

Larry Small, and would be provided in the town's 2017 budget.

Well drilling draws attention

Town Administrator Cathy Green-Sinnard asked the board to provide direction concerning wells that were being drilled in the town's right of way. Green-Sinnard argued that a permit should be required to drill wells in areas where the town had right of way. Anyone seeking to drill such a well would risk being required to re-drill the

well if the town needed to use its right of way in the future, Green-Sinnard said.

The board voted to open a discussion with the developer drilling the wells, and to develop a more detailed process to handle the issue.

Two new business licenses granted

The board voted to approve business licenses for My Door Company and Artisan

Chic.

The two meetings for October will be at 6:30 p.m. on Oct. 13 and Oct. 27 at Town Hall, 42 Valley Crescent. Meetings are normally held on the second and fourth Thursdays of the month. Information: 481-2953.

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Monument Board of Trustees, Sept. 6

Research on water fund history continues

By Lisa Hatfield

On Sept. 6, the Monument Board of Trustees got answers to some of its questions about the town's water enterprise fund finances and learned more about the public input needed for the current update of the town's comprehensive plan.

Trustees Kelly Elliott and Dennis Murphy were excused.

Public input continues for comprehensive plan update

Mayor Pro-Tem Don Wilson said that as of Sept. 6, the town had received 880 responses to its comprehensive plan update survey.

He said many focus group meetings are also being held with small groups such as homeschool families, high school students, economic development advocates, and homeowners associations. The focus groups are providing another venue for the public from the Tri-Lakes area to give more detailed suggestions. "This is not a board thing. It is coming from the people," Wilson said.

What land use issues really matter to you as a resident or business owner in the community? Tri-Lakes area residents can take the online survey at www.surveymonkey.com/r/monumentplanupdate, or contact Planning Director Larry Manning or Planner Jennifer Jones at the town offices with questions on the update of the 2003 Comprehensive Plan that is under way.

Water enterprise fund history summarized

For almost two hours, the trustees and staff went through specific questions the trustees had asked about the financial history of the water enterprise fund. Town Treasurer Pamela Smith summarized 26 years of information and said all the numbers she used in the presentation were taken from audits performed by independent auditors and reported to the state. She encouraged any trustee or member of the public to make an appointment to meet with her if

they wanted to ask more questions or review the numbers in detail.

The questions covered a range of issues, including how much money has been earned and spent by the Monument water enterprise fund and the 2A Acquisition, Storage, and Delivery (ASD) funds, how much has been invested in the Forest Lakes Metropolitan District water system and the Triview Metropolitan District. She presented financial details to answer each question specifically. Smith's comments included:

- The raw numbers are here, but everything needs to be reviewed to ascertain the numbers are correct and match the audits. These numbers will probably change after they are reviewed. There is a lot more work to be done.
- A copy of the independent audits from 1954-2015, as well as year-end financial statements from 2005 forward, are available for review in Smith's office.
- Staff is still working on a comprehensive list of all funds transfers from the water fund to (and from) the general fund or other funds since 1989.
- Doing this extra audit would not be cheap, and the town has spent unexpected money this year on both a land use attorney and the legal settlement with Colonial Management Group.
- Over the years, the town has used cash reserves when we should have used debt to pay for expenses, which is what has gotten us into this position. It's insane to just use your cash up.
- The 2016 water rates increase has helped considerably and gotten us closer to a balanced budget in the water enterprise fund this year.

She presented a list of all the firms that have been used as independent auditors from 1954 to 2015 and a list of all resolutions and ordinances that affect the sales

tax revenue into the water enterprise fund starting in 1980.

A lot of discussion centered on the 2A ASD fund and how that money was supposed to be used. Smith explained that in 1989, a ballot initiative created a 1 percent water sales tax that was to be used solely for water system improvements. However, in 2005, the direction of the 1 percent water sales tax was modified when Monument voters approved using 35 percent of that revenue to build and outfit the new Town Hall and police building. The last payment of \$365,000 for that building was scheduled to be paid in August 2016.

The remaining 65 percent of the 2A ASD revenue from the 1 percent water sales tax, and by 2017 100 percent of it, was designated by the voters to be used for "new water acquisition, storage and delivery." Town Manager Chris Lowe reiterated that 2A funds could only be used for projects identified in the 2A

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