

Monument Board of Trustees, Oct. 15

# Annexation of Willow Springs/Monument Creek Ranch nixed

By Allison Robenstein

The Monument Board of Trustees' regular meeting on Oct. 15 involved heated discussions about the annexation of Willow Springs/Monument Creek Ranch and water projects, resulting in little progress. The trustees spoke with town attorney candidates, brought back a previously eliminated applicant for town manager, and reviewed the 2019 draft budget.

At the beginning of the meeting, Trustee Greg Coopman motioned that the board postpone this meeting's scheduled executive session until the town had an attorney. This was approved 3-2, with Mayor Don Wilson and Mayor Pro-Tem Kelly Elliott voting no.

Trustee Ron Stephens was absent.

## Willow Springs annexation fails

The Willow Springs land annexations and zoning changes were voted down by the board after hearing appeals in favor of the annexation by the developer and staff. Annexation discussions for this property have been going on since 2008 with various developers.

Willow Springs Ranch is a 219-acre parcel north of Forest Lakes Drive and south of Synthes and Mitchell Avenues. The proposed development would include attached and detached homes and 104 acres of open space. The Monument Planning Commission approved the application for annexation, zoning and the sketch plan on Sept. 12. See <https://www.ocn.me/v18n10.htm#mpc>.

At the board's Oct. 1 meeting, Coopman asked Acting Town Manager Pamela Smith and Planning Director Larry Manning to analyze the existing service plan and metropolitan district before the next meeting to explain the terms of each to the trustees. See [www.ocn.me/v18n4.htm#mbot0319](http://www.ocn.me/v18n4.htm#mbot0319). At that meeting, the board agreed to intervene in negotiating the annexation agreement with regard to financial accountability.

Instead of a revised annexation document, the same agreement came to the board for approval with

no apparent changes or newly negotiated language. Manning said the 2008 service agreement could be amended and brought to the trustees before they vote, if they so desired. Coopman expressed his discomfort with the verbiage, saying there were no safety mechanisms in place in case the town couldn't provide water.

Public Works Director Tom Tharnish explained to the board that the town has enough water, it just doesn't currently have the capacity to meet the demands of all 396 houses in this development. But the town could achieve the necessary capacity by building either a new well with associated treatment facility

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