

in their appointments. Current alternates Steve King and William Lewis wish to be appointed to the full board and will serve two-year terms until Dec. 31, 2021.

Mitchell LaKind, who currently serves on the Board of Adjustment, and newcomer Eric Light will also serve two-year terms as regular Planning Commission members. Finally, new member Joshua Thomas will serve a one-year term ending Dec. 31, 2020.

All requests from Manning were approved.

**Campaign finance law changes put town clerk in hot seat**

In 2019, the state Senate changed the Fair Campaign Practices Act to require municipal campaign complaints to be filed with the clerk of that municipality. Senate Bill 19-232 changes the act so that town clerks, who report to the town manager and the Board of Trustees, must accept potential financial complaints about their superiors.

Foreman and Town Clerk Laura Hogan felt this could put the clerk's

job in jeopardy because she would be responsible for passing along a complaint to a board member so they may resolve the issue within 30 days of receiving the complaint. If the situation is not resolved, or the board member hasn't responded, Hogan must set up a hearing with an independent investigator. Wilson said, "This is another unfunded mandate from the state," asking where the money would come from to pay the third-party investigator.

Foreman said it's inappropriate for Hogan to be handling such issues. Town Attorney Joseph Rivera said Hogan is merely acting in a clerical position, and the hearing would protect her from the suggestion of bias. Bornstein ask if campaign finance issues occur often. Hogan said citizens have come to her asking about finance issues, and she has previously sent them to the secretary of state.

**Treasurer separation**

At the Nov. 18 meeting, and after a lengthy executive session that followed the regular meeting, the board

voted 5-1 to instruct Foreman to draw up a separation agreement for Town Treasurer Pamela Smith. Clark voted against the motion, and Mayor Pro Tem Kelly Elliott had left the building following the close of the regular meeting and before the executive session.

In tonight's approved consent agenda, the separation agreement included two checks for Smith. The separation settlement check for three months of salary, health, and dental benefits totaled \$31,396. The sick and vacation leave payout check of \$26,275 was approved without discussion.

Smith was put on administrative leave at the March 4 board meeting when Foreman acknowledged an ongoing El Paso Sheriff's Office investigation. See <https://www.ocn.me/v19n4.htm#mbot>. Then, during the March 18 board meeting, Rivera advised the board both the FBI and IRS were working on the same investigation. See

[www.ocn.me/v19n4.htm#mbot0318](https://www.ocn.me/v19n4.htm#mbot0318).

**Town manager review**

The board held a brief executive session to review the town manager's work over the past year. Upon its return to the public session, the board unanimously approved a 2% cost-of-living raise. In fact, all town employees were approved for the same raise, down from the original 5% that was proposed in October.

**Town manager's report**

Foreman reported the following:

- Human Resources Director Robert Bishop is hiring for four positions—town accountant, senior planner, chief of police, and town attorney. There has been no mention of hiring a new treasurer.
- The Planning Department's top priority for the new year is the Jackson Creek Road widening project for the town's portion of the road from Higby Road to Highway 105. Its goal is to fully fund the

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**LEWIS-PALMER SCHOOL DISTRICT 38**  
**CHOICE ENROLLMENT**

D38's choice enrollment window for the 2020-2021 school year begins January 2, 2020 and ends February 7, 2020. In-district and non-resident families may apply and may be granted authorization to enroll students in a school other than their assigned neighborhood school.

**BUILDING TOURS:**

(Space is limited - call specific school to make a reservation.)  
 Palmer Ridge High School, (719) 867-8600, 1:30 p.m., January 24 and February 6  
 Lewis-Palmer High School, (719) 488-6186, 8:00 a.m., January 17 and February 7  
 Families wanting to tour any other school should make arrangements through the appropriate school. Please visit the school website for contact information.

**HIGH SCHOOL OPEN HOUSES:**

Visit both high schools, talk to representatives from the academic departments, and view the available athletic and club activities at each site. No reservations required.  
 Palmer Ridge High School, January 21, 6:00 - 7:30 p.m.  
 Lewis-Palmer High School, January 29, 6:00 - 8:00 p.m.

 MORE INFORMATION AT [LEWISPALMER.ORG/ENROLL](https://LEWISPALMER.ORG/ENROLL)

