Decor by Diane Interior Painting

No job too small. Over 30 years experience. **Decorbydm@aol.com or (719) 491-6852**

High Plains Wordsmith

- · Business and Technical Writing
- Student Writing Coaching
- Family Story Documentation
 Lisa Hatfield

HPWordsmith 7831@gmail.com • 719-339-7831 www. High Plains Wordsmith.com



Premier Custom Home Builder Custom Homes • Garages & Barns 23 years experience in El Paso & Douglas Counties Licensed & Insured

(719) 440-2873 or (719) 481-6170 handcraftedinc@aol.com www.handcraftedinc.com

Beginner to Intermediate 25+ Years Experience

719-650-8877 Adults Welcome

Susan Humphreys
Piano Teacher

Harmony Piano Studio





It's a Pane Window Cleaning

√ Windows √ Screens √ Tracks Very Customizable Free Estimates

Ryan Schutz (719) 337- 4225



Tri-Lakes Monument Fire Protection District, Jan. 22

Board of director positions open

By Jennifer Kaylor

Unforeseen circumstances prevented *OCN* from attending or recording the Tri-Lakes Monument Fire Protection District (TLMFPD) board meeting on Jan. 22. Director of Administration Jennifer Martin provided minutes of the meeting to *OCN*.

OCN deemed the district's preparations for the May 5 election of primary importance. Five directors' terms end in 2020; four will be elected to serve three-year terms and one will be elected to serve a two-year term. Resolution 2020-01 established that votes would be received via polling place and Fire Chief Chris Truty would serve as the designated election official (DEO). The polling location has yet to be determined. Individuals interested in serving on the TLM-

FPD Board of Directors may access tlmfire.org for a Self-nomination and Acceptance Form. Nominees must file the form with the DEO no later than Feb. 28. The meeting adjourned at 7:50 p.m.

Meetings are usually held the fourth Wednesday of each month. The next meeting is scheduled for 6:30 p.m. Feb. 26, and the location of the meeting is subject to change due to construction at TLMFPD Fire Station 1, 18650 Highway 105. For information, contact Director of Administration Jennifer Martin at 719-484-9011. For upcoming agendas, see www.tlm-fire.org/board.

Jennifer Kaylor can be reached at jenniferkaylor.ocn.me

Monument Board of Trustees, Jan. 6

April trustee election set; 2019 expenses questioned

By Allison Robenstein

The Monument Board of Trustees (BOT) held a meeting on Jan. 6 to authorize Town Clerk Laura Hogan to appoint election judges for the April election and discussed over-budget attorney fees from 2019. The board also approved the annexation of Tri-Lakes Monument Fire Protection District (TLMFPD) Station 1 into the town.

Mayor Pro Tem Kelly Elliott, and Trustees Greg Coopman and Jim Romanello were noted absent by Hogan.

April election

In June, the board directed Town Manager Mike Foreman to prepare an election question for the April ballot regarding 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

Military and First

Responder incentives offered!

Noel Martinez - Owner / Broker

WWW.CASTLEREALESTATESERVICES.COM

NEED WELDING?

All types of welding and cutting/

fabrication. In shop or in the field.

25 Years Experience • Insured

www.sharpestcut.com

Sharnest Cut 719-491-4811

Cell: (719)460-1538

ASTLE REAL ESTATE SERVICES

Rebynoel@gmail.com

purchase, lease, construct, maintain, or operate a facility to provide these services either directly or indirectly.

Three trustee positions will be up for the municipal election. Tonight, Hogan asked for authorization to appoint election judges. The law requires the BOT to either appoint judges 15 days before the election or grant the town clerk the authority to do so.

Trustee Laurie Clark asked if the judges would be rotated from last year. Initially, Hogan said she would prefer to get judges with past experience, but Trustee Jeffrey Bornstein asked her to consider having new judges trained by those with experience, saying this would be an "opportunity for other residents to participate." The motion passed unanimously.

2019 attorney fees questioned—is the town late on payments?

Clark asked for the Murray, Dahl, Beery and Renaud invoices to be pulled from the consent agenda for discussion. She noted the attorney fees for 2019 were significantly over budget.

The administration, including the board and town management, spent a total of \$88,616, from a \$40,000 budget. The 2A Water Fund budgeted \$25,000 for the year but spent \$48,59332.

"Would you care to explain why we are going so many thousands of dollars above the budget for this?" Clark asked.

Mayor Don Wilson asked why she was questioning the fees at this time, and Clark said she looks at the end-of-the-year budget versus actual money spent and becomes concerned by anything over a 10% to 20% difference. According to monthly board packets, the administrative budget reached an overage of 41% in August 2019.

Foreman explained there had been many lawsuits with regard to water, causing the 2A water fund legal budget to exceed revenues. He said the lawsuits were expected, but he didn't realize the magnitude of legal needs. He cautioned that Town Attorney Joseph Rivera and the town's water attorneys may need to come in this year to assist with ongoing litigation and would make the board aware of the needs in advance. Foreman noted there were a lot of board and staff legal questions in the beginning of Rivera's tenure. He said this is partly the reason the board agreed to go back to a salaried employee rather than outside legal services.

Clark said she was concerned about the process of fixing any overspending before it gets too bad. She asked if there is a process in place that would make the board aware of the overage, to which Foreman answered he had brought this to the attention of the board several times via emails and presentations during regular meetings.





(719) 488-8660