

MONUMENT (Cont. from 1)

year." Radium-226 and Radium-228 are the most common isotopes found in water.

The well in question provides 28% of the town's water. According to the ordinance, Forsgren Associates would experiment with the "EPA's list of Best Available Technologies and Small System Compliance Technologies for radium removal" to find the best method to reduce or eliminate radium in the finished water product. "These proven technologies include ion exchange (regenerative and single-use), lime softening, electrodialysis reversal, pre-formed hydrous manganese oxide (HMO) filtration, activated alumina, coagulation/filtration and reverse osmosis. Each technology has a unique set of advantages and disadvantages which we will evaluate specifically for the town's situation, and then help narrow the list to three or four potential technologies for closer evaluation," reads the ordinance language.

Once a plan for radium reduction or removal has been created, the town will need to build the system.

Background: Radium is a naturally occurring element in our Western landscape, referred to as a naturally occurring radioactive material (NORM). It can be carried in water as it flows through the ground. Other substances including barium, copper, and lead are also found in water naturally and tested by the CDPHE. Surface water, such as in ponds and streams, can carry contaminants such as disinfectant and pesticides. Mining production can cause radioactive materials such as radium to be overly processed and concentrated

through mining processes, referred to as technologically enhanced naturally occurring radioactive materials (TE-NORM). The maximum allowed radium in drinking water is 5 picocuries per liter.

Monument water is provided by the town's Public Works Department covering the west side of town. All other local water and sanitation districts, including the Triview Metropolitan District and Woodmoor Water and Sanitation, are dealing with the similar radium issues as the town, although they may have more ability to solve the problem quicker. See www.ocn.me/v19n10.htm#wwsd.

For every year but one, the town has been in compliance with not just radium but also other substances mentioned above. See www.ocn.me/v17n4.htm#mbot. In that case, the town used a dilution process to reduce the amount of radium in the overall water supply.

During the heated discussion, Trustee Greg Coopman suggested the board needs to know more about this long-term problem. Mayor Don Wilson asked why the EPA would tell Bornstein about