

Monument Board of Trustees, Aug. 17

Methadone moratorium discussed; group demands resignations

By Lisa Hatfield

The Aug. 17 Monument Board of Trustees meeting included a discussion-only coverage of the proposed moratorium on methadone treatment facilities instead of an action item, and this prompted members of “No Methadone in Monument” to make accusations against the town staff. The trustees scheduled a special meeting to take action on this ordinance within the week. The trustees learned that the new town manager’s start date was delayed one month. The trustees also approved three ordinances regarding property on West Baptist Road including a new 7-Eleven store.

Mayor Rafael Dominguez and Mayor Pro-Tem Jeff Kaiser were absent. The trustees voted unanimously to appoint Jeff Bornstein as mayor pro-tem for this meeting.

New town manager delayed by a month

Town Clerk Cynthia Sirochman told the trustees that she had been notified on Aug. 17 that the new town manager’s start date would be delayed by one month.

Public comment points at town staff

Bornstein reminded the audience that the Aug. 17 agenda posted included just a discussion about the moratorium but not an action item.

Attorney William Louis, representing Jamie Fenley and the “No Methadone” group, said his group was upset this was not an action item. Town Attorney Gary Shupp said the reason the moratorium could not be voted on that night was because it was not properly advertised as an action item. Resident Rob O’Regan said later, “Here we are kicking the can down the road due to poor judgment.”

Louis asked Town Clerk Cynthia Sirochman if the business license for Colonial Management Group had been denied or not, but Shupp recommended Sirochman answer this question outside the meeting

since it was not on the agenda. In absence of an answer to his question, Louis reiterated that the license needed to be denied since the land use process clearly said this was not the right location for a methadone clinic.

Louis added that public input is necessary in making good public policy. “This puts the matter back in the lap of elected officials. Don’t shut the people out, which is what your senior staff is trying to do.” He raised his voice and concluded, “Do not repeat the mistakes of last fall where senior administrative staff incompetently, incompetently kept this matter from the board!”

“No Methadone” Chairman Tom Allen and group member Greg Coopman both demanded the immediate resignations of Sirochman and Interim Town Manager Pamela Smith since they said these staff members acknowledged they were given legal advice and knowingly kept this issue from the Board of Trustees and the people of Monument. Coopman also said that no one in their group received a phone call from the town staff after the Board of Adjustment meeting on how the two groups could work together in the future.

Trustees discuss moratorium

Shupp introduced the moratorium on methadone treatment facilities, saying that since it “had become a broader topic than it started out to be,” he needed more direction from the board before drafting the ordinance for discussion. He mentioned a recent moratorium passed by the town of Palmer Lake and former Monument Town Manager Cathy Green’s idea to tie the moratorium to the town’s comprehensive plan, which is not up to date.

Pamela Smith was concerned that the Palmer Lake example said, “No person shall establish or operate a business that provides drugs and/or treatment of drug dependency” and wondered if that could affect existing doctor’s offices and clinics in the downtown area.

The consensus of the trustees was to

schedule a special meeting in the next week to address the moratorium as an action item that could be discussed and approved.

Attorney Chris Dawes represented Colonial Management Group. He said his client had been trying to open for a year and wanted to go on record that the moratorium being discussed “smacks of an unconstitutional provision” geared to his client’s operations.

Bornstein said that no public comment was allowed on this topic this evening.

RFP for land use attorney approved

The board unanimously approved a request for proposals (RFP) to find a specialist attorney in land use matters to assist the town in very specific complicated land use actions that may arise in the future, in the same way the town has human resource specialists, water attorneys, and engineers on call. “This has no bearing whatsoever on the current situation with the methadone clinic,” Pamela Smith said.

Elliott asked Smith that the trustees get to review the actual RFP via email before it is sent out. The trustees voted unanimously to send out an RFP for a land use attorney.

Jackson Creek Market Village ordinances

Morgan Hester has come back as a temporary contract employee for the Planning Department since Principal Planner Mike Pesicka resigned on Aug. 7. She presented three land use ordinances regarding the proposed replat and preliminary PD site plan for the Jackson Creek Market Village Development, and a final PD site plan for a 7-Eleven convenience store and retail fuel facility at the southwest corner of the property. This development is on West Baptist Road immediately east of the Jackson Creek Crossing shopping center that includes King Soopers.

The traffic report submitted by the applicant’s traffic engineer was accepted



Above: At the Aug. 17 Monument Board of Trustees meeting, Police Chief Jake Shirk presented commendations to four officers “wearing different uniforms” for their actions. He said Deputy Michael Schnelle (El Paso County Sheriff’s Office), left, Officer Alex Kenoyer (Palmer Lake Police Department), Sgt. Mark Owens (Monument Police Department), and Officer Greg Melikian (Monument Police Department, not pictured) cooperated in “intense situation brought to a successful conclusion.” *Photo by Lisa Hatfield.*

by town Engineering Assistant Tom Martinez, and the staff report said the additional traffic projected by the development would not create or significantly increase delays on the public streets in the area. No additional traffic light will be installed on West Baptist Road near this property.

Resident John Bender’s question about why sidewalks were not required of the applicant along West Baptist Road generated a long discussion.

Note: There is an existing 10-foot-wide El Paso County gravel trail that can be used by horses as well as pedestrians along the north side of Baptist Road from Jackson Creek Parkway to Kingswood Drive. This county trail lies within a county owned right-of-way. As a result, neither Jackson Creek Crossing nor the subdivision to the east of the property have concrete sidewalks along West Baptist Road between Jackson Creek Parkway and Leather Chaps Drive.

The trustees unanimously approved the replat and preliminary PD site plan for the entire development, and the final PD site plan for the 7-Eleven convenience store pad within the development.

Town manager’s report

Pamela Smith’s said that a site development plan is in progress at the Colorado Department of Transportation location by Conoco but, “it is not 100 percent final” that the bulk fill water station might be moved there from its current controversial location on Wagon Gap Trail. See www.ocn.me/v15n4.htm#mbot0316.

The following disbursements over \$5,000 were approved unanimously by the board as part of the consent agenda:

- Triview Metro District – sales tax for June (\$161,644), motor vehicle tax for July (not to exceed \$12,000), Regional Building sales tax for July (\$462) \$174,105
- Tri-Lakes Chamber of Commerce third-quarter Support Payment – \$5,000
- Logan and Associates Final Billing on 2014 Audit \$6,800
- Wildcat Construction Co. waterline upgrades Synthes and Mitchell \$171,160

Commendations and appreciations

Police Chief Jake Shirk thanked El Paso County command staff, including Sheriff Bill Elder, for attending the meeting to

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