

- Contract with All Purpose Paving for on-call/short-order paving needs.
- Purchase of a turf-maintenance trailer for transporting equipment and an enclosed trailer for mobile emergency sewer-line and water-main-break response.
- Improvements in the security system.
- Well A8 back online with its newly installed telemetry cabinet.
- Receipt of a bid from Timberline for the Supervisory Control and Data Acquisition (SCADA) contract.
- Analysis of Triview water and sewer rate and fee structure by Raftelis Financial Consultants is underway.
- Expectation of new and improved website func-

tionality within one to two weeks (barring additional technical challenges).

Residents were encouraged to send their email addresses to Triview at info@triviewmetro.com so that the district could send “meaningful content” to them more efficiently.

The public meeting adjourned at about 7:35 p.m. and the board entered an executive session for §24-6-402(4)(b)(e)(f) Legal Advice, Negotiations, Personnel. No additional decisions were announced following the executive session.

The next Triview Metro board meeting is scheduled for 5 p.m. March 13 at the Fairfield Inn, Mt. Herman Conference Room, 15275 Struthers Road, Colorado Springs. Meetings are normally held on the second

Tuesday of the month. Information: 488-6868 or see www.colorado.gov/triviewmetro. Triview is also on Facebook.

Triview official posting locations are:

- El Paso County Clerk and Recorder’s Office
- Park at intersection of Venison Creek and Kitchener Way
- Park on Gold Creek and Creekside Drive
- Mailboxes at Burke Hollow and Talus Road
- Park on Old Creek Drive and Toreva Drive
- Triview office: 16055 Old Forest Pt., Suite 300, Monument, CO 80132

Jennifer Kaylor can be reached at jenniferkaylor@ocn.me.

Donala Water and Sanitation District, Feb. 15

Summer construction projects will affect Struthers Road and Gleneagle Drive

By Jim Kendrick

At the regular Feb. 15 district board meeting, General Manager Kip Petersen described the construction projects in the Donala Water and Sanitation District service area. Commercial construction is already underway between I-25 and the intersection of Struthers Road and Gleneagle Drive. Donala will begin its replacement of portions of 50-year-old water main along Gleneagle Drive east of the shopping center near this intersection—a project that will last through the summer.

Construction is underway on the new four-story, 64-room My Place Hotel. A new Starbucks store is also under construction by this hotel. A 7-Eleven store also has been proposed for this commercial development. Construction of a new office building by Peoples National Bank on the north corner of the Struthers-Gleneagle intersection will also begin this year. Donala will provide water and wastewater service to all the commercial entities in these two commercial developments.

Donala’s replacement of its aging water main along the south end of Gleneagle Drive will begin in late spring at the end of the frost season. This construction will require lane shifting around the digging locations. Individual water service lines between these new sections of water main and Donala’s existing curb stops will have to be replaced as well, which will cause short customer water service interruptions. Donala will notify all property owners that will be affected by this project by individual letter and invite them to an open house for a construction briefing.

CSU rate increase announced

In his Manager’s Report, Petersen announced that Colorado Springs Utilities (CSU) gave Donala notice that CSU would be increasing its rate 4.2 percent, effective Jan. 1, for treating Donala’s renewable Willow Creek Ranch surface water from Donala’s water right near Leadville. Petersen noted that he had budgeted up to a 5 percent CSU rate increase for 2018. CSU pipes the ranch water from storage in Pueblo Reservoir through its Southern Delivery System to a CSU surface water treatment plant. After treatment, CSU then pumps the treated Donala water to a CSU-Donala interconnect at Northgate Boulevard and Struthers

Road for direct distribution to Donala’s customers.

Petersen then gave the board an update on the CSU Utility Policy Advisory Committee’s (UPAC) study of the benefits and detriments of CSU becoming a regional water and/or wastewater service provider. UPAC had also considered providing other utility services outside of the CSU service area but decided to consider only water and wastewater now. He said he had briefed UPAC in July 2017 on the successes and challenges of Donala receiving contracted out-of-district CSU water treatment services for its Willow Creek Ranch surface water right.

