

He also offered to install a walking rail in the land he would acquire from the town.

Council member Glant Havenar felt the land added to Glen Park made the exchange desirable. Council member Mark Shuler pointed to the potential risk to the town's water rights.

The council voted not to move forward with the land exchange.

Budget meeting held

As required each year, a public hearing on the town's proposed budget was held at the November meeting.

Town Manager Valerie Remington reviewed the budget process for the

town council. A budget workshop was held, she said, and the adjustments made in that discussion were incorporated in the proposed budget before the council at the November meeting. The proposed budget assumed an overall five percent increase in revenue, Remington said.

Remington said the proposed budget included a five percent increase for the police in 2020 and an additional five percent in 2021. The police chief would receive a pay increase that would put his salary in the lower 10th percentile, Remington said.

Remington estimated the Town Clerk salary would be \$75,000.

Council Members Peggy Mettler, Mark Shuler and Paul Banta all argued for salary increases for town employees.

The council voted unanimously to close the public meeting and to vote on the proposed budget in December after Remington had a chance to make the requested changes.

Charrito's House granted liquor license

The council voted unanimously to transfer an existing liquor license to Francisco Morales, the owner of Charrito's House, which opened at 292 Highway 105, in the space previously

used by The Stube. Morales told the council he has been in the restaurant business for 35 years, and currently has another restaurant in Larkspur.

The council is scheduled to hold only one meeting this month, on December 12 at 6:00 p.m. at Town Hall, 42 Valley Crescent. Meetings are normally held on the second and fourth Thursdays of the month, with the second meeting organized as a working session. For more information call: 481-2953.

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Citizens for a Better Palmer Lake, Nov. 20

Members vote on next steps



Above: Christie Rancher spoke to the Citizens For A Better Palmer Lake group saying she is thankful for this assembly of residents and looks forward to positive changes with regard to the trustees. She stressed the need for the trustees to return to serving the citizens. Rancher said town residents and the board are on the same side, but she's noticed social media "frenzy" of taking sides and calling one another names. *Photo by Allison Robenstein*

By Allison Robenstein

The Citizens for a Better Palmer Lake (CFABPL) group held a meeting to review 2019 accomplishments and decide on the next move forward. Trish Flake identified four options at the Nov 20 meeting. Palmer Lake Mayor John Cressman attended the meeting, but did not speak.

So far, the group has asked the town for information under the Colorado Open Records Act, requested policy and procedure changes, and called for a forensic audit on the fire mill levy collected specifically for fire department operations. Flake said, "We're still

struggling" with regard to seeing positive actions from the Board of Trustees.

Trish Flake identified four possible objectives to accomplish next. They include:

- Continue in the same manner bringing concerns to the board during regular meetings.
- Recall the mayor or the entire board. This would require residents' signatures to force a ballot measure in the next election.
- Ask the district attorney to begin an investigation into the town.
- Provide letters of no confidence to the board for Trustee Gary Faust

and Cressman and for Town Attorney Maureen Juran. These letters would identify issues the group has with each individual, putting the burden on the board to take action.

CFABPL claims Faust and Cressman have ignored their fiduciary duties, including a lack of budget oversight, have co-mingled funds with regard to the 10-mill fire bond, and attempted to disband the fire department in favor of a merger with Tri-Lakes Monument Fire Protection District. Members of the Volunteers for the Public Safety Committee say Faust went behind their backs to create a public survey. Cressman is also accused of profiting personally from work done for the town.

The group claims Juran named town manager Valerie Remington the

town CEO and contends she's been working on tasks without first getting board approval. Resident Meredith "Kit" Bromfield said she had seen the attorney's contract with the town, but the name on it was Jill M. Hassman, not Maureen Juran. The attorney's contract expires in January of 2020, so the group is hoping she will be replaced.

Trustee Bob Mutu said the board needs time to get organized. "Give us a chance," he said.

Ultimately, the group voted to send letters of no confidence to the board for Faust, Cressman, and Juran. It was also agreed the group's representatives would meet with the district attorney for advice only.

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