

The next joint meeting of FLMD and PPMD 1, 2, and 3 is scheduled for 10 a.m. Feb. 5 in the Classic Homes office at 6385 Corporate Drive, Suite 200, Colorado Springs. Meetings are usually held the first Monday of each month. Official meeting notices are posted on the district website <http://forestlakes->

metrodistrict.com, at 3625 Mesa Top Drive, Monument (an open space tract owned by all four districts), and at the Forest Lakes mailbox kiosk. For general questions, contact Ann Nichols at 719-327-5810 or at anicholsduffy@aol.com. Lisa Hatfield can be contacted at lisa-hatfield@ocn.me.

Forest View Acres Water District, Dec. 6

Board discusses budget and upcoming election



Above: Forest View Acres Water District held its monthly meeting on Dec. 6 (which was postponed from Nov. 22) at the Monument Sanitation District conference room. The directors discussed the budget for 2018 as well as upcoming maintenance issues and the need for notification of the upcoming election. Some of the present members are term-limited and will be completing their time in office. From left are Jim McGrady, Brad Hogan, Ann Bevis, John McGinty, Clyde Penn, Eugene Ashe, Hans Zimmerman, and Eckehart Zimmerman. *Photo by John Howe.*

Donala Water and Sanitation District, Dec. 7

2018 budget approved; water rates up 4 percent, wastewater up \$2 per month

By Jim Kendrick

On Dec. 7, the Donala Water and Sanitation District unanimously approved five resolutions for the 2018 budget—the 2018 appropriation, setting both Donala 2018 property tax mill levies (unchanged), a 4 percent increase across all six water use rate tiers, and a \$2 sewer service rate increase to \$33 per month. The construction water rate will increase from \$14.27 to \$14.84 per 1,000 gallons in 2018, the same as the new third-tier drinking water rate. Construction water will not be sold for use out of Donala's service area.

The three districts that own Upper Monument Creek Regional Wastewater Facility (UMCRWWTF)—Donala, Triview Metropolitan District, and Forest Lakes Metropolitan District—must upgrade its treatment costs to remove arsenic from the waste flow. The arsenic treatment upgrades are estimated to cost \$2.2 million. Donala's share of this cost will be \$836,000.

Director Dennis Snyder's absence was unanimously excused.

Financial reports

District General Manager Kip Petersen reported that total 2017 revenues, down 23 percent through the end of November, are expected to be about 11 percent less than the total amount budgeted by the end of 2017. Planned construction within Donala has taken longer than expected to receive land use and site plan approvals, but plans to start construction are moving forward now.

Donala's 2018 total capital expenditures will be reduced by about 11 percent to maintain a balanced budget. As a result, some planned Donala capital expenditures on infrastructure have been postponed until 2018. However, Donala's reserve of low-cost state loan money from the Colorado Water Resources and Power Development Authority will remain available for helping to finance these deferred projects.

2018 mill levy, budget, appropriation, and rates/fees resolutions approved

Petersen reported that one citizen provided comments at the Oct. 18 Donala board meeting during the open portion of the public hearing on the preliminary 2018 Donala budget. Some modifications were made to the preliminary budget in response to this citizen's comment on multifamily common irrigation systems (noted below in the paragraphs on the resolution regarding rates and fees) as well as some directors' comments from the Nov. 16 Donala long-term planning workshop. There were no citizen comments on the final 2018 Donala budget at this Dec. 7 meeting. The board then considered five 2018 budget-related resolutions.

Petersen first presented Donala's two property mill levies in separate resolutions, noting that neither will change in 2018. The first resolution was for Area A of Donala and applies to all district property owners except those in Chaparral Hills. Area A had an assessed 2017 valuation of \$78.369 million. This resolution certified a property tax of 21.296 mills to the El Paso Board of County Commissioners, which will produce total revenue of \$1.669 million in 2018.

The second resolution was for Area B of Donala and applies to those dis-

trict property owners in Chaparral Hills who receive either Donala potable water service or wastewater service. Area B had an assessed 2017 valuation of \$281,270. This resolution certified a property tax of 10.648 mills to the county commissioners, which will produce total revenue of \$2,995 in 2018.

These two mill levy resolutions were unanimously approved.

The board next unanimously approved the third resolution for the 2018 balanced budget as presented. Total estimated 2018 expenditures are \$12.730 million, up from \$11.9 million in the 2017 budget. Total estimated revenues are \$22.730 million, up from \$20.7 million in the 2017 budget. Petersen said the difference represents money already held in reserve by Donala in several mandatory cash reserve accounts.

The board unanimously approved the fourth resolution for the 2018 appropriation of this overall total of \$22.703 million as presented.

The board also unanimously approved the fifth resolution for 2018 fees and rates as presented. The amendments to this rate resolution for 2018 that take effect on Jan. 1 in this resolution were noted above in the first paragraph.

The board also approved an amendment to the rate resolution as presented that will change how the district charges individual customers with individual water meters living in a multifamily unit that has a single common irrigation account for their share of irrigation flows. Common irrigation account flow volume fees are only charged May 1 through Sept. 30.

Dividing the total irrigation flow volume for the common irrigation account by the number of individual customer water accounts that are part of the separate common irrigation account will lower the billing tier and rate applied to each multifamily customer's share of the common irrigation account flows. Donala's total 2018 common irrigation revenue from these multifamily units is estimated to decrease by a total of \$166,000 as a result of each multifamily customer being in a lower cost rate tier after May 1.

Petersen officially recognized Donala accounting staff member Cristina Hawker, new Donala Office Manager Tonja Smith, and Betsy Bray, who is retiring from the Donala office manager position on Dec. 31 after 20 years of service to the Donala community. He thanked them for their hard work in preparing the thick stack of documentation required for board approval of these five annual budget resolutions. The directors concurred and gave Hawker, Bray, and Smith a round of applause.

Manager's report

The board next unanimously approved a motion to appoint Bray to be the designated election official as a part-time consultant for the biennial special district election scheduled for May 8.

The board unanimously approved the 2018 addendum for the third year of a three-year agreement for month-to-month potable water treatment service by Colorado Springs Utilities (CSU) for Donala during 2018. CSU transports and treats Donala's renewable surface water from Willow Creek Ranch near Leadville. The ranch water is first collected from the Arkansas River and

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