

**PLTC (Cont. from 1)**

Obering to oversee the work, since Obering was already familiar with the project.

In response to Hulsmann's remarks, Mayor John Cressman said hiring an engineer from GMS was already on the agenda and the town did not have a proposal from Obering. Town Attorney Maureen Juran said all she had seen was a handwritten note saying Obering would charge \$10,000 for the project. Juran said oversight on the project was lacking.

Hulsmann told the council there was a shortfall of funds to complete the bridge and told them about his efforts to raise money for the project. A fundraiser was planned at the lake, he said, and he also suggested selling metal plaques that would be attached to the bridge.

The discussion led to an acrimonious exchange between Hulsmann and Trustee Paul Banta about the total cost of the project and the relative responsibilities of the town and Awake the Lake.

**Town hires engineer to oversee bridge**

The town elected to hire Dave Frisch of GMS Engineering to project manage the remaining work on the bridge.

Cressman noted that the town had previously worked with GMS, which submitted a formal estimate of \$25,000. The council voted to approve GMS as the engineer to provide project management, with only Trustee Mark Schuler voting no. Banta and Cressman expressed willingness for the town to pick up the difference in cost.

**Dog ban discussion continues**

The board heard a presentation from Pam Ransom, who wanted dogs to be allowed on the trail to the reservoir. Ransom suggested the town sell licenses to residents and others who want to bring their dogs on the trail.

The council told Ransom enforcing her plan would be difficult and expensive.

Other residents said they saw an improvement in the condition of the trail since the ban on dogs was put in place. No action was taken.

**Town manager hired**

Cressman told the council that Valerie Remington had been hired as town manager on an interim basis when Cathy Green-Sinnard left the position. He proposed hiring her permanently and providing a raise and a "real position."

Juran proposed a motion that would hire Remington for \$100,000 per year, with an annual review and a 5 percent raise conditional on a satisfactory review.

Mark Schuler made the motion and Cressman seconded it. Banta voted no and the other trustees voted yes.

Remington previously was financial officer and Human Resources manager for the town.

During public comments, a resident objected to the salary, stating that the town manager in Vail was paid far less. Remington made a statement that the resident's information was incorrect, and the town manager of Vail made far more and had a housing and car allowance along with a retirement plan, which Remington did not. She said that a salary survey had been done to determine the appropriate salary for a town the size of Palmer Lake. Trustee Faust

confirmed that his own research showed that Remington's salary was appropriate.

**Audit shows improved town finances**

At the July 25 meeting, Dave Green, of Dave Green and Associates LLC, reviewed the results of his audit with the council. Green said the audit included a clean, unmodified opinion, indicating the town's finances are in good shape.

Green said the town had \$2.4 million in its General Fund and no unusual liabilities.

The town's water fund had a balance of \$375,000, he said.

Green said he saw improvement in the town's financial practices over the previous year, adding the town "is getting on the right track."

The council voted unanimously to approve the audit report and forward it on to the state.

**Wine festival permit expanded**

Matthew Hexter, the entrepreneur planning the

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