

but it passed 5-2. The new hearing is set for Nov. 18.

TLMFPD land annexation process begins

TLMFPD is requesting the land where Station 1 is located to be annexed into the town. Fire Chief Chris Truty told the board the Fire Department plans to construct an addition to the building and renovate the crew's sleeping quarters. The fire station sits on one acre, one-half mile west of Beacon Lite Road on the north side of Highway 105. The land is contiguous to the town on the north and east sides.

On Aug. 9, the Petition for Annexation was filed with the town. Mayor Don Wilson asked about the benefits to the town in annexing this land, but Planning Director Larry Manning said the town is only obligated to annex and did not see any benefits to the town.

Truty told the board the process of approving permits with the county is complicated. "In the past few years, since we've worked to improve relationships, I would rather work with the town with regard to this expansion and future projects," he said.

The request for the annexation hearing was unanimously approved and was set for the Nov. 18 regular board meeting.

Town attorney staff position posting should be out soon

During the July 15 regular meeting, the board had suggested the town begin looking for a full-time attorney because using contract legal services is putting them \$70,000 over budget. Foreman said an attorney who works onsite is more effective for the staff, so the board directed him to put together the requirements for a full-time attorney position.

sition.

Background: In the past, the town has used both on-staff and contract attorneys. Attorney Gary Shupp was the town's "contract attorney" for at least 15 years. In 2017, the trustees suddenly replaced Shupp with "staff attorney" Alicia Corley, who was not reappointed. The town had no legal counsel until it finally appointed Rivera as the town's "contract attorney" in December 2018. See www.ocn.me/v17n7.htm#mbot, www.ocn.me/v18n6.htm#mbot, www.ocn.me/v19n1.htm#mbot.

Since then, Foreman directed HR Director Robert Bishop to develop the position's job description in conjunction with the board. The process now is complete, and they can begin looking for a full-time position to start in 2020.

Public comment

Steve Fleisher expressed concern over acting Police Chief Mark Owens' possible wrongdoing during a recent call for service to his home. Referencing an Aug. 29 article on KKTU 11, Fleisher said El Paso County Sheriff's officers responded to a domestic dispute call at Owens' home, which sits outside the town of Monument. When the sheriff's deputies arrived, on- and off-duty Monument police officers were present. Fleisher was concerned that Mrs. Owens may have been "denied the protection she needed when she called 911." Fleisher encouraged the board to review the situation and urged the town to take the matter seriously.

Volunteers receive recognition

Town Community Relations Specialist Madeline VanDenHoek headed up a project for the town's 140th birthday party June 15 in which volunteers interviewed longtime residents about their



Above: Community Relations Specialist Madeline VanDenHoek (far left) recognized six volunteers who recorded stories of Monument for the town's 140th birthday. From left are Michael Weinfeld, Susan Miner, Sharon Williams, and John Howe. Absent were Linda Case and Sandy Coyne. Photo by Allison Robenstein.

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