

Monument Board of Trustees, Feb. 6

Many discussions but few decisions

By Lisa Hatfield

The trustees discussed a hearing date for a proposed annexation, two proposed alternatives for an emergency water interconnection, and the proposed water reuse facility at the Feb. 6 Monument Board of Trustees (BOT) meeting. They also made a recommendation to the Planning Commission regarding the town's landscaping ordinance and canceled the ordinance review workshop.

Mayor Jeff Kaiser and Trustee Kelly Elliott were excused.

Wagons West annexation hearing date not set yet

Principal Planner Larry Manning presented a resolution to set a hearing date at which the trustees would consider annexation of Wagons West Addition No. 1, a 34.715-acre parcel located south of Wagon Gap Trail, north of the Colorado Sports Center, and between Old Denver Road and the Denver & Rio Grande Western railroad.

Manning and Town Attorney Gary Shupp both had to explain that the resolution before the trustees was just to set the date of the hearing, which must be accomplished within 60 days of the annexation application, according to state statute.

Manning said the statute is set up for a landowner that has substantially complied with the requirements to be annexed, and the applicant must be allowed to have a hearing. The details and questions about the annexation itself would be discussed at the actual hearing, which should occur around April 3, he said.

Trustee Greg Coopman made a motion to table the resolution, saying, "Last year this board established that its priority number one was finding and implementing an emergency connection with an outside water district in order to protect our current residents from experiencing a similar crisis as our neighbors in Triview Metropolitan District experienced last summer." He went on to say that it was "highly irresponsible to annex any more land into the town" without a long-term water action plan and until the emergency water interconnection was operational. "There is no point in setting a hearing date because of these issues," he said.

Mayor Pro-Tem Don Wilson said the statute seemed clear that the board had to set a hearing date.

Coopman said he was not comfortable passing a resolution to set a hearing date until he received additional legal insight and knew exactly which statute was

involved.

The board voted 4-1 to continue the discussion to the Feb. 21 meeting. Wilson was opposed.

Emergency water interconnection and reuse plant discussed

At the beginning of the meeting, Coopman had asked for the memo discussing the emergency water connection update be moved from the consent agenda to the regular meeting agenda, and the trustees approved this unanimously.

Public Works Director Tom Tharnish said the memo covered a new potential alternative to the proposed emergency water interconnection with Woodmoor Water and Sanitation District (WWSD) and that he planned to present more details on this option on Feb. 21. See related BOT article on page 10.

The first option that had been proposed for an emergency-only water interconnection was to build a pipeline to bring treated water from WWSD under I-25 to the portion of Monument on the west side of I-25, which would cost the town about \$737,000 and has not yet been agreed upon by WWSD. This "treated water" connection has been under discussion since last July when neighboring Triview suffered a water leak that lasted several weeks and lost 20-30 million gallons of water, bringing the 31.5-foot water tank level to only 1.1 feet. Ultimately, Donala Water and Sanitation District provided 112 hours of emergency water to Triview through an emergency connection between the two districts that had never been used before. See www.ocn.me/v16n8.htm#tvmd0712, www.ocn.me/v16n9.htm#mbot0801, www.ocn.me/v16n12.htm#mbot1121.

me/v16n9.htm#mbot0801, www.ocn.me/v16n12.htm#mbot1121.

Tharnish said the new alternative being discussed for an emergency interconnection for the town's water system west of I-25 would be to literally tap into infrastructure in the proposed joint Monument-WWSD water reuse facility that he predicted would be complete by mid-2019 to early 2020. He said it would be possible to "T" into a WWSD pipeline sending raw water from Monument Creek to WWSD. This would provide an emergency-only water connection to west

Monument that would "be almost no cost to Monument taxpayers."

Trustee Shea Medlicott summarized that this raw water interconnection would be a cheaper way to create an emergency interconnection, but it would take nine to 12 months longer to become operational. Tharnish added that if a drought dropped the level of Monument Creek, that could impede WWSD's ability to share emergency water with the town. If the Pikes Peak Regional Water Authority (PPRWA) reservoir were ever built, he said, the pipe from there under Higby Road would be

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