

Trustee Jeff Bornstein said, "I didn't come tonight prepared to discuss these big dogs so to speak, but it's good that we do discuss them too.... Shame on the board for not giving (Lowe) objectives last year. Maybe we could get this complete by mid-March."

**Town manager's report**

As he had at the workshop before the meeting, Lowe said the 2016 Year-End Report listing quarterly achievements included many examples of "how vastly and comprehensively we interact with people and change their lives for the better," and he asked all the trustees to read it.

He wants to increase the number of events happening in the town, which include the Memorial Day ceremony, movie nights at the clock tower, July 4 parade, summer Art Hops, concerts in Limbach Park, Great American Cleanup, Creek Week cleanup, Bines and Brews, and the Tree Lighting event.

Lowe said, "We have a great town. We'll do even more in 2017 than we did last year."

**Police fence update**

Public Works Director Tom Tharnish presented some possible options for a security fence or wall that would surround the police parking lot on the east side of the Town Hall. A first batch of estimates for various designs ranged from \$50,000 to \$133,000, which seemed high to the trustees and staff.

Trustee Kelly Elliott asked how the police officers felt about the plan. Police Chief Jake Shirk said the Police Department's objectives were to have a wall for total visual separation and a barrier to prevent suspicious people from entering the police parking lot. However, he hoped it could be done for less money and said it could wait until the budget could support it. He said, "The officers are 100 percent in favor of doing something."

**2016 budget amendment**

Town Treasurer Pamela Smith presented an ordinance to adopt a budget amendment of \$145,000 for 2016. She said the "\$350,000 financial settlement" (of the total \$900,000 settlement payment to Colonial Management Group on April 13, 2016 for administrative town ap-

proval and subsequent revocation of CMG's methadone clinic license at 192 Front St.) was not budgeted. She said the staff was only able to make up \$205,000 of that, but "it is a legal requirement to have a balanced budget." ( <http://www.ocn.me/v16n6.htm#mbot0502> ) ( <http://gazette.com/company-that-wanted-methadone-clinic-in-monument-gets-final-terms-of-settlement-to-stay-away/article/1574232> )

Smith also presented an ordinance appropriating sums of money to the general fund to accompany the 2016 budget amendment. The trustees approved both ordinances unanimously.

**Checks over \$5,000**

The trustees approved the consent agenda unanimously, and it included these checks over \$5,000:

- Triview Metro District, sales, motor vehicle, and regional building use tax – \$189,022
- Community Matters Inc., comprehensive plan – \$8,816
- Magtech Ammunition, 2017 annual ammunition purchase – \$6,085

**Board comments get argumentative**

Elliott said she was "a little bit appalled" at what she heard in the recording of the Feb. 6 meeting that she was unable to attend. She said during the agenda item that was supposed to set a hearing date for an annexation petition, the tone was undermining the expertise of the town's legal counsel and of Larry Manning. She said the trustees should listen to the advice of the experts. "We are really at risk if we start taking things into our own hands and trying to come across as the experts" on these subject matters.

Mayor Pro-Tem Don Wilson said the vote at the Feb. 6 meeting was not even needed, that Town Attorney Gary Shupp agreed about that at the time, and that the vote to postpone the hearing resolution was a collaborated vote.

Bornstein and Coopman objected. Coopman said, "It would be irresponsible for me to vote when I am unclear of the requirements.... We have to ask those tough questions and get a second (legal) opinion." Wilson and

Coopman argued about the intent of Coopman's objection to the hearing resolution.

The meeting adjourned at 7:34 p.m.

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The Monument Board of Trustees usually meets at 6:30 p.m. on the first and third Mondays of each month at Monument Town Hall, 645 Beacon Lite Road. The next meeting is scheduled for March 6. Call 884-8014 or see [www.townofmonument.org](http://www.townofmonument.org) for information about live video streaming. To see upcoming agendas and complete board packets for the Monument Board of Trustees or to download audio recordings of past meetings, see <http://monumenttownco.minutesondemand.com> and click on Board of Trustees.

Lisa Hatfield can be contacted at [lisahatfield@ocn.me](mailto:lisahatfield@ocn.me).

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*Palmer Lake Town Council, Feb. 9*

**Board tables request to vacate road**

*By James Howald*

In February, the Palmer Lake Town Council met once, on Feb. 9. The board heard a request from a developer to vacate a road, considered changes to the town's procurement policy, and discussed a bid to update the sound system in the Town Hall.

**Request to vacate road stirs debate**

Jim Stiltner, a developer planning to build three houses on land adjacent to an undeveloped road, asked the board to vacate a portion of Gillia Street. Doing so would allow him to avoid building a road that would have a 23 percent grade, and would be impractical to use and maintain, he said.

Town Manager Cathy Green-Sinnard said that although the Planning Commission had approved the vacation, both the Sanitation and Water Departments wanted to maintain easements where the undeveloped road would be vacated.

Residents who live close to the planned houses argued against the vacation, saying that three houses were too many to maintain the character of the neighborhood.

Paul Banta said the board should visit the location of the planned houses before deciding on the request.

Stiltner argued that if the town forced him to develop the road instead of granting the vacation as approved by the Planning Commission, he would build the road but would also build an additional house, bringing the total to four.

Mayor John Cressman pointed out that typically the board follows the guidance of the Planning Commission, which voted unanimously to approve the vacation of the road. Green-Sinnard responded that the Planning Commission had not been aware of the requests for an easement from the Sanitation and Water Departments when they voted to approve the vacation.

In the end, the board voted unanimously to table the request to vacate the road, and to send a related request for a minor subdivision back to the Planning Commission.

**Additional purchasing authority for town manager considered**

At a previous meeting, Town Attorney Maureen Juran reviewed the town's procurement policy with

the board and asked for their comments. One outstanding question was whether the town manager should be authorized to expedite purchases up to \$10,000, while maintaining appropriate checks and balances in purchasing processes.

The board elected to review the policy at their next meeting.

**Second quote in place for sound system**

Green-Sinnard said the town had obtained a second bid to upgrade the sound system in the Town Hall building from Listen Up. The second bid included different microphones than were specified in the first bid for the project.

The board decided to review both bids more closely before deciding between them.

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The two meetings for March will be held at 6:30 p.m. on March 9 and March 23 at Town Hall, 42 Valley Crescent. Meetings are normally held on the second and fourth Thursdays of the month. Information: 481-2953.

James Howald can be reached at [jameshowald@ocn.me](mailto:jameshowald@ocn.me).

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