

or three years. Cost estimates for potable water have not been determined.

**40-year storage contract official**

Petersen confirmed that he had received the finalized 40-year storage contract between Donala and the Bureau of Reclamation. The contract reflects that the bureau allows the district to store its water in the Pueblo Reservoir without having to apply for temporary, short-term contracts.

The district is waiting on a proposed agreement with Pueblo County that is another step that Donala needs to complete to make the Pueblo Reservoir storage a reality.

**Criminal activity tightens in-house fiscal procedures**

As a result of check forgeries written against the district's bank account, Petersen informed the directors that internal accounting procedures now include a

daily end-of-business treasury monitoring process in which all checks written for the day are reported. Donala received full reimbursement of two of the fraudulent checks that totaled \$121,040 and were cashed in Texas and Michigan. Petersen speculated that the perpetrator—likely to still be at-large—is a professional, judging by the level of sophistication of the forgeries.

**Additional items**

- Commissioner Holly Williams was scheduled to attend the Feb. 21 board meeting, but a recent injury prevented her attendance. Petersen acknowledged that he will reschedule with the commissioner when full board attendance can be expected.
- Phase one of the Gleneagle water main replacement project is complete except for landscape clean-up, etc. The contractor bid for phase two—from Mission Hill Way to just past Rangely Drive—will likely be awarded in March.
- The Donala board and several staff attended the Colorado Water Congress. It provided a forum to hear from newly elected House and Senate legislators as well as networking opportunities.
- The next Arkansas Basin Roundtable is scheduled for March 13. Directors Ken Judd and Ed Houle plan to attend with Petersen. April 24 and

25 mark the dates for the Arkansas River Basin Conference. All directors are encouraged to attend.

- Petersen reported that G&S Development's stormwater mitigation plan had been accepted and anticipated final plat approval from the El Paso County Planning Commission and Board of County Commissioners by late February. This will complete development of the final 12 lots on the former Gleneagle Golf Course.
- The 2018 Statement of Revenues and Expenditures for Donala Water showed that total budgeted expenses and capital projects reconciled within .97 percent of actual expenses and capital projects.

The meeting adjourned at 3:28 p.m.

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The next board meeting will be held March 21, 1:30 p.m. at the district office located at 15850 Holbein Drive, Colorado Springs. The directors meet in the district office conference room. Board meetings are normally held on the third Thursday of the month. More information is available by calling (719)488-3603 or accessing [www.donalawater.org](http://www.donalawater.org).

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**Monument Board of Trustees, Feb. 4**

**Town attorney working extra hours; historic arch coming down**

*By Allison Robenstein*

At its first meeting of February, the Monument Board of Trustees (BOT) reviewed the town attorney's workload. They also heard disturbing news about the historic Monument arch and listened to department presentations.

**Attorney time/work reviewed**

Before approving the consent agenda, the board highlighted an invoice to discuss later that was from Murray, Dahl, Beery and Renaud LLP, Town Attorney Joseph Rivera's firm. The invoice reflected his work for the town for December 2018. The invoice totaling almost 80 hours of work was \$15,659.49, exceeding the 2018 budget for legal fees, which had been set at \$15,000.

Mayor Pro Tem Kelly Elliott and Trustee Greg Coopman asked for the invoice to be approved in the consent agenda, but to discuss the work done by Rivera. Coopman wanted to be more informed of the work Rivera is doing, while Elliott wondered if there was a way to decrease the requests that board members made of Rivera.

Coopman responded with, "I think we need to be mindful of the budget, but we also need legal advice. No one should be denied legal guidance." During public comments, resident Terry Molnar expressed his concern that the majority might overrule a board member from getting legal questions answered.

At the Dec 17 meeting, Rivera revealed he had been sent many emails from the board to have legal questions answered that could have gone through the town staff and not charged the town for his time. During that meeting, the board agreed to have any BOT questions go first to Foreman for him to discern whether he could obtain an answer in-house.

"I think it's important that all the trustees know what questions are being asked. We aren't using this budget smartly and should have a protocol," said Trustee Jeffrey Bornstein. Foreman agreed with a suggestion from Mayor Don

Wilson to add a section to his monthly report to include Rivera's workload.

**Third Street arch concerns**

Public Works Director Tom Tharnish told the board the arch over Third Street is structurally unsound and he is concerned it may topple in the wind. After inspecting and filming the arch moving during a recent wind storm, Tharnish said it seems to be swaying at an alarming rate and doesn't meet construction standards.

He asked the board for permission to deconstruct the arch and perhaps put up a newer model. Coopman asked Tharnish and Foreman to get three bids for demolition before proceeding.

Tharnish said it will take some communication between various entities to take it down because the electricity would most likely need to be shut off near the arch since power lines are only feet away.

**Department presentations provide present and future goals**

At the end of 2018, the board encouraged department directors to make presentations throughout the year to keep trustees informed. Tonight, the Public Works and Planning Departments presented their current standings and upcoming goals.

Tharnish said his department's mission is to provide maintenance and service to water, streets, parks, and the cemetery. There are 13 full-time staff members, plus eight seasonal and summer workers, and two part-time employees. Public Works does the following:

- Operates four water treatment plants and nine wells. The upgrade to Wells 4 and 5 were completed in 2018 at a cost of \$924,000.
- Supports 208 fire hydrants and over 35 miles of water transmission lines.
- Maintains a million-gallon water tank that supplies the town with drinking water.
- Uses a variety of large vehicles including six

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**FOUNDATION MONUMENT HILL**  
**We Would Like to Help You!**  
The Monument Hill Foundation, the charitable arm of the Monument Hill Kiwanis Club, will accept 2019 grant requests from interested applicants from April 1 thru May 15.  
Grants will be awarded for applicant projects determined to best advance the Foundation's mission of supporting youth and community, especially in El Paso County and the Tri-Lakes area.  
To complete an application online and to obtain instructions for this granting year, go to:  
[www.monumenthillkiwanis.org/forms/mhf\\_grants](http://www.monumenthillkiwanis.org/forms/mhf_grants)

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