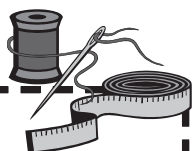


ceding the vote on the budget resolution, Cressman told those present that the town will not run out of money in October 2020, as some rumors had stated.

In the same discussion, Remington addressed criticisms that the budget process was not transpar-

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Above: The Dec. 18 Palmer Lake Town Council special meeting was well-attended and very interactive, with trustees, staff, and community members brainstorming on how to fill a trustee vacancy and handle the necessary personnel transition because of the resignation of the town administrator and legal counsel as well as the open position for town clerk. There was a spirit of cooperation, with the audience making suggestions or volunteering to help handle the duties required on an interim basis. *Photo by Jackie Burhans.*

ent. Remington pointed out that a three-hour budget work session, held Oct. 22, was open to the public, that a public hearing on the budget had been announced and held on Nov. 14, and that the budget had been posted on the town's web page on Dec. 9.

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Developer suggests moratorium on project review process

In response to capacity shortfall issues with the town's sewer system, a moratorium on additional sewer taps was put in place earlier in 2019. A review process for new developments was also instituted that required a \$5,000 deposit be placed by developers to fund an engineering review of their projects.

At the Dec. 18 meeting, local developer Kurt Ehrhardt proposed a moratorium on the review process, including the fee, in January when some new sewer taps will become available.

Trustees Schuler, Havenar, and Paul Banta said the process should be re-examined. Cressman said the engineering review still made sense for larger projects, but he wanted to meet with Ehrhardt to discuss the issue further.

The council is scheduled to hold two meetings in January, on Jan. 10 and Jan. 24, 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. Jackie Burhans can be reached at jackieburhans@ocn.me.

MA (Cont. from 1)

worked with several schools in the area.

O'Meara said he would start by looking at current financing and constraints, then do stress testing on forecasts to make sure MA is meeting its covenants and can refinance the balloon note on the secondary school as soon as possible. He would talk to the auditor to see if there is any flexibility on sources of revenues. Currently their bonds pledge revenues from each building for its associated debt, each with its own audit. He said there are potentially some accounting mechanisms that may allow school A to support school B. He would explore what is legally available. If there isn't anything, he would talk to MA's investor to see if it can make adjustments. He noted that the 2019 bonds for the secondary school can be refinanced in 2023.

O'Meara said he thinks MA is in pretty good shape, though hamstrung by the state's requirement

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