Resources for Fire Department sought

At the Feb. 13 meeting, Shana Ball, speaking on behalf of the committee that is planning the future of the Palmer Lake Volunteer Fire Department (PLVFD), brought the council up to date on her efforts to find an ambulance for the town to purchase and her efforts to identify and apply for grants to fund the department.

Ball said Black Forest Fire Rescue Protection District (BFFRPD) has an ambulance for sale, for which they are asking \$20,000. Built in 2007, the Type 1 ambulance has fourwheel drive, Ball said, and has been well cared for. New ambulances cost \$175,000, according to Ball. Ball said she thought the ambulance could be staffed with existing PLVFD personnel.

During the discussion, Councilperson Susan Miner told those present she recently had to call an ambulance from Donald Westcott Fire Protection District, and it took 23 minutes to arrive.

Mayor John Cressman authorized the PLVFD to investigate the proposed ambulance purchase.

Ball also spoke about several grants that she is pursuing on behalf of the town. Ball said \$50,000 was in the PLVFD budget to match a fire mitigation grant that was not awarded. She asked for those funds to be made available to use as matching funds relative to the grants she is pursuing.

Ball said a grant was available from COEMS that could be used to replace outdated radios. She also mentioned a grant from the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) that could be used to acquire a new fire engine and 19 sets of bunker gear. The FEMA grant would require \$138,656 in matching funds. Ball suggested \$75,000 of that amount could come from the PLVFD reserve funds, and \$63,656 from the town budget.

The council voted unanimously to authorize Ball to pursue the COEMS and FEMA grants.

At the Feb. 27 meeting, Ball asked the council to approve \$5,000 to be spent to develop plans for a multipurpose station to house both police and fire personnel. Building plans were needed before costs could be properly estimated, Ball said, adding that the council could decide which architects would do the plans.

The council voted unanimously to approve the funds requested.

Awake the Lake fundraising plan generates debate

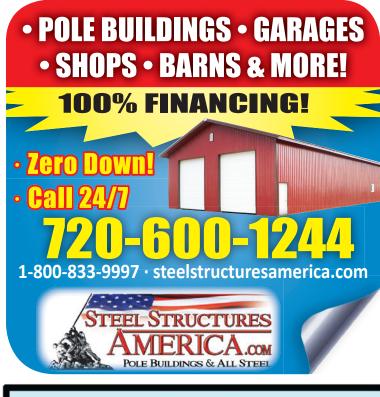
Chris Cummings, representing Awake the Lake, showed the council some examples of plaques that Awake the Lake was planning to add to the pedestrian bridge as a fundraising effort to pay for the project's completion. His presentation raised a number of issues. Matthew Krob, the town's interim attorney, said standards should be developed and asked whether the plaques would be considered art or advertising. Questions of liability and maintenance were also raised in the discus-

The council voted unanimously to ask Awake the Lake to draft standards for the signage that the attorney would review.

The council is scheduled to hold two meetings in March, on March 12 and 26, 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 eached at jackieburhans@ocn.me.







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The Monument Hill Foundation, the charitable arm of the Monument Hill Kiwanis Club, will accept 2020 grant requests from interested applicants February 1st through May 15th, 2020. Grants will be awarded for applicant projects determined to best advance the Foundation's mission of supporting youth and community in the Tri-Lakes area and northern El Paso County,

To obtain instructions for this granting year and complete an application online, go to: monumenthillfoundation.org and select

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May 6, 2020

5:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. TRI-LAKES

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