

water rates doubled ... went up from \$50 a month to \$105 a month." Berreth added, "In Falcon, I pay \$89 before I get any water."

The trustees approved the 2013 water enterprise budget unanimously.

Trustees approve 2013 town budget

Resident Dave Bresnahan had many questions. "For 2013 the overall revenue is projected to increase by 40 percent over the 2012 budget? What happens if the projected increase doesn't materialize? We can't spend what we don't have," he said. After some discussion, Berreth noted that audience members were looking at several different versions of the budget and said, "That one's not valid.... Today we changed the budget five times."

Bresnahan replied, "It's hard to be content with public comments when you don't get the correct budget until the meeting.... It's a little frustrating." Ousnamer added, "(Some of the confusion is) because of the way we had to include the reserve funds in the budget. Hopefully they will never be spent."

McDonald asked Ousnamer to explain more about the reserve funds. Ousnamer said, "Some departments are over budget and are having to dip into their reserve funds (in 2012), and we had to put the reserve funds on this budget (for 2013)." Each department needs to stick to its budget and not use any of the reserves in the operating budgets. "The reserves should be about \$670,000.... They are basically for emergencies," Ousnamer warned.

Economic Development Trustee Shana Ball asked, "Will we no longer have any reserves available for 2013 then?"

Ousnamer explained that "police and fire started 2012 with a huge negative also ... so they don't have any reserves."

Davis asked, "What's the operating budget?... If I back this out (with a calculator), I have about \$1,162,000 total budget. I'm trying to get an apples-to-apples on this operating figure that doesn't include the emergency funds. It looks like about \$1,062,000 last year.... So we're looking at an increase of less than \$100,000." Berreth said, "Yes, it's an increase of about \$90,000."

Davis said, "It's really hard to give this a good review and approve it ... since it's different than what was presented last month." Berreth explained that the El Paso County assessor amounts updated this week were \$106,000 lower than what they were at the end of September when the first budget draft was made. She said, "The only mills that we are bringing in is \$459,000.... The only thing that changed

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For elementary tours, contact the individual school directly

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