

Forest View Acres Water District, May 24

Hydrant repairs recommended in FVAWD

By John Howe and Lisa Hatfield

OCN attended the May 24 Forest View Acres Water District (FVAWD) board meeting expecting to hear a discussion of the district's monthly water fees, which, according to the district website, rose from \$87 to \$90 per month on May 1 for reasons related to capital improvement loan covenants due to a water infrastructure upgrade from 2012, but that discussion did not occur. Residents pay those fees in addition to actual monthly water use fees ranging from \$8 to \$16 per 1,000 gallons per month and an annual 5-mill property tax levy to cover administrative costs.

No district residents attended the meeting to make public comments, but President Gene

Ashe said the board always welcomed residents' questions about the district's financial situation.

FVAWD is in the northwest corner of unincorporated El Paso County between the base of Mount Herman and Colorado Highway 105. FVAWD serves customers on over 300 lots in six subdivisions: Cloven Hoof, Red Rock Ranch, Red Rock Reserve, Shiloh Pines, Sundance, and The Villas.

The board did discuss many other topics, including:

- Shamrock Water Services explained its recommendations to repair 39 of 67 fire hydrants and guard valves to bring them up to National Fire Protection Association and American Waterworks

Association standards. Information from Shamrock's report will be added to GIS maps showing the layers of district infrastructure. No action was taken by the board.

- The booster pump station piping modification is done.
- Clyde Penn, district operator, ORC Water Professionals, said the pressure regulator will be updated soon, and he explained upcoming improvements to the surface water treatment plant. The leak map will be updated as necessary.
- Water metering and customer billing issues. Plans to install new water meters were put on hold.
- Phase 4 of the water main

rehabilitation project is done, but site revegetation is still in progress.

- John McGinn of JDS-Hydro gave his monthly report on capital items. The county will be doing asphalt roads overlay. Valve boxes full of rocks need to be cleaned out.
- The monthly financial report was reviewed by Treasurer Hans Zimmermann.

The 2016 annual financial audit is in progress.

The meeting went into executive session at 8:45 p.m. to discuss legal items pursuant to §24-6-402(4)(e), CRS, determining positions relative to matters that may be subject to negotiations, related to the Revised 1985 Agreement and

items associate with a 40-acre land swap with the U.S. Forest Service. Ashe told OCN that the board did not take any votes or make any announcements after the meeting returned to open session and adjourned at 9 p.m.

The next meeting is scheduled for 6 p.m. June 28 at the Monument Sanitation District boardroom, 130 Second St. As of May 24, the board meetings have moved to the fourth Wednesday of each month. Information: 488-2110 or www.fvawd.com. Contact the Board of Directors at BOD@fvawd.com.

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Monument Academy School Board, May 22

Board hears advisory committee recommendations

By Jackie Burhans

The Monument Academy (MA) School Board met on May 22 to hear the School Accountability Advisory Committee (SAAC) report, review the board self-assessment results, and consider other agenda items.

SAAC report

SAAC public member Al Brown reported on the survey results to the board and executive director. 278 surveys were completed, for a 13 percent response rate. Brown noted some options to increase participation. Preschool results were great, elementary school results were mostly positive, and middle school results were partially positive. He noted that middle school is a trying time for everybody. Results, including 400 comments, will be published at www.monumentacademy.net/sac/ with names redacted.

Brown called attention to subjects that require board attention, including the following schoolwide recommendations:

Traffic flows, congestion, and safety: The drive line (the student drop-off and pickup lane) is going as well as can be expected, but Highway 105 is a real issue. There have been meetings but, so far, no results. Brown noted that the board doesn't think we should wait until someone gets injured. He said this is an area of special interest. He suggested setting up one or more town halls with people who understand concerns and can make decisions.

Communication: Respondents felt that communication was sometimes missing and sometimes duplicated. The SAAC recommendation is that there be a schoolwide communication strategy for teachers, deans, administration, and the board.

Security (bullying, internet, facilities): There was a new question on security including physical security, bullying, and internet misuse that got a 90 percent positive response. While that is a good result, he noted that the remaining 10 percent represent a real concern. Brown felt this was the top job for the board.

The concerns include overcrowded hallways, visibility, vulnerability of the playground in front of the school, and internet controls. The SAAC suggested considering moving the middle school to the new high school when it opens, limiting playground visibility, involving the D38 safety officer. MA Executive Director Don Griffin noted that Homeland Security advises MA rather than D38 on safety. Brown relayed suggestions for more security on the doorways as well as busing from/to common locations such as Walmart or Home Depot. Griffin asked if that might be done on a fee-for-service basis.

Other SAAC report highlights include:

- Everybody wants a new gym, a full-size track, new turf, a stage, and an auditorium.
- Individualized Education Programs (IEPs) for special needs takes teachers out of the classroom where they are needed. Perhaps the dean of Student Services can address this issue.
- The Gifted and Talented Program was less effective this year than in the past and should be reviewed.
- Disruptive students rob the rest of the kids of faculty time. Increase involvement of parent volunteers and administration support if possible. Re-evaluate current discipline deterrence and maintain consistency.
- Concerns from the 5 percent who responded on iPad



Above: At the May meeting of the Monument Academy School Board, the board presented Tiffany Alexander with an award certificate in appreciation of her service to MA as a teacher representative for middle school faculty. Pictured left to right: Matt Dunston, Tiffany Alexander, Scott Saunders, Sonya Camarco, and Julie Galusky. Photo by Janet Sellers.

use that it will lower handwriting skills and be a tremendous distraction. Additional training may help.

Board self-assessment

Board member Scott Saunders reported on the results of a board survey that contained rating questions and open comments. He noted one question had split results between strongly agree (2) and agree (4). The question was, "I feel my board members participate actively in meetings raising constructive questions on and offering pertinent guidance on matters of strategy and policy." He stated that he tries to ask questions in advance of the board meeting. He felt that the board was cohesive, all on the same page, sharing strengths, and presenting a unified front to the community.

Other highlights

- The board unanimously approved a revised Policy 1511 to include using placement tests to properly seat new students. The policy can be read at <http://bit.ly/ma-policy1511>.

Board President Sonya Camarco presented Tiffany Alexander an award for her service representing the Middle School faculty, and took a commemorative photo.

- Dr. Elizabeth Davis, principal and chief academic officer, reported on the staffing effort for next year. MA needs a seventh-grade English teacher, an eighth-grade Social Studies teacher, and a seventh-grade Math teacher. Interviewing is underway, and she feels the applicants are very well qualified. They are also hiring a new fifth-grade and second-grade teacher, for an 8 percent teaching staff turnover rate. Additional positions have been posted for Art, Extended School Services teacher, occupational therapist, a part-time psychologist, and a part-time reading specialist.
- The first annual Grandparents Day hosted more than 600 grandparents and was covered by The Gazette.

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