

Monument Board of Trustees, Dec. 2

April election ballot question approved; three trustee positions up for election

By Allison Robenstein

At the Dec. 2 meeting, the Monument Board of Trustees (BOT) approved a resolution to include a question to voters on the April 7 ballot concerning broadband services. The trustees also approved an update to the special events permitting ordinance, reviewed the methods used to create meeting minutes, and scheduled interviews for a new town attorney for Dec. 17.

Trustee Laurie Clark was absent.

April ballot includes question and three trustee positions

In June, the board directed Town Manager Mike Foreman to prepare an election question regarding Colorado state Senate Bill 05-152, which was passed in 2005 and declares local governments may not provide subscribers cable television, telecommunications service, or advanced service, including high-speed internet. Neither may local governments purchase, lease, construct, maintain, or operate a facility to provide these services either directly or indirectly.

Background: "High-speed broadband" service is typically run over fixed fiber connections. When it is available in the U.S., fixed wireless access or 5G will use wireless connectivity at the final connection within a home or business, which will require close in, line-of-sight transmitters set hundreds of feet apart over a street.

If the town wanted to consider partnering with a private broadband business, residents must first vote to opt out of SB 152. There are 114 Colorado cities and counties that have opted out of SB 152, including El Paso County.

Three Board of Trustees positions will be up for election in April. Trustee Jeffery Bornstein's second four-year term will be completed in April. Trustee Greg Coopman will be finished with his first four-year term and could run again to hold the seat for a second term. Trustee Jim Romanello was elected to his seat in November 2018, which he holds until the next election in April.

Foreman said candidate nomination petitions will be available starting Jan. 7, 2020 and are due to the town by Jan. 27, 2020. Eligible candidates must be at least 18 years old and be a resident of Monument for 12 months prior to the election.

Special events permit changed after Indie Fest request

Town Clerk Laura Hogan asked the

board to approve an update to the special events permits after an unexpected request came to the board this past summer. During the July 15 board meeting, Michael Bailey of Tri-Lakes Radio made a request for a music festival, Indie Fest, to be held in the town and would cover two days and include over 4,500 spectators. The trustees had been surprised by an event of this magnitude, causing them to rethink the special events permitting and approval process.

Monument municipal code chapter 5.52 states special permits are required for events that necessitate road closures or that significantly affect traffic flow. An event of 100 participants or more in an outdoor venue also requires a special permit.

Tonight, the board decided to require events of 1,000 people or more to come in front of the board for approval.

Hogan said the fees wouldn't change, but Trustee Ron Stephens asked if they are appropriate and suggested there are other ways to make up for fees, such as asking for event planners to take on insurance requirements.

Mayor Pro Tem Kelly Elliott worried about existing verbiage in the code that states events with up to 500 people and no alcohol served do not require police officers. "People could drink somewhere else and then show up here," she said. Foreman said he would address this request with the new police chief when that person is hired.

The ordinance was approved unanimously.

Minutes versus recordings?

Coopman asked that the Nov. 18 meeting minutes, specifically the portion of the meeting concerning Home Place Ranch, be similar to a transcript that reflects the board's actual discussions and dialogue. He said the minutes of the meetings are "our record of what occurs on this board. And these minutes are what is relied upon." Coopman said it is crucial the minutes aren't summarized because they are the "record of our town."

Coopman has been asking for more detailed minutes for years, rather than the paraphrasing that sometimes occurs.

Hogan read from the Colorado state municipal clerk's reference guide that declares meeting minutes should be as accurate as possible but are not

required to be a verbatim transcript. She continued reading from the manual, saying the minutes should identify the governing body's actions, not their full deliberations.

Town Attorney Joseph Rivera said a full transcript of public meetings would be created using the audio recording rather than relying on the minutes. Although Coopman was worried the audio recordings might not be kept in perpetuity, Foreman reminded him the meeting videos are on YouTube for future retrieval.

Attorney resumes received; interviews set

Human Resources Director Robert

Bishop has been receiving town attorney resumes, which he gave to the board. All agreed interviews would happen in a workshop on Dec. 17.

Checks over \$5,000

The following checks were approved:

- Colorado Intergovernmental Risk Sharing Agency, property claim—\$5,127.
- TPX Communications, IT managed services—\$8,468.
- City of Colorado Springs, dispatch radio users fee—\$6,817.

The meeting adjourned at 7:11 p.m.

Allison Robenstein can be reached at allisonrobenstein@ocn.me.

Monument Planning Commission, Dec. 11

Tri-Lakes Monument fire station annexation approved

By Kate Pangelinan

The one item on the agenda at the Dec. 11 Monument Planning Commission meeting was a proposal to approve annexation and an Annexation Agreement for Tri-Lakes Monument Fire Protection District Station 1. This would make the fire station an official part of the Town of Monument.

The first stage of this project—updating the "Annexation Plan/Growth Area" map in the town's Comprehen-

sive Plan to allow for the possibility of annexing this property—was approved at the November MPC meeting and then again at the Nov. 18 Board of Trustees meeting. The parcel of land in question is the Station 1 site at 18650 W. Highway 105, a fire station surrounded on the north and east by Monument town limits and on the west by the Town of Palmer Lake.

Fire Chief Chris Truty was present at this meeting to explain the fire dis-



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