

stead of being used by the district, unless district voters vote in favor of a TABOR waiver in November 2016 to let the district collect, retain, and spend that revenue. See www.ocn.me/v16n6.htm#tvmd0517.

- Property tax and special ownership tax revenue is not keeping up with the debt service schedule of \$3.2 million each year.
- For the water enterprise fund, projections show the ending balance being in the negative as early as 2017.
- The directors will need to make decisions prioritizing what maintenance and capital improvement projects to take on, and how much staff to hire in the future.

Water attorney Chris Cummins of Monson, Cummins & Shohet LLC said that Triview's rates and fees, which at first glance appear to be competitive with other districts, are really misleadingly low, because Triview also has to manage not only water and sanitation but also roads, drainages, and parks.

Valerie Remington said the results of a water rates study done "a while ago" indicated that the district needed to start increasing rates by 3.5 percent each year, but "the district has not kept up with that recommendation." Note: Triview approved a 2 percent increase in December 2015, and the consensus then was it was not enough to meet fixed costs. See www.ocn.me/v16n1.htm#tvmd1208.

Director James Otis said he was afraid 4 percent increases for the next five or more years would not be enough. Melville said the first thing to do was prioritize the capital projects lists and their cost-saving break-even points. "We also carry a high

debt load, with a low water rate, and we are tight on employees. I worry that is where we are," he said.

Otis asked about the reuse fee line item in the draft budget. Valerie Remington said some of the work was done a long time ago for the district to be able to take treated effluent from the Upper Monument Creek Wastewater Treatment Facility (UMCRWWTF) and reuse it for open space irrigation. However, the district would have to invest more money to finish the rest of the infrastructure to make this a reality in Triview, and so far the board has not approved this expense.

Note: UMCRWWTF reuse water provided irrigation for the Gleneagle Golf Club, in Donala, in the past. And if developed for Triview, this would be a completely different reuse system than another system involving the Tri-Lakes Wastewater Treatment Facility being discussed with Town of Monument and Woodmoor Water and Sanitation district.

The board consensus was that water rates and tap fees would be topics of discussion in the coming months. Regular board meetings and the extra capital projects and budget planning workshops are open to the public. Timeline tentatively scheduled:

- Aug. 9 – regular board meeting
- Friday, Aug. 12, 2 p.m. – capital improvements workshop
- Saturday, Aug 13, 9 a.m. – budget workshop
- Sept. 13 – board decision needed on specific suggested amount of water rates and fees increase so information can be posted for the October hearing
- October 11 – preliminary 2017 budget to board, and public hearing on water

- rates
- Nov. 8 – board vote on water rates increase
- January 2017 – new water rates could go into effect

Checks over \$5,000

The directors unanimously approved the following disbursements over \$5,000:

- JDS-Hydro, Sanctuary Pointe pump station – \$8,324
- JDS-Hydro, SP storage tank – \$6,045
- Donala, quarterly wastewater – \$102,027
- ORC, contract O&M – \$5,580

The board went into executive session at 9:06 p.m. to conference with the district's attorneys regarding legal advice on specific legal questions. Valerie Remington told OCN that no votes or announcements were made after the executive session. The meeting ad-

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LPSD Upcoming Events

August 9:
HSEA Open House, 5-7 p.m.

August 15:
7th Grade WEB Day,
LINK Freshmen Orientation PRHS,
HSEA Open House 10-Noon

August 16:
Elementary Schools' Ice Cream Socials,
LINK Freshmen Orientation LPHS

August 17:
First Day of Classes

August 18:
HSEA Open House 6-8 p.m.,
Board of Education Meeting 6 p.m.

LPSD Provides Supports as Students Transition

Both Lewis-Palmer High School (LPHS) and Palmer Ridge High School host LINK freshmen orientation events for incoming freshmen prior to the first day of classes in August, and Lewis-Palmer Middle School hosts a WEB (Where Everybody Belongs) event for incoming seventh graders. These transition events partner older, mentor students with new students. Newcomers find classrooms and lockers while meeting school leaders. Connections are formed and nerves are settled. Students helping other students find success in new, sometimes overwhelming, school environments is the backbone of these programs.

New this year, LPHS hosted a Ranger Roundup in June. This optional three-day event provided incoming freshmen the opportunity to delve further into the inner workings of high school. Freshmen received school gear, heard insider tips from upper classmen, and discussed LPHS' Pillars of Excellence (CLASS-Character, Leadership, Academic Achievement, School Involvement, Service to Community). Principal Sandi Brandl shared, "I was thrilled with the success of the Ranger Roundup, especially for a first time event for LPHS. Attendance actually grew from 77 on day one to 88 on day three, and student feedback was very positive." Isabelle Verrie attended and shares that "listening to Coach Tupper or the students give speeches about being a leader or just being a good person was very inspiring."

Numerous Lewis-Palmer School District (LPSD) staff members and students contribute to the success of all of these events. Invested individuals welcoming students and providing resources further substantiates that LPSD truly is where students belong.



Teacher Spotlight: Beth Radakovich



This fall, Beth Radakovich will begin her fourth year of teaching kindergarten through fifth grade students at Lewis-Palmer School District's Home School Enrichment Academy (HSEA), a one day a week enrichment program for kindergarten through eighth grade homeschoolers. Beth was born in Detroit but grew up and went to college in Illinois where she earned her elementary education degree and her master's degree in special education. Beth spent a summer teaching in Australia before getting a special education resource teacher position in Carol Stream, Illinois. The family then moved to Sarasota, Florida where Beth taught fourth grade. She and her family moved to Larkspur over 17 years ago where she continued tutoring and teaching part time while homeschooling her children. She also serves as a homeschool evaluator administering standardized assessments or performing

portfolio evaluations. Beth began her tenure with HSEA in its second year. She loves the creativity she has with the enrichment units, enjoys the continuity of seeing students year after and getting to see their siblings come through the program. She designs her own curriculum in the areas of critical thinking, cultural studies, and literature.

In Beth's spare time, she's an avid knitter, reader, house DIY-er, and hiker. She hikes Spruce Mountain frequently, loves Stanley Canyon and Eagle Peak, and has hiked Pikes Peak a number of times. She plans on enjoying Pride and Prejudice while sitting at the Aurora Reservoir this summer as it reminds her of the beaches of Florida. Then in September, she will be the first to welcome the new kindergarteners to classes at HSEA.