

There were no public comments in favor of or opposed to the project.

The three proposed ordinances for the replat and vacations of rights-of-way, the preliminary/final PD site plan that included the town's donation of 2.38 acre-foot town water rights for this desirable downtown use, and the five individual vacations of rights-of-way for portions of First Street, Adams Street, and Lincoln Avenue were all unanimously approved with no conditions.

Water rate increases approved

The new additional charges for actual water use that will become effective on May 1 are:

- \$4.99 per thousand gallons up to 6,000 gallons.
- \$5.99 per thousand gallons over 6,000 gallons.
- \$6.99 per thousand gallons over 12,000 gallons.
- \$7.99 per thousand gallons over 24,000 gallons.

The new bulk water monthly service charge of \$8.80 is the same as the service fee residents pay. The bulk water service fee is needed to help pay for the installation cost and future maintenance of the new town bulk water station.

The reinstatement of the service rule was also amended, as shown in italics: No water reconnects or disconnects will be done after 3:30 p.m., unless authorized by the Public Works director, because the Public Works Department is open from 7 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.

Public Works Director Tom Tharnish advised the board that the proposed water rate increase would not create enough additional revenue to cover all 2013 town water enterprise fund expenses because implementation had been delayed past the original planned starting date.

Trustee Stan Gingrich asked Tharnish when new rates would have to be revisited. Tharnish replied "in about two to 2 1/2 years." Tharnish added that the costs of infrastructure issues may shorten this interval.

Trustee John Howe asked Tharnish to explain town code paragraph 13.08.050—No Use During Fire Alarms: "During all alarms of fire, the use of hose and all outlets where a constant flow of water is maintained is positively forbidden." Tharnish stated that this section could be stricken.

Trustee Jeff Bornstein asked Tharnish if any type of meter could be installed on the bulk water hydrant in the new bulk water station to monitor actual water use. Tharnish stated that a standard hydrant meter would be

the only solution. However, a hydrant meter costs over \$1,000—more than the hydrant—but is the only option and would be threaded onto the hydrant. Attaching the meter to a hydrant with a steel cable would not provide adequate meter security. Hydrant meters will break in freezing temperatures.

The revision to the town code water rates and charges section was unanimously approved.

Second Amendment resolution approved

The board approved a resolution that Police Chief Jake Shirk said was similar to the Board of County Commissioners resolution regarding defense of the Second Amendment. Trustee John Howe was opposed.

Some of the text of this resolution stated:

"Now, therefore, be it resolved that the Board of Trustees of the Town of Monument, state of Colorado, will uphold the Second Amendment of the Constitution of the United States, and will act in conformity with our sworn duties as duly elected officials charged with public trust, and will, in conjunction with prior decisions by the United States Supreme Court, not enforce any statutes, edicts, Presidential Directives, or other regulations and proclamations which conflict—and are expressly preempted by—the U.S. Supreme Court's rulings.

"The Board of Trustees of the Town of Monument, state of Colorado, strongly urges that the Colorado General Assembly of the state of Colorado should not entertain consideration of any new legislation that would infringe on constitutionally protected rights under the Second Amendment through any means, including additional restrictions on lawful firearms and accessories; or on the possession, use, sale or transfer of legitimately owned firearms.

"And be it further resolved that the Board of Trustees of the Town of Monument, state of Colorado, calls upon the United States Congress and the Colorado General Assembly to recognize the multitudes of existing laws related to the manufacture, sale and possession of firearms, and acknowledge that in order to combat gun violence, the country must enforce existing laws and more effectively punish and deter those who commit these crimes."

The board also approved a resolution supporting the grant application for a school play yard grant from the State Board of the Great Outdoors Colorado Trust Fund and the completion of the Lewis-Palmer School District 38 School Play Yard Initiative. A second motion to approve an Intergovernmental Agreement between the Town of Monument and District 38 pursuant to the grant application requirements was also unanimously approved.

Financial reports

The board approved four disbursements over \$5,000:

- \$5,349 to Slavens Electric Inc. for the generator hookup of well 7.
- \$10,000 to CIRSA insurance for the town's deductible for a 2012 insurance claim regarding YMCA traffic light repairs (CIRSA paid \$8,500 of the total \$18,500 bill).
- \$5,675 to Lytle Water Solutions LLC for engineering work for the town.
- \$13,595 to Ace Equipment and Supply Co. for installation of a new two-pole 16,000 vehicle lift installed in the Public Works garage to service town vehicles.

