

for about \$60,000 to replace a water line that runs from the southern boundary of Douglas County along Academy Road.

Contribution of intern lauded

The council gave a plaque to Sarom Tiev, an intern who volunteered with the town's administrative staff, to thank her for her contributions to the town.

The two meetings for June will be at 6 p.m. on June 14

and 28 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. Jackie Burhans can be reached at jackieburhans@ocn.me.

Forest Lakes Metropolitan District and Pinon Pines Metro Districts 1, 2, and 3 combined Board meeting, May 7

Wastewater rates increase and watering restrictions OK'd; two residents elected to PPMD 1

By Lisa Hatfield

On May 7, the combined boards of Forest Lakes Metropolitan District (FLMD) and Pinon Pines Metro Districts 1, 2, and 3 (PPMD 1, 2, and 3) approved an increase in wastewater rates and voluntary outdoor watering restrictions. The next day, residents voted to add two of their own to the PPMD 1 board.

Forest Lakes is a Title 32 service district in El Paso County. FLMD is the half-acre operating district that collects property taxes and is responsible for the public infrastructure for the residents of PPMD 1 and PPMD 2, which are in unincorporated El Paso County, and PPMD 3, the commercial section, which lies mostly within the southwest town limits of Monument. For background, see www.ocn.me/v17n1.htm#flmd.

Election adds residents to PPMD 1 board

Until the May 8 election, Classic Homes executives have served as the four members of these five-member metro district boards of FLMD, PPMD 1, 2, and 3: President George Lenz, executive vice president of finance of Classic Homes; Secretary James Boulton, vice president/project manager of Classic Homes; Assistant Secretary and Treasurer Doug Stimple, CEO of Classic Homes; and Assistant Secretary Joe Loidolt, president of Classic Homes. There is one vacancy on each board.

But starting in June, PPMD 1 will have two residents on its board: Mike Hitchcock and Mike Slavick, and Boulton will not serve on PPMD 1. See <https://forestlakesmetrodistrict.com/blog/>.

Wastewater rates increased

FLMD held its publicized public hearing on approval of rate increases for its wastewater customers. District Manager Ann Nichols explained that even a rate increase from \$30 to \$35 per month for residential customers was still insufficient to cover operational costs, and she would keep analyzing the situation to see when more increases might be needed. She also said she had not correctly stated the commercial rates and fees, and so those were being increased also. See www.ocn.me/v18n5.htm#flmd.

Nichols said it costs extra money to remove clogs from the lift station that moves wastewater from the residential area, east over the hill, to the Upper Monument Creek Wastewater Treatment facility. It would save residents money if they would stop putting fats, oils, grease, disposable wipes, and dental floss into the sewer system, but put all that in the trash instead.

The board voted unanimously to approve the increase, which will take effect July 1.

Stage 1 watering restrictions in effect

Nichols said that while flows in Beaver Creek are up slightly, the National Weather Service forecasts a very hot and dry summer, and she expects a deficit in flows into Bristlecone Lake.

The rules and regs include water shortage provisions, and she recommended that the board implement Stage 1 water restrictions for residents, which means they can water only three days a week. This stage is completely voluntary, "but it will get people's attention," she said.

The board voted unanimously to activate Stage 1 restrictions. See <https://forestlakesmetrodistrict.com/blog/>.

Irrigation systems may need adjustment

Loidolt said that after the first year of lawn establishment, residents need to change irrigation system settings so they don't turn on every day.

"The roots grow deeper if you water only every other day. Just because the landscaper set it for every day does not mean it should stay that way after one year," Loidolt said.

Surface water treatment plant progress

Tom Blunk of CP Real Estate Capital said that the next phase of work on the surface water treatment plant in Bristlecone Lake would involve a large barge with an excavator to build the lake intake portion. Also, the treatment basins were almost done, so next would be the foundation, walls, and roof of the building. Nichols said the whole surface water treatment plant could be done by the end of December.

The board also unanimously approved an agreement with Tri-Lakes Monument Fire Protection District for emergency use of water from Bristlecone Reservoir.

The meeting adjourned at 10:41 a.m.

The next joint meeting of FLMD and PPMD 1, 2, and 3 is scheduled for 10 a.m. June 4 in the Classic Homes office at 6385 Corporate Drive, Suite 200, Colorado Springs. Meetings are usually held the first Monday of each month. Official meeting notices are posted on the district website <http://forestlakesmetrodistrict.com>, at 3625 Mesa Top Drive, Monument and at the Forest Lakes mailbox kiosk. For general questions, contact Ann Nichols at 719-327-5810 or at anichols-duffy@aol.com.

Lisa Hatfield can be contacted at lisahatfield@ocn.me.

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