

manager during this time. See <https://ocn.me/v18n3.htm#mbot> and <https://www.ocn.me/v18n7.htm#mbot>.

Bornstein suggested they wait until March 2019 and just bring on a full-time manager, skipping the interim manager step altogether, but Elliott said they should act sooner rather than later to take the pressure off Smith having to do two jobs. She suggested the board work with the interim town manager to help them hire a permanent manager. Foreman is on a 120-day contract.

2019 budget approved although challenging

Smith presented the trustees with the final version of the 2019 budget, saying that legally, the board can spend only the expected revenue.

The board unanimously approved all budget-related ordinances including adopting the budget, appropriating money to the various funds for the town, and certifying the property tax mill levy.

Coopman said this year's budget process was difficult and challenging but that he was happy for all the dialogue. He said part of the problem was that the town needs so much and they have delayed approving so many requests. He asked that next year, the directors initiate discussions with the board when they need something. During their Nov. 29 budget workshop, Coopman said in the past, the board used a dry erase board where the public could put up comments and suggestions, and he hoped the public could participate in the process.

The budget includes:

- General Fund—\$7.66 million
- 2A Water Acquisition, Storage, Delivery (ASD)—\$3.47 million
- Water Enterprise Fund—\$4.37 million
- Traffic Impact Fee—\$211,198
- Storm Drainage Impact Fee Fun—\$142,450
- Community Development Fund—\$97,189
- Conservation Trust Fund—\$68,607

Items funded in the 2019 budget include:

For the Police Department:

- Two new police officers were approved by the board during their Nov 29 budget workshop bringing the total officers to 20.
- \$153,000 for police vehicles.
- For the Public Works Department:
- \$306,538 for asphalt repairs.
- \$100,000 for Well 9 engineering for radium removal through the water enterprise fund.
- \$42,000 for a truck replacement.

Additional requests made that were not included in approved 2019 budget:

- Four additional police officers plus a code enforcement officer were requested but not fund-

ed.

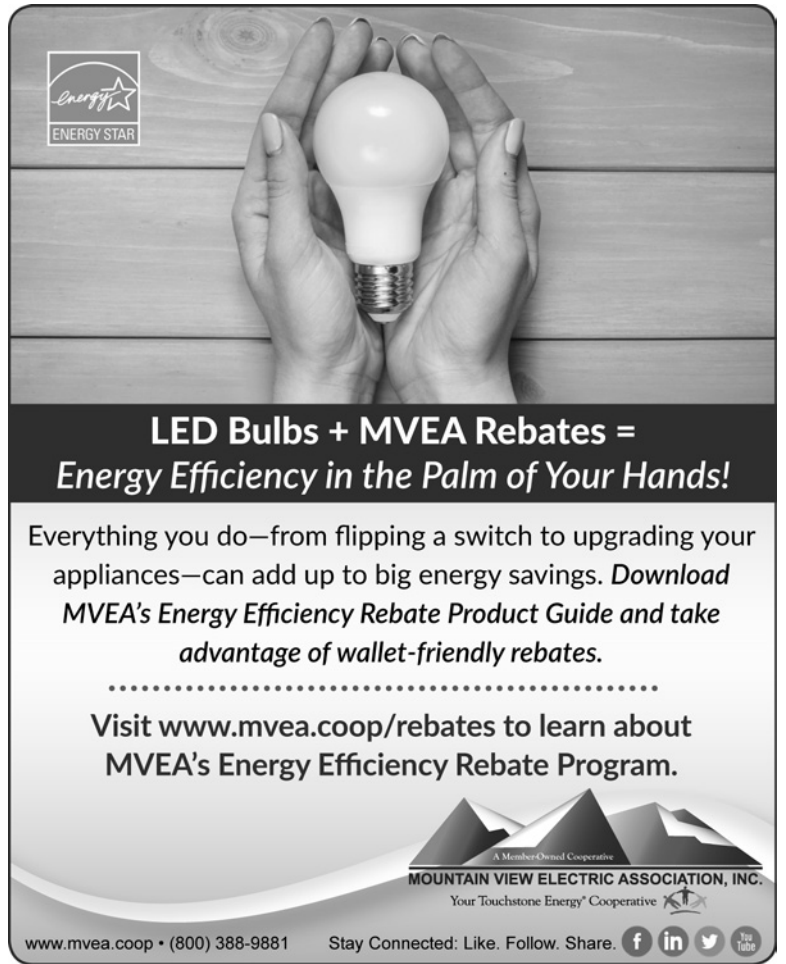
- Ballistic shields, a high priority request from Shirk were not funded for \$1,200.
- \$300,000 was requested for the design of a new Public Works building but not funded. Public Works Director Tom Tharnish said the building will cost \$3 million, so he took 10 percent of that number as design. Coopman said he was not willing to finance this project, and that it should come out of cash on hand.
- Capital projects that were not completed in 2018 coming from the water enterprise fund were not funded. Coopman said these projects are in the budget but that "this budget doesn't necessitate funding of these projects." These include:
 - Booster station, \$800,000
 - Repairs to existing water storage tank roof, \$132,000

Wells 4 and 5 building rehab, \$150,000 During public comments, resident and trustee candidate in the November election Ann Howe expressed her frustration that the public was not able to comment on the budget during workshops, "to say the public had input is a lie and a farce." At the board's Nov. 29 budget workshop, Howe asked if they would be taking public comments, but Wilson told her no. She then asked why the public was invited to the meeting, and he said they are invited to all public meetings held by the BOT, but public comments would only be taken during specific times in regular meetings.

Monument Police Chief Jake Shirk thanked the board for the budget. Bornstein thanked Smith for facilitating the budget process and said although this process is never a win when there's compromise, he thought this year went very well.

To review the 2019 budget,

see <https://townofmonument.org/367/Town-Financials>.



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