

tween the lake and the town had noted the presence of a water pipe under the proposed location for the bridge. The water line, which would be 17 feet under the bridge, serves seven businesses and residences. A water line 17 feet underground would not be accessible for repairs, Remington said, adding that the town is responsible for providing water service to those businesses and residences.

She suggested relocating the water line.

Havenar pointed out relocation would add \$75,000 to the cost of the bridge.

Chris Dubbins, representing Awake the Lake, said the town was notified about the presence of the water line in the early stages of the project.

Cressman said he had been told the town could find the funds needed to relocate the water line.

Banta said he accepted the judgment of the engineer that the bridge installation would not damage the water

line, and that it could be relocated later. Schuler responded that the town would never find the funds in the future, and it was "now or never."

Cressman said the town could be considered negligent if it did not take action to address the issue of the water line.

Trustee Gary Faust moved that the waterline be relocated and the cost be taken out of the bridge fund. Mutu seconded the motion. Havenar and Schuler voted no. Banta abstained. Cressman, Faust, and Mutu voted yes. Since there was not a majority, the motion failed.

The council is scheduled to hold two meetings in September, on Sept. 12 and 26, 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.

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Monument Board of Trustees, Aug. 19

"Clean" 2018 audit accepted with board questions

By Allison Robenstein

The Monument Board of Trustees (BOT) narrowly authorized Finance Director Bill Wengert to submit the annual audit during the Aug. 19 meeting by a vote of 4-3. The board also approved more money for emergency stormwater infrastructure and road repairs due to a deteriorating stormwater system, discussed the process of hiring a staff attorney, and heard a presentation by Dr. Kenneth C. "K.C." Somers, the new superintendent of the Lewis-Palmer School District.

2018 audit recognized with divided vote

First, Wengert told the board June 2019 revenues are trending 13% higher than expected due to increased sales tax income. Normally, Treasurer Pamela Smith would present the financials, but she was put on paid administrative leave at the March 4 meeting pending the outcome of an ongoing criminal investigation by the El Paso County Sheriff's Office in conjunction with the FBI and IRS. Wengert was introduced as the new finance director on May 6. See <https://ocn.me/v19n4.htm#mbot>, www.ocn.me/v19n6.htm#mbot.

Then, independent auditor Kyle Logan made his 2018 audit presentation, providing a "clean" or unmodified opinion, meaning the financial statements were fairly presented and

conform with generally accepted accounting principles. His opinion finds "reasonable, but not absolute, assurance about whether the financial statements are free of material misstatement." It does not express an opinion on the effectiveness of the town's internal control, his management letter said. "Our audit of the financial statements does not relieve you or management of your responsibilities."

By Colorado statute, the town is required to send an audit to the state annually by end of July, but at the June 17 meeting, Wengert asked the board to approve a request to the state for a 60-day extension to the end of August because he was still getting up to speed after being hired in May.

Logan explained there are two phases to the audit: a sampling of data and internal controls that occurred in November, and a review of the 2017 to 2018 numbers, including communication with third parties such as banks. Logan's management letter pointed out that the Traffic Impact Fee fund showed a loss of 76% in the last two years and recommended that the town monitor spending in this fund to prevent a deficit position.

Also, his team made 19 adjustments to the town's accounting records, which "indicate a significant deficiency in the town's reporting," Trustee Greg Coopman read from the management

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