

MONUMENT (Cont. from 1)

public expressed a desire to continue December’s investigation, the meeting concluded with three motions presented by newly-elected Mayor Mitch LaKind to “set aside” the investigation, to “fire the lawyer [of the investigation],” and place all intellectual property of the investigation “under lock and key” until legal representation for the town could be hired (the town attorney Kathryn Sellars resigned during the investigation). Romanello expressed he was “not sure if we should lock it up,” but LaKind in-

sisted that “because the attorney-client privilege was violated ... we have to have an attorney review it.” All three motions passed before the meeting adjourned.

At the second meeting on Jan. 17, the board gave Town Manager Mike Foreman direction to hire Lakewood firm Collins Cole Flynn Winn & Ulmer to represent the Town of Monument. Foreman shared that the town had interviewed 17 law firms in the previous two weeks, most of the firms rejecting offers to work for the town. LaKind called on Monument Sanita-



Above: Members of the new Monument Town Council were sworn in at a meeting on Jan. 3. Deputy Town Clerk Tina Erickson gave the oath to, from left, Steve King, Ken Kimple, and Sana Abbott. Mitch LaKind was sworn in as mayor. King was appointed mayor pro tem. Right: Mitch LaKind was sworn in as Monument’s new mayor. Photos by Michael Weinfeld.



tion District Board Member Laura Kronick to testify on behalf of the proposed firm, explaining that they will help direct the town as it has for the district. “I’m all in,” she said. Foreman highlighted three decades of experience from the team

of lawyers. “Because of the experience they have done in other towns and cities, they have a lot of documents ready for us to adopt.” LaKind explained that this would be a six-month interim that would help determine whether the town would like to “keep them on.” The board gave a unanimous “thumbs up” to hire the firm the next day, Jan. 18. **Background:** To review details of the now-rescinded meetings, refer to the Jan. 7 OCN article “Special investigator claims Home Rule Charter void in report alleging illegal electioneering by Monument staff” at <https://ocn.me/v23n1.htm#mbot>. The investigation report is available through this shortened link: shorturl.at/imv13, and its Google folder of documentation may be accessed at shorturl.at/nouwZ. The report’s conclusion recommended several actions. Specifically:

- Publicly censuring King, Sellars, Abbott, LaKind, and Foreman for allegedly ob-

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