

Monument Board of Trustees, Oct. 6

Police officer position added

By Lisa Hatfield

At the Oct. 6 Monument Board of Trustees meeting, the trustees approved Police Chief Jake Shirk’s request to add one officer position to the force, approved the cost of a water reuse study, and got their first glimpse of the 2015 preliminary budget.

Trustees Stan Gingrich and Becki Tooley were excused.

Police to hire an additional officer

During the presentation of the 2015 preliminary budget, Shirk requested that the Police Department be allowed to hire one additional officer. The new position would be a traffic safety position for investigating accidents, dealing with school and construction traffic, handling complaints, addressing roadway hazards, conducting surveys, and educating the public. This officer could also do patrol to relieve other officers. Smith and Shirk said the new position may be self-funded through traffic enforcement and/or “vacancy savings,” which is money saved by not filling vacant positions. Two police officer positions were vacant most of 2014.

After a discussion about how overtime may and may not be earned by town staff, Mayor Rafael Dominguez suggested that the town review its overtime policy.

The trustees voted unanimously to approve Shirk’s proposal to add an officer.

Water reuse study approved

Public Works Director Tom Tharnish presented a resolution authorizing the use of 2A acquisition, storage, and delivery (ASD) funds to support a \$46,000 Monument water reuse study. It would analyze the technology and infrastructure needed to reuse the town’s treated wastewater that is currently discharged into Monument Creek

from the Tri-Lakes Wastewater Treatment Facility. The final goal of the potential multiphase project would be for the town to diversify its portfolio of water resources beyond the groundwater from aquifers on which it heavily relies now.

Tharnish said a regional Water Reclamation Facility Concept Study done by engineering consultant Will Koger of Forsgren Associates in July created a plan to reuse treated wastewater from three drinking water entities in Tri-Lakes region—Woodmoor Water and Sanitation District, Donala Water and Sanitation District, and the Town of Monument. Triview Metropolitan District declined to participate in the July study.

However, the estimated cost for a three-entity joint project was about \$50 million. “The numbers showed we could not afford that,” Tharnish said, adding that a “much scaled-down version” would suit Monument’s specific reuse objectives.

Koger said the smaller follow-up study for just the town would use data from the previous 2014 regional study as much as possible and would include the possibility of interconnecting other drinking water entities into the reuse system in the future if the project is ever completed.

The revenue for the 2A ASD Fund comes from a 2005 voter-approved 1 percent sales tax on Town of Monument drinking water. Currently, 65 percent of this tax revenue is used for the acquisition, storage, and delivery of new water sources from 2009 through 2016. The other 35 percent is currently being used to pay off the loan for construction of Town Hall. In 2017, all 100 percent of the 1 percent tax will be available for purchasing renewable water rights. See www.ocn.me/v9n4.htm#monbot for more background on the 2A ASD fund’s creation.

The trustees unanimously approved the resolution authorizing the second Forsgren water reuse study.

Railroad gives access for water line repair

Tharnish presented a resolution approving a pipeline crossing agreement between the town and Union Pacific Railroad Co. to allow access to the railroad right of way to protect a 6-inch water main that has erosion has exposed at the bottom of a stormwater conveyance channel, just inside the right of way. The railroad is charging \$3,000 to the town for this access. The trustees approved the resolution unanimously.

Amended 2014 and preliminary 2015 budgets

Town Manager and interim Finance Director Pamela Smith presented the proposed amended 2014 budget.

Smith also presented the 2015 preliminary budget. To see the details of the 2015 preliminary budget, look for the board packet for the Oct. 6 meeting at <http://monumenttownco.minutesondemand.com>. As required by state statute, the budget presented has no deficit spending, Smith said. She encouraged residents to contact her at psmith@townofmonument.net with questions.

Trustees will conduct budget workshops, the dates of which will be posted on the town website. The first workshop is scheduled for Saturday, Nov. 1 from 8 a.m. to noon at the Town Hall.

Development services staffing changes

Smith said that Mike Pesicka, who has been the town’s senior planner, is now the new planning director. Development Services Director Tom Kassawara resigned recently and had not been replaced. In addition to Pesicka, Engineering Assistant Tom Martinez and Planner Morgan

Hester complete the planning staff.

Pesicka presented a request for a 12-month extension for review and approval of a preliminary/final site plan and replat for Family of Christ Lutheran Church. The trustees approved the resolution unanimously.

Financial reports

Smith, interim finance manager, presented the disbursements over \$5,000 for both August and September. The August disbursements had been informally approved already when she polled the board via email after the cancellation of the Sept. 15 meeting. The following were approved unanimously on Oct. 6:

- 1 Triview Metro District, \$145,453.
- 2 Colorado Water Resources & Power Development Authority—semi-annual loan payment for Well 8, water storage tank, etc. \$73,840.
- 3 Krassa & Miller, \$7,866.
- 4 Nolte Associates, \$6,317.
- 5 4Rivers Equipment \$11,007—1997 grader repair.
- 6 Forsgren Associates, \$5,845—waterline looping project.
- 7 Forsgren Associates, \$5,393—stormwater planning.
- 8 National Meter and Automation Inc. \$ 9,116—water meter replacement.
- 9 CIRSA Insurance, \$16,703—workers compensation for fourth quarter.
- 10 CIRSA Insurance, \$18,002—fourth-quarter liability insurance.
- 11 Colorado Analytical Laboratories, \$5,047—water repair and maintenance testing.

Smith presented the financial report as of Aug 31. The town was 5 percent above budget for general fund revenue, she said. However, water fund revenues were 25 percent below budget. “It was not a good year for the water fund, but a good year for rain,” she said. The trustees unanimously approved the August financial report.

Town attorney’s report

Gary Shupp, town attorney, said that a federal court recently dismissed all claims against the Monument in a lawsuit involving two Monument police officers, the Sheriff’s Office, and the Department of Human Services.

HAP gets check from chamber

Chamber of Commerce Executive Director Terri Hayes presented a check for \$1,000 to Dave Betzler of the Health Advocacy Partnership (HAP) to help it continue delivering health services to local senior citizens. See related photo on page 23.

Community, business, and government liaison

Community relations specialist Madeline VanDenHoek reported on her first year in this new position, and the trustees and staff praised her accomplishments engaging with citizens and businesses, the Chamber of Commerce and other organizations, and becoming the de facto “face of Monument government,” as Mayor Rafael Dominguez said. “You do a tremendous job, Madeline,” Smith said.

VanDenHoek has helped coordinate community concerts, celebrations, fairs, fundraisers, roundtables, arts events, and other gatherings. She has built partnerships with other organizations and towns, researched grants to apply for, updated social media, conducted resident surveys, and helped create a new Monument town map and brochure.

Smith presented VanDenHoek with a certificate of appreciation for Outstanding Community Relations.

Town manager’s report

Smith’s comments included:

- 1 Code enforcement officer Laura Hogan will now include monthly statistics in the board meeting packet.
- 2 VanDenHoek will report quarterly now.
- 3 The second task for meeting regarding the bulk water station adjacent to Trails End subdivision was set for Oct. 14. So far, no alternative locations for the tank have been identified.
- 4 Town staff has set up a possible \$2,000 solution for the AV system in the board room as an alternative to the \$11,000-\$20,000 bids that had been received.

Trustees’ comments

- 1 Trustee John Howe said that 300 people and 45 businesses attended the recent at Sundance Monument Lodge ribbon cutting.
- 2 Howe encouraged the public to find out more about many upcoming events, including three weekends

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