



Above: During the regular Monument Board of Trustees meeting Sept. 21, resident Nancy Swearingen noted how well town gardener Cassie Olgren did this summer, saying she enjoyed looking at all the gardens throughout the town all summer long. “She deserves a pat on the back,” said Swearingen, recalling there was no student help this summer due to the pandemic. *Photo by Cassie Olgren.*

erty, including town hall, infrastructure, and improvements.

Richey said the property is being leased versus transferring the titles for a period of time, so the town will not lose title to those assets. The ordinance delegates to the town manager and town treasurer the authority to make determinations regarding the lease agreements and execute the sale of the certificates.

Mayor Don Wilson asked if certain property would be removed from the lease agreement as payments are made, but Richey said that part of the agreement has yet to be negotiated. Town Manager Mike Foreman noted the town intends to take advantage of the current low interest rates and make the sale as soon as possible.

There were no public comments. The request was approved 6-0.

Audit of 2019 budget receives unmodified opinion

Ooms asked the board to allow Foreman to send the 2019 audit to the state as required by law. Jim Hinkle of Hinkle and Co. performed the town’s annual audit, saying the financial statements present fairly and gave the town an unmodified opinion. The process to audit includes identifying the segregation of duties and gaining an understanding of the town’s financial processes. Finkle and his audit team test control features and select samples of disbursements and payroll transactions to determine if general accounting principles are being followed. This results in finding any possible material weaknesses or significant deficiencies, but Finkle said there were none.

Ooms said the town had to make two minor journal entry adjustments that Hinkle clarified were reclassifications within the financial statements but did not affect the financial accounts.

Trustee Ron Stephens asked about this process, wondering whether the trustees were required by law to approve the audit prior to it being filed with the state. “In the past, when we voted on the audit, there was a lot of contention. Is the vote we took re-

quired?” Stephens noted that several years ago the audit was not approved by the trustees and almost caused a government shutdown. “It created quite a panic and concern with staff,” he remembered.

Ooms said the board is required by law to receive and review the audit, but no approval is necessary.

The request passed with five voting for and one absent. Trustee Jim Romanello had to leave the meeting before the vote was taken.

2021 budget discussions

Before the board’s regular meeting, a budget workshop was held to discuss the 2021 budget process.

Ooms told the board that although there has been COVID-19 uncertainty with regard to revenues,

there haven’t been drastic declines as expected. She noted the CARES Act money that the town received from El Paso County—a total of \$500,000, half of which went to local businesses, has helped to supplement payroll and supplies. Ooms also said several employees were furloughed for 12 weeks over the summer and a hiring freeze had been implemented that also helped to reduce costs.

For the 2021 budget, Ooms and Foreman gave each department a target budget number based upon their 2020 budget minus 2%. From this baseline, the departments could create their list of needs but could also submit a supplemental budget request if their needs went over the baseline.

Ooms noted 2020 actual revenue has been 13% higher than forecast when the 2020 budget was created. Wilson and Stephens said the town should be conservative in their estimates of 2021 revenues and suggested using the 6% used last year. Stephens hoped the town could build up its reserves, asking Ooms how much they should have saved. Ooms said she would like to see 20% to 25% in reserves, a total of \$1.4 million that would get the town through three months if necessary.

Foreman predicts that few new businesses will be coming into the

town in the next year, but over the next two to three years, there could be many more with all the new commercial developments being approved.

Ooms said there will be an additional \$10,000 annual request coming from the Police Department for insurance. Chief Sean Hemingway said SB-217 has put officers in a position of higher liability with the new bill, and they could be charged up to \$25,000 civilly without the insurance.

The next budget workshop is scheduled for Oct. 5 at 5:30 pm and is open to the public, although no public comments will be permitted.

The meeting adjourned at 7:34 p.m.

The Monument Board of Trustees usually meets at 6:30 pm on the first and third Monday of each month at Monument Town Hall, 645 Beacon Lite Road. The next meeting is scheduled for Monday, Oct. 5 Call 884-8014 or see www.townofmonument.org for information. To see upcoming agendas and complete board packets for BOT or to download audio recordings of past meetings see, <http://monumenttown-co.minutesondemand.com> and click on Board of Trustees.

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



Sisters' Thrift & Boutique

Highest Quality * Lowest Prices

Phone: 719-282-0316 8674 N. Union Blvd.
Next to Safeway

Welcome Back!
We are now open and look forward to your visit.

We are always in need of quality donations and volunteers. Please contact the boutique.

Gently Used:
Clothing & Shoes Glassware
Household Items Collectibles
Small Furniture Accessories & Jewelry
Books & Cards

\$5.00 Off
our bargain prices. \$15 minimum purchase on regularly priced items only. 1 coupon per customer per visit
Expires October 31, 2020 Our Community News

Store Hours:
Monday - Friday
10:00 am - 5:30 pm
Saturdays
10:00 am - 4:00 pm



NEW DAY COTTAGES ASSISTED LIVING HOMES

Welcome Home!

Exceptional quality of life is waiting at New Day Cottages. Residents enjoy a cozy, comfortable, caring lifestyle; family enjoys peace of mind knowing their loved ones are happy, well cared for, and safe.

Join our family

Join us for a personal tour with our professional staff. Or, visit us online and read our story. We look forward to welcoming your loved ones home.

719-266-1100

Website: www.NewDayCottages.com
Email: newdaycottages@q.com

1577 Turner Road, Colorado Springs, CO 80920
10975 Howells Road, Black Forest, CO 80908



New Day Cottages