

plant.

Six northern sanitation districts and two local wastewater treatment facilities could also be affected by this project, which could save residents money by avoiding the need to further upgrade local plants to meet expensive anticipated future regulations, which CSU's facilities can already meet. Monument Sanitation District (MSD) approved being a partner in the project in November. Triview Metropolitan District also signed an agreement to join in December, while other districts in the area are still in discussions with their respective boards and regional entities. See [www.ocn.me/v18n12.htm#msd](http://www.ocn.me/v18n12.htm#msd), [www.ocn.me/v19n1.htm#tumd](http://www.ocn.me/v19n1.htm#tumd).

Bishop said the overall project cost is \$35 million to \$42 million as far north as the Academy, with about \$11 million to be split among the smaller northern sanitation districts if they choose to participate. Additional costs will include extending lines from their districts to the NMCI and charges for wastewater treatment.

Bishop said a reasonable completion date for the pipeline from the Visitor Center to CSU's treatment facility would be 2021. To learn more about the Visitor Center, see [www.cityforchampions.com/project/gateway-at-falcon-stadium-visitors-center/](http://www.cityforchampions.com/project/gateway-at-falcon-stadium-visitors-center/).

She said one of the still unanswered questions is how regional drinking water providers would receive their valuable "return flows" in cases where they own water rights but can't currently use them. Donala Water and Sanitation District already has a return pipe in place from CSU that could be used for these extensions. The largest obstacle could be completion of complicated water rights negotiations and intergovernmental agreements. Reusing water would minimize the need to pull water from the aquifers, slowing their depletion.

Tharnish made sure the board knows the town is only interested in the water return flows aspect, not any sewage treatment components, since MSD is a separate Title 32 entity from the town's water system. The consensus of the trustees was that this was an exciting project to have under consideration.

**District 38 planning for growth**

Lewis Palmer School District 38 Assistant Superintendent Cheryl Wangeman presented short- and mid-term plans for facilities and growth. This came as a result of the board being asked to reconsider annexing the Willow Springs development and how the new homes would affect the school district. See <https://ocn.me/v19n3.htm#mbot>.

Wangeman said she would be leaving the district this spring, just as Superintendent Karen Brofft is retiring. See <https://ocn.me/v19n2.htm#d38>.

Templeton Demographics (TD) provides the district with demographic analysis of area housing trends. Wangeman noted annual house closings in the area have been highest for the Kilmer and Bear Creek elementary school districts. According to TD, there are almost 2,800 planned future lots over the next 10 years, with the highest number in the Bear Creek elementary area. Of the 10 future subdivisions, Home Place Ranch, Forest Lakes,

Monument Heights, Wagons West, Jackson Creek, and Sanctuary Pointe plan over 1,500 homes altogether and all are in the current Bear Creek school designation.

Because the district's two revenue-producing ballot initiatives failed last year, Wangeman said they have had to identify short-term solutions to overcrowding in the middle and elementary schools. See <https://ocn.me/v18n12.htm#d38>.

The district plans to use modular units as classrooms at Lewis-Palmer middle school and three elementary schools—Bear Creek, Lewis Palmer and Kilmer—at a cost of \$708,800. All units will have security installed, as well as A/C, heat, carpeting and restrooms so that students taught within the modular are not at a learning disadvantage. Students will still come into the main school for lunch, for gym, and to access the library.

Wangeman mentioned that some school boundary changes are being considered and described how the Grace Best facility is being used. She also educated the board on requirements for preschools in elementary schools and how it changes the space equations. No new K-8 students will be accepted for open enrollment from outside the district during the 2019-20 school year, she said.

The board asked how to improve communication between the trustees and the school board. Wangeman suggested Foreman and the soon-to-be-named new superintendent should meet quarterly, and both boards should meet as they did in the past. See related *Lewis-Palmer Board of Education* article on page 12.

**Attorney fees**

Rivera's six-page invoice for January included color coding to differentiate among costs associated with Trustee Clark's attorney, including a litigation hold letter she filed and her claims against the town; resident Howe's questions about Romanello's residency; as well as questions from the Board of Trustees, and town departments. The Murry, Dahl, Beery & Renaud LLP, town attorney fees totaled \$9,956. Note: A litigation hold letter may threaten or cause a lawsuit to be filed and typically requests evidence to be saved possibly to be used in a suit. See <https://monumenttownco.documents-on-demand.com/> for the complete March 4 board packet.

The board went into executive session at 8:02 p.m. to discuss the Forest Lakes Phase II planned unit development as it relates to the town's subsurface water rights and its ability to acquire the water. This issue came to the board's attention at the last meeting when Rivera said he had to quickly object to the development moving forward until the reservation of water rights was accomplished. This is the second executive session the board has held on this topic. See <https://ocn.me/v19n3.htm#mbot0219>. According to Town Clerk Laura Hogan, no votes were taken and the meeting was adjourned immediately after the session concluded.

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**Monument Board of Trustees, March 18**  
**Permanent town manager approved**

By Allison Robenstein

The Monument Board of Trustees (BOT) moved to hire interim town manager Mike Foreman as the permanent town manager on March 18. Trustees also voted unanimously to comply with an ongoing El Paso County Sheriff's Office (EPCSO) investigation, working in association with the FBI and the IRS, and authorized Town Attorney Joseph Rivera to do the same. They also spent an hour discussing and arguing over proposed changes to existing resolutions and ordinances started at the last meeting by Trustee Laurie Clark.

**Permanent town manager job offered to Foreman**

After an executive session in which the board discussed the interim town manager position, they came back to open session to approve offering Foreman the job permanently and head into contract negotiations with him. The vote was 6-1, with Trustee Greg Coopman voting against and saying he did not agree with the current process but did not elaborate further.

**Investigation into town finances moves forward**

Another executive session was held to receive legal advice from Rivera regarding an ongoing investigation by the EPCSO. Upon returning to open meeting, Trustee Jim Romanello made a motion to comply with the investigation with the assistance of both the FBI and IRS, authorizing Rivera to proceed. The motion passed unanimously. See <https://ocn.me/v19n1.htm#mbot> and related March 4 BOT article on page 16.

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