UPAC met on Feb. 7 to finalize the recommendations it plans for regional collaboration that it will present to the Colorado Springs City Council, which serves as the CSU board. The committee decided to recommend lowering the size of the out-of-district service fee multiplier from 1.5 to 1.2 and finalized the changes it will recommend regarding the city code, which currently prohibits direct CSU service to unannexed areas outside the city limits. The committee’s next step is to present its recommendation to the Utility Board (City Council) on March 7 and March 27. Petersen will attend these March presentations on behalf of the Pikes Peak Regional Water Authority and Donala.

Petersen added that he has been working with UPAC for 10 years to promote and create regional joint water solutions. Then he briefly reviewed the engineering studies Donala has conducted for potential regional water storage and delivery systems that could integrate existing Cherokee Metropolitan District pipelines. He said he would be meeting with Cherokee officials to work on water carriage agreements for other county water districts to use Cherokee’s pipelines, a significant first step toward real regional solutions.

Petersen gave a brief overview of three house bills: HB1199, HB1201, and HB 1215 under consideration by the state Legislature. Respectively, these bills would affect designated groundwater storage in existing county basins, loss of available oil and gas severance tax revenue for water project grants for the next several years, and safe disposal of water and wastewater plants currently contaminated with radium. For Donala specifically, the ability of the state’s only

wastewater solids disposal contractor, Veris Environmental, to continue transporting waste products from the Upper Monument Creek Regional Wastewater Treatment Facility (UMCRWWTF) to the sole state landfill that can accept solid wastewater treatment facility wastes that have small amounts of radionuclide contamination could be exceeded under the proposed legislation.

Note: HB 1215, if passed as proposed, might also create troublesome restrictions for the Tri-Lakes Wastewater Treatment Facility that also contracts with Veris Environmental for hauling sludge lagoon solids that contain small amounts of radium.

Operations

Petersen reported that Donala’s water plants are operating efficiently. Well-2A requires repairs that are currently estimated to cost about \$90,000, with the repair work expected to begin at the end of March. An aeration blower motor failed at UMCRWWTF, a “normal wear and tear item” that was replaced with an on-hand spare motor. The failed motor may be able to be overhauled.

Under a service contract with Forest Lakes Metropolitan District (FLMD), on the west end of Baptist Road, Donala water staff members repaired a FLMD water leak on the morning of Jan. 25. The leak was caused by a 20-foot-long split in a water main that was installed directly on top of jagged bedrock instead of on top of an intervening cushioning layer of pea gravel bedding that is required nationally to protect water pipes during the inevitable repeated vibrations caused in these pipes by surges of water pressure. There is some chance that more of these catastrophic Forest Lakes leaks may occur if lack of a cushioning layer of pea gravel is widespread in Classic Home’s development.

The meeting adjourned at 3:11 p.m.

The next board meeting will be held at 1:30 p.m. on March 15 in the district conference room at 15850 Holbein Drive. Information: 488-3603 or www.donala-water.org. Meetings are normally held on the third Thursday of the month.

Jim Kendrick can be reached at jimkendrick@ocn.me.

Donald Wescott Fire Protection District, Feb. 20

New firefighters commissioned; budget ratification follows many questions

By Jennifer Kaylor

Donald Wescott Fire Protection District’s full Board of Directors welcomed new firefighters, corrected a budgetary misstep by conducting a public hearing for residents to register questions and comments about the 2018 budget, ratified the 2018 budget, and passed a resolution calling for a district election at the board’s Feb. 20 meeting.

Attorneys Matt Court and Dino Ross attended.

Career firefighters received into Wescott family

Board Chair Greg Gent led two new firefighters, Stefanie Metcalf and Shawn Ballard, in reciting the firefighter oath. Metcalf and Ballard swore to “faithfully support the Constitution of the United States and of the State of Colorado...” and ... “faithfully perform the

duties and activities of a career firefighter for the Donald Wescott Fire Protection District...”

Public hearing formalized

Wescott officially opened a public hearing to receive input about the 2018 budget. Court declared that notice of the date, time, and location of the current public hearing was published in a newspaper of general circulation in the district, the chief’s staff received email communications regarding ratification of the 2018 budget, and legal counsel did not receive any objections.

Chief Vinny Burns personally apologized and accepted full responsibility for the misstep of not making the budget publicly available and not publishing a notice of public hearing prior to the budget’s ratification in December 2017. He assured meeting attend-



Above: New career firefighters Stefanie Metcalf and Shawn Ballard are sworn in at the Donald Wescott Fire Protection District’s Feb. 20 board meeting. *Photo by Natalie Barszcz.*