

by the total phosphorus treatment clarifier expansion as well as all the added work being created by the numerous new regulatory requirements issued by the state health department.

Wicklund noted the industry-wide difficulties associated with finding and retaining certified wastewater operators who now need the equivalent of a degree in chemistry and are willing to work as hard as this evolving job now demands in a far more difficult and complicated control environment that are far more challenging than those for a drinking water operator.

For more information see the JUC article on page 1.

Mediation meeting scheduled

Wicklund stated that a mediation meeting for attempting to resolve cost-sharing issues between the three districts that own the Tri-Lakes Facility had been scheduled for Dec. 18 at the Inn at Palmer Lake. Wicklund said he

would meet with the district's attorneys Steve Mulliken and Larry Gaddis to discuss preparations for this mediation meeting and potential litigation issues.

The board approved a \$400 Monument contract with the Inn at Palmer Divide for meeting room reservations for this mediation session. Palmer Lake has offered to help pay this meeting room rental bill.

2015 budget

Wicklund reviewed his latest draft of the district's 2015 budget. Board members recommended some small increases and decreases for several individual line items. The 2015 budget public hearing had already been advertised and posted for 10 a.m. on Dec. 18 and will not be changed by the mediation meeting at the Inn at Palmer Lake. A separate public hearing on the Monument district's rate increase that will be needed to cover the increased cost of the total phosphorus treatment expansion and potential litigation with Woodmoor and Palmer Lake is now required by a new state law.

Treasurer's report

Wicklund reported that no tap fees had been received since the Oct. 16 regular board meeting. Some residential tap fees are expected from new construction along Old Denver Road.

Since the cash summary for the last district board meeting, total disbursements were \$47,749 and total de-



Above: The town's new sidewalk along the west side of the Monument Sanitation District building has created a tripping and icing hazard in front of the entrance to the 2nd Street Hair Salon. The town has declined to remove the problem portion of the new sidewalk and reinstall replacement concrete at the correct grade to eliminate the hazard as requested by the district. Photo by Mike Wicklund.

posits were \$56,699. Total cash on hand as of Nov. 19 was \$828,254, including \$244,761 in the First National Bank Capital Preservation Fund account, \$403,946 in the Co-LoTrust Capital Preservation Fund account, and \$28,021 in the Integrity Series-2013 Loan account.

The financial reports were accepted as presented.

Lien certification resolution approved

The board unanimously approved a resolution to certify liens with the El Paso County treasurer that have been recorded against properties that are delinquent for six months or more.

No progress on sidewalk dilemma

The Town of Monument recently installed a new sidewalk on the west side of district building as part of the town's downtown sidewalk project. The town's cement contractor did not comply with the specifications designed by the town's engineering consultant, Bob Torres of Jacobs Engineering. The grade of the new sidewalk is several inches higher than the original sidewalk that was demolished and replaced, creating a substantial tripping and icing hazard in front of the 2nd Street Hair Studio.

The town has refused to remove and install a new replacement sidewalk at the correct grade and has suggested building a railing along the trip hazard to force people to walk around this hazard. The town has offered no solution for the icing hazard its cement contractor created by not following the Jacobs Engineering specifications.

Vacation policy

Discussion of any revision of the district's vacation policy was indefinitely tabled.

The meeting went into executive session to determine positions for negotiating strategies regarding the scheduled mediation meeting at 12:05 p.m.

The meeting came out of executive session and adjourned at 1:05 p.m. No votes were taken during the executive session.

The next meeting will be held on Dec. 18 at 8:30 a.m. in the district conference room at 130 Second St. The public comment portion of the 2015 budget hearing agenda item will be held at 10 a.m. Meetings are normally held on the third Thursday of the month. Information: 481-4886.

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

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