

Above: On Jan. 19, Trustee Jeff Bornstein presented Community Liaison Madeline VanDenHoek with a thank you award from the Monument Board of Trustees for her work, including organizing the myriad events that happen outside the regular work day. Bornstein said, "It's such a commitment. Thank you for what you do. It does not go unnoticed." *Photo by Lisa Hatfield.*

readjust. This is how I run a utility. The trustees made many comments and asked questions, including:

- Jeff Bornstein: I don't think the website is always a solution. It should be posted some other way within the town. A lot of residents still don't understand this.
- Becki Tooley: I have gotten a lot of emails, and I have told them to go to the website and call Chris Lowe.
- Jeff Smith: Failure to communicate seems to plague us. Tom (Tharnish) and Will (Koger) did not give us complete enough (financial) information on Jan. 4.

- J. Smith: You have a town water enterprise fund that only serves a portion of the town but is paid for by all taxpayers in Monument in some form (through recent the general fund revenue transfers).
- J. Smith: If we were just a water board, you would get one notice that there was consideration for a rate increase ... so I think we have done the responsible thing here already.
- John Howe: I want to hear more about the reuse plan that we approved in (October 2014). See www.ocn.me/v14n11.htm#mbot1006.
- Howe: There's no question a great increase in revenue is needed.
- Howe: The 8 percent per annum increase was not evident until two days after the Jan. 4 board meeting. Note: It said, "Rates will increase 8% annually 2016-2021" at bottom of charts showing proposed new base rates, but detailed calculations out to 2021 were not shown there.
- Howe: this increase will affect not just fixed income people but small businesses. It is sad to try to pick up (the base rate) so suddenly in five or six years.

Lowe said that no informational flier had been included in residents' water bills since no action was requested by the board. However, Tharnish said there was a short note at the bottom of each bill telling residents the water rates topic was under discussion, with a contact number, and about 10 calls a week came in with minor questions about water bills.

During public comment, two people spoke against the increases, and one said

they were not high enough. Their comments included:

AB Tellez, Rosie's Diner: My bill does not say how many gallons I am

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