Deputy Treasurer Monica Harder reported that General Fund revenues for January were \$79,000, or 2.1 percent, less than the amount budgeted. General Fund expenditures were \$20,000 less than budgeted (less than 1 percent.) She noted that the town will receive franchise fees in March that will boost revenues. Water Fund revenues for January were \$68,000, or 4.6 percent, less than the amount budgeted. Water Fund expenditures were \$51,000, or 3.9 percent, less than budgeted. Total cash decreased by \$58,000 in January.

The board accepted the financial report as presented.

Public Works update

Tharnish stated that well 7 had been cleaned and restored and should be operational by March 17.

He said a water main break on March 8 took out the main 8-inch water supply line to the town water tank. Most repairs were completed late on March 8.

Tharnish discussed an unrelated recent episode of discolored town drinking water. He stated that a flow meter in the town's water treatment plant had failed electronically to the high side, which fully opened a valve incorrectly and caused an overfeeding of potassium permanganate into the drinking water system, resulting in pink/purple water. The Water Department flushed 30



Above: On March 11, the Monument Board of Trustees approved a final site plan and replat for the Beacon Lite Assisted Living Facility on Beacon Lite Road, south of Second Street. Smiling from their success in the back row, left to right, are Jamie Hull and Mert Hull of Goldwest II LLC of Colorado Springs (the landowners), Don Gorsuch and Ronald Vaughn of The Encore Partners of Denver (the developers), and professional engineer Chad Kuzbeck of Westworks Engineering Inc. of Colorado Springs. Chuck Roberts, seated, has been a tireless advocate for senior living facilities in the Tri-Lakes region. *Photo by Jim Kendrick.*

hydrants Friday night to drain all the discolored water from the distribution system. No calls had been received since the morning of March 9. Tharnish stated the chemical release was an aesthetic problem and not a health concern. The alarms have been adjusted to also go off for high meter readings.

Easton asked Tharnish to obtain a ballpark figure on the town's stormwater infrastructure needs.

Easton asked Interim Town Manager Pamela Smith to develop a notification system for the board regarding town issues and concerns. Smith advised the mayor this had been discussed at the managers meeting earlier this day. Town Clerk Cynthia Sirochman and town Code Enforcement Officer Laura Hogan are developing an email/texting system.

During public comments, Sirochman stated that a board member had asked to remove one of the two public comments agenda items from the standard board agenda. Sirochman said the town department directors recommended that if a public comment item had to be removed, the first one at the beginning of the meeting might be preferable.

Former Mayor Betty Konarski stated that this would be unfair because citizens are usually scheduled to make their presentation at the start of a meeting during "Discussion Items" and would have to wait through the whole meeting to speak on other matters at the end of the meeting.

Monument business owner John Dominowski stated that citizens fought for both public comment sessions years ago and he does not want to see either session taken away from them again. Easton replied that he was unaware of the issues with public comment in the past and thanked Dominowski for letting the board know.

The board consensus decision was to keep both public comment sessions on the standard agenda.

Board of Trustees' comments:

Trustee Becki Tooley stated a 5k run/walk to benefit Tri-Lakes Cares will be held May 11. The 5k will take place on the Santa Fe Trail, and further information can be obtained from Tri-Lakes Fitness, www.trilakes-fitness.com/fivekrunform.asp or 481-9021.

Trustee Howe congratulated Mayor Easton on the birth of the Eastons' third daughter, Marlowe, and announced the annual Memorial Day Service at the Monument Cemetery on May 27.

Mayor Easton stated he received thanks from a citizen who saw the new organizational chart on the website with "Citizens of Monument" at the top of the chart. He also noted that he received an email from a citizen with positive feedback in regards to town staff, mentioning Cynthia Sirochman, Laura Hogan, Mike Pesicka, and Tom Kassawara.

The board went into executive session at 8:15 p.m. for discussion of litigation with the town attorney. The board came out of executive session at 8:25 p.m. and adjourned to begin a Capital Improvement Program workshop.

Jim Kendrick can be reached at jimkendrick@ocn.me.



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