

someone could have a child-related issue or be prohibited from being around at-risk people, and the town could not know that even if the person seemed nice. He advocated for background checks and said that the police chief would as well.

Erhardt said business owners must follow rules and that it's a level of protection he hopes is covered by the fee. Trustees Dreher and Stern agreed with Erhardt. Collins asked for direction, noting that there was a draft ordinance. Erhardt said the town should have some discretion on what would disqualify someone to avoid penalizing someone who was getting their life together.

The board did not vote on the proposed language at the June 27 meeting.

**Special event permit process simplified**

At the May 30 meeting, Collins noted that the town's municipal code does not address special events. She presented language for the board to consider that requires special events to obtain a permit and defines criteria for denial, such as misinformation in the

application, a conflict with a previously permitted event, or threat to public safety.

The language was reviewed at the June 13 meeting, and Collins suggested smaller events be approved by staff, without taking time from the board.

At the June 27 meeting, the board voted unanimously in favor of Ordinance 5-2024 Relating to Special Events, which lays out the process allowing for administrative approval of minor or recurring events while bringing large or new events to the board. All events would be announced at the board meeting, added to the calendar on the website, and announced on the town sign.

**Roadway improvements at PLES**

At the June 27 meeting, the board approved Resolution 35-2024, which awards the contract to West Fork Construction for PLES water line and roadway improvements on a vote of 4-1. As explained by Mark Morton of GMS Inc. Consulting Engineers, the costs were increased by \$430,516 to cover an increase in scope, adding a water sys-

tem, drainage system, and road surface improvements. The total award was \$1.32 million, with the project cost including a 10% contingency. Farr voted no. Dreher, Erhardt, Havenar and Stern voted in favor.

**Special events approved**

Chris Medina requested a special event permit for a Funky Little Theater Company performance of The Last Train to Nibroc. The play will be staged at times to be determined between Aug. 2 and 17. Medina told the board he would like to have a long-term memorandum of understanding allowing the theater company to use the Palmer Lake Town Hall on an ongoing basis. At the June 27 meeting, the board passed Resolution 36-2024, which approves a memo of understanding with the theater company regarding its use of town facilities.

Amy Hutson, representing the Arts Council, asked the board to approve a special event permit for a Chautauqua event to be held between July 29 and Aug. 4. Classes, musical performances, films, cooking demonstrations and lectures will be part of the event. The

board voted unanimously in favor of the permit.

**Administrative updates**

Collins told the board that the town's website was being upgraded to comply with the Americans with Disabilities Act. Most changes would not be visible to users, she said. The CORE EV chargers will be completed the last week of June, she said, with a ribbon cutting planned after July 4. Concrete for the pickle ball courts being built on the west side of the Palmer Lake Regional Recreation Center has been poured and town staff is working on the permits for toilets near the courts.

Collins reported that tax revenue was above budget. The audit by the town's insurer, Colorado Intergovernmental Risk Sharing Agency, is complete and the town's deductible will increase from \$2,500 to \$5,000 due to the amount of hail and wind damage to town buildings.

**Executive sessions**

The May 30 meeting ended with an executive session to discuss the possible sales of public property and to consider negotiating positions. Following the executive session,

the board reconvened to open session and passed Resolution 31-2024 that authorizes the mayor to sign a purchase and sales agreement.

The June 13 meeting began with an executive session to discuss the possible acquisition of an interest in real property and to discuss security to be provided by the Police Department and the possible hiring of a police chief.

The June 27 meeting ended with an executive session to discuss negotiating strategies and a possible annexation. No action was taken following the executive session.

\*\*\*\*\*

The next regular board meetings are scheduled for July 11 and 25. All meetings will be held at the Town Hall. See the town's website at [www.townofpalmerlake.com](http://www.townofpalmerlake.com) to confirm times and dates of board meetings and workshops. Meetings are typically held on the second and fourth Thursdays of the month at the Town Hall. Information: 719-481-2953.

James Howald can be reached at [jameshowald@ocn.me](mailto:jameshowald@ocn.me). Jackie Burhans can be reached at [jackieburhans@ocn.me](mailto:jackieburhans@ocn.me).

*Lewis-Palmer D38 Board of Education, June 17*

**Board approves budget, discusses real estate options**

By Harriet Halbig

The Lewis-Palmer D38 Board of Education held a public hearing before its June 17 regular meeting to offer the public the chance to comment on the proposed budget before the vote.

Chief Business Officer Brett Ridgway offered an overview of the budget, explaining that revenue for the district comes from various sources including funds from a 1999 Mill Levy Override (MLO), per pupil operating revenue (PPOR) from the state, cash in the general fund, and funding from local and federal sources such as grants, nutrition services, and special education funding.

The Taxpayers Bill of Rights (TABOR) requires that the district also maintain a 3% separate fund.

Ridgway said he tries to present a balanced budget at the beginning of each year, but changes can be made during the year due to unforeseen events.

He said that due to Senate Bill 2024-017, there is an additional \$8.5 million to work with. This funding has been designated to create a center for Career and Technical Education (CTE). The site for this center has been approved for purchase and public forums to collect information on priorities and potential use are

planned.

This \$8.5 million has been placed in a separate capacity fund along with \$2 million available funding for a total of \$10.5 million.

For details on this project, please see the June issue of OCN.

Ridgway said it is important to understand the source of all district revenue and presented detailed pie charts to demonstrate this. Please see boarddocs on the [lewispalmer.org](http://lewispalmer.org) website under the Board of Education to view these charts.

Ridgway said although there has been a large increase in property taxes this year, that does not translate to a larger amount coming to the district. Instead, it means that the portion of funding provided by local sources is increased while the portion provided by the state decreased.

Regarding student count, Ridgway said that student count numbers have remained stable over the past few years. Although there is a great deal of construction underway in the area, it is too soon to see how many students will move to the area.

Taking all information into account, Ridgway estimates an additional 6.2% in revenue for the coming year. Considering that 80% of the district's expenditures involve compensation and benefits,



**Above:** After Rowan Vaughn sang her third-place winning piece from the *Stars of Tomorrow* competition, the board heard a presentation on the *Stars of Tomorrow* contest from Monument Hill Kiwanian Rich Strom. The competition took place on Sunday, March 17, at Palmer Ridge High School as an opportunity for elementary, middle, and high school students to perform before an audience and judges to receive feedback on their performances. Contestants sang, performed drama pieces, played musical instruments, and did dance and comedy routines. Auditions were held with 58 applicants of which 20 were selected to perform before an audience of 400. From left are D38 board members Todd Brown, Ron Schwarz, Dr. Patti Shank, and Kris Norris, Monument Hill Kiwanian Strom, Acting D38 Superintendent Amber Whetstine, Kiwanis President Scott Ross, Bill Kaelin, Vaughn, and Max Williams. *Photo by Jackie Burhans.*

this would translate to a potential increase in compensation of an average of 6%.

Ridgway also explained that the MLO passed in 1999 provides \$4 million per year which, when adjusted for inflation, now would equal about \$2.4 million.

Monument Academy's board has approved its budget, but the D38 board must also do so as the chartering entity.

There were no public comments.

**Recognitions**

The board recognized Monument Hill Kiwanis for its Stars of Tomorrow Talent Show, offering performing arts students the opportunity to perform in front of an audience. Third-place winner in the high school division Rowan Vaughn spoke of the value of this experience and performed her

award-winning song. She also sang the national anthem at the beginning of the meeting.

Kiwanis President Scott Ross thanked the board for their support and partnership and showed a video of the auditions for this year's contest.

The board also recognized Silver Key Senior Services for its activities in the district. Silver Key President Jason Diabueno thanked the district for its partnership and the use of part of Grace Best Education Center for the new area Senior Center. He also introduced other members of the Silver Key administration.

**Budget approved**

The board approved the 2024-25 budget as presented.

**Real estate discussion**

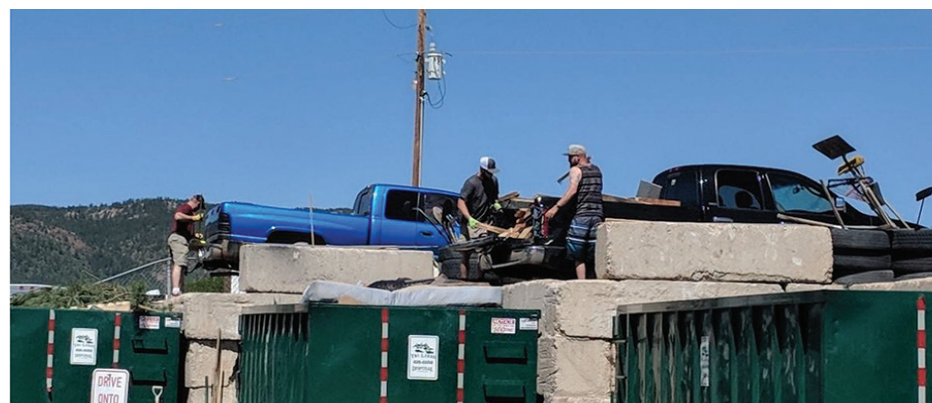
Ridgway and Director of Planning, Facilities and Grounds Melissa Andrews presented a map and explanation of a recent surveying of the district's property between Second Street and Santa Fe Avenue and between Jefferson Street and Adams Street in Monument.

Ridgway explained that the board had requested this action to determine whether there was a way to subdivide the property and sell portions of it for other uses. He said that there is a 2-acre site in the area which could be sold and still allow access to the bus barn area and playing fields. He said that Tri-Lakes Cares has expressed potential interest in this site.



**“The Dump”**

**A Dump Site Open to the Public**



**PAY BY THE POUND!**

Prices starting at 15¢ per lb. and as low as 7.6¢.

**Metal accepted in the recycling bin at no charge**

**We accept:**

- Mattresses (\$25+weight)
- Yard Waste
- Refrigerators (\$39 each)
- Construction Debris
- Furniture
- Household Waste
- And Much More!

**We can't accept:**

- Tires
- Televisions

Hours: Mon. - Fri. 8 a.m. - 4 p.m.  
Sat. - 10 a.m. - 4 p.m. • Sun. - Closed

**856 Washington St.**  
Monument, CO 80132  
**(719) 481-2340**  
**peakdr.com**

Cash \* Debit & Credit Cards

