

Donala Water and Sanitation District, Dec. 4

2015 budget approved with 10 percent water rate increase

By Jim Kendrick

On Dec. 4, the Donala Water and Sanitation District board unanimously approved a resolution to adopt the 2015 district budget, a resolution to appropriate funds for the 2015 fiscal year, and two resolutions to certify Donala's two 2015 property tax mill levies, as presented. The 2015 budget includes a 10 percent increase in all district water rates and \$1 per month residential wastewater rate increase. There were no changes to the size of the mill levies or to which parts of the districts they apply. The board also unanimously approved the resolution to establish district rates and fees for 2015 as presented.

For more information see:

<http://www.donalawater.org/images/stories/pdfs/DONALA%20WORKING%20BUDGET%202015.pdf> <http://www.donalawater.org/images/stories/pdfs/2015%20Rate%20Resolution%20Approved.pdf>

<http://www.donalawater.org/images/stories/pdfs/Rate%20Comparison%202014.pdf>

General Manager Kip Petersen announced that Donala's Chief Waste Plant Operator Terri Ladouceur passed the state operator certification test to earn her "B" wastewater certificate and license and Water Operator Joe Lopez has passed the state operator certification test to earn his "B" water certificate and license.

Directors Bill George, Dave Powell, Ken Judd, Bill Nance, and Bob Denny were all present.

2015 budget hearing

During the budget hearing, Petersen noted that Donala's liability carrier, Cincinnati Insurance Co. of Littleton, would likely be increasing its property rates by at least 20 percent. Other liability carriers are raising rates at an average of 50 percent due to the Black Forest wildfire. Many carriers are pulling out of Colorado. If Cincinnati pulls out of Colorado, Petersen said he will switch to the

Colorado Special Districts Property Liability Pool for liability insurance coverage.

Petersen noted that the 10 percent water rate increase for 2015 will pay all but \$225,000 of Donala's current operational water costs with fees. Rate increases have been 15 percent per year for the past several years. This board policy to raise rates until they pay for all the costs of service will soon allow the district to re-allocate all property tax revenue to capital reserves for purchasing renewable potable water rights and sources to eventually replace Donala's deep wells, which are becoming prohibitively expensive to replace with comparable new deep wells. For example, Donala's Willow Creek Ranch near Leadville is providing about 25 percent of Donala's potable water demand.

Petersen also noted that significant portions of Donala's potable water distribution and sanitary sewer collection systems "have been in the ground a long time," 40 to 50 years, and will need to be replaced using the re-allocated property tax revenues.

During the open portion of the public budget hearing, Donala property owner Russ Robinson asked if the 10 rate percent increase applied to both the basic and incremental consumption rates. Petersen said only consumption rates will increase in 2015. Robinson also asked questions about pipeline transport costs for delivering Donala's renewable water to its service area and objected to the increase of the water availability fee from \$300 to \$350. Petersen and Bray explained the rational basis for this fee increase. The board concurred with Petersen and Bray.

Financial reports

Because there was no regular board meeting in November, the board unanimously accepted both the October and November financial reports as presented.

The meeting adjourned at 3:06 p.m.

The next meeting will be held at 1:30 p.m. on Jan. 15 in the Donala District Office conference room at 15850 Holbein Drive. Meetings are normally held on the third Thursday of the month. However there will be no regular meeting in November. Information: 488-3603 or www.donalawater.org/.

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

MLS  

**Tri-Lakes
Terrific
Buys!**

Top Selling Agent

New Homes*Lots*Resale*Repo's

SOLD!

307 Raspberry Lane, Monument
Spacious 4 bed/3 bath/2 car townhome located near Monument Lake! Two newer furnaces, custom tile and wood floors, all 4 bedrooms on upper level, private master bath, loads of storage, expansive green areas with tall pines, aspen and scrub oak. Garden space for you to grow your own flowers and vegetables. Hurry on this beauty! **\$165,000**

749 Westward Lane, Palmer Lake
Brand new home by Ehrhardt Construction, 3-4 bedrooms, 2 baths, oversized garage, stucco exterior, walk out basement, large wood deck, huge craft room or 4th bedroom with private entrance in lower level. Walk to Santa Fe Trail. Convenient to shopping, schools and I-25. This home is ready for move in before the holidays! **\$250,000**

**Kathy Allen
Broker
(719) 661-9863
www.kathyallen.net
www.bestrealestateincoloradosprings.com**

**RE/MAX
PROPERTIES**

LUXURY HOME PROFESSIONAL

Cyndee Henson
719-439-1493
happytailstrilakes@gmail.com

Happy Tails
Dog Walker &
Pet Sitting Service

Insured • Bonded • PSI Member
CPR Certified

Assist 2 Sell

House didn't Sell? Can't reduce price due to the amount of commission? Call Us - We Can Help!

*America's Leading Discount
Real Estate Brokers*

719 487-1777 www.COList4Less.com

Decor by Diane
Interior Painting
No job too small. Over 30 years experience.
Decorbydm@aol.com or (719) 488-0817

**Palmer Divide
Plumbing and Heating**

- Plumbing service and repair
- Boiler service, repair and replacement
- Water treatment systems
- Backflow testing and repair
- Free estimates

PalmerDividePlumbing@gmail.com
PO Box 791, Monument, CO 80132

Steve LiButti Master Plumber 719-472-4721
Chuck Doran Master Plumber 719-331-2132

For Sale ❄️ ❄️
Snowbear Personal Snowplow

- * truckmount snowplow model yr. 2008 *
- * blade length 82.8"x17.5" high *
- * with instruction booklets *

Call Helga or Gene
price \$1,090.00 (719)488-2538

 **INTERNATIONAL STONWORKS, LLC**

GRANITE COUNTERTOPS

SLAB COUNTERTOPS

- KITCHENS
- BATHROOMS
- WETBARS
- WALLS
- FIREPLACES
- FURNITURE
- OUTDOOR LANDSCAPE FEATURES

CUSTOM

- GRANITE
- MARBLE
- TRAVERTINE
- QUARTZ

Starting at \$36/sq. ft. installed • Call for your FREE Quote Today!

CNC & WATERJET TECHNOLOGY
(719) 488-3180

FABRICATION & INSTALLATION
200 COUNTY LINE ROAD • PALMER LAKE, CO 80133
(located just 2 miles west of I-25's exit 163 in Palmer Lake)

iswrocks.com
Since 1997 • residential • commercial



Karen is now a barber at Cruisers
Haircuts for Men!

15% OFF

all straight edge neck shaves with
Karen during January!

Cruisers
Haircuts for Men

481 Hwy 105 #A - Behind Rosie's Diner, next to Domino's Pizza

**Call to make an appointment at 344-8021 or
book online at www.cruisershaircuts.com**