

provided by the town to those who pay the fees. Green-Sinnard said that marijuana businesses often have lengthy files that need to be kept current and reviewed by town staff. Green-Sinnard said she was not prepared to specify an exact dollar amount spent by the town to manage marijuana businesses, but that she could research that for the board.

Trustee Glant Havenar said that her research led her to believe that Palmer Lake's current fees were much lower than those in other towns.

Trustee Rich Kuehster pointed out that the town received no tax revenues from the businesses in the town that cultivate marijuana on a wholesale basis, and

that he believed a different tax structure would benefit the town.

During the comments from the public on this question, resident Bob Miner pointed out that the application and annual fees could be raised at a later date.

Curt Reece, owner of Premier Organics LLC, a wholesale cultivator who will pay the fees in question, objected to the amount of the increase. He questioned why the fees for his business were being treated differently than the fees for other businesses, since his business is legal and is already heavily regulated by the state.

Another representative of a marijuana business argued that the town needed to define more clearly exactly what services

it was providing to marijuana businesses before the new fees could be justified.

Resident Kurt Ehrhardt commented on the amount of water consumed by marijuana cultivators, and recommended that the annual licensing be set at \$8,000. Reece said in response that his business used water equivalent to four residences with families of four members.

After the discussion, the board voted to set the application and license fees at \$500 and \$5,000 by a vote of four to one.

Ballot initiatives reviewed

Juran then reviewed with the board the details of four ballot initiatives that will be voted on in November. The ballot initiatives are:

- An initiative to continue the five-cent sales tax, which is due to expire, in perpetuity for the purpose of funding police, fire, and other municipal services
- An initiative to allow the town to retain tax revenues in excess of the current TABOR limits
- An initiative to allow the town to collect a 5 percent excise tax on unprocessed marijuana grown or sold within the town's boundaries
- An initiative to allow the town to publish just the titles of ordinances, rather than the complete text, to save money

Monument watershed to get attention

Miner let the board know about an effort by Fountain Creek Watershed Flood Control project to manage more actively the Monument Creek watershed. Palmer Lake is part of that watershed, Miner said, and he asked the board's permission to represent the town's interest in that effort.

Business license granted

The board voted to grant a business license to Sozo Now LLC, a natural health consultancy doing business as Health Restored, at 439 Upper Glenway. Trustee Mark Schuler did not vote on the license, because the business is run by his wife.

Additional water tank needed, says consultant

At the July 28 meeting, Linda Firth of Water Matters LLC presented her findings concerning the town's need to add an additional water tank to its infrastructure.

According to Firth, the new tank is needed because the existing concrete tank was built in 1964, and the valves are embedded in concrete under the tank. Should the tank fail, Firth said, to repair it might require the tank to be drained and concrete chipped away to expose the valves. The town would have no water service while this was done, she said.

Firth said the town could obtain a loan from the state's revolving loan fund at 2 percent interest, a much lower rate than a bank would charge if an emergency loan was needed to fix the existing tank.

Firth recommended the new tank be a concrete tank buried on the same land with the existing tank. Both tanks needed to be at the same elevation for the system to operate, Firth said. A buried tank is preferable given the weather in Palmer Lake, Firth said. The new tank should be the same size as the existing tank: 250,000 gallons, according to Firth.

Firth said the new tank would require the town to borrow \$1.1 million if the board approves the proposed design. Town Clerk Tara Berreth said the project would add between \$5.29 and \$6 monthly to each water bill.

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