross-

country race on Sept. 4.

- A request from Bill Miller to hold a picnic and fishing day for Wounded Warrior Gold Star Families on Aug. 10.
- A request from Chris Cummins for a .5K race to be held in October.

**Town clerk to leave**

Verla Bruner, who serves as the town clerk, announced her resignation. Bruner will stay through September, she said.

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The council is scheduled to hold two meetings in July, on July 11 and on July 25 at 6 p.m. at Town Hall, 42 Valley Crescent. Meetings are normally held on the second and fourth Thursdays of the month, with the second meeting organized as a working session. Information: 481-2953.

James Howald can be reached at [jameshowald@ocn.me](mailto:jameshowald@ocn.me).  
Jackie Burhans can be reached at [jackieburhans@ocn.me](mailto:jackieburhans@ocn.me).

**Monument Board of Trustees, June 3**

**Water rate changes proposed**

By Allison Robenstein

The Monument Board of Trustees (BOT) reviewed a new water rates structure proposal and approved changes to municipal codes for the Planning and the Police Departments. A new officer took the oath of office for the Monument police. The board heard a presentation from new Finance Director Bill Wengert. Representatives from the non-profit Pikes Peak or Bust rodeo invited people to enjoy the performances and related activities in July, and board members were told about Monument's 140th birthday celebration.

Trustees Laurie Clark and Greg Coopman were absent.

**Consideration of water rates increase continues**

At the May 20 meeting, the board agreed to consider an ordinance with new water rates at the June 3 meeting. However, on June 3, water rates were included on the agenda as a discussion item. Public Work Director Tom Tharnish told the board he has been rethinking the proposed water rates since then and wanted to relay the changes and answer questions before the board votes on this ordinance.

He said "Revision 1" of the proposed water rate structure would be more effective in promoting water conservation because it changes the way information is shown on the bill, lowers the base rate, and does not include the first 1,000 gallons of water in the base. Instead, customers will see the cost of each gallon of water, starting with the first gallon they use each month.

The town sent a press release to many media outlets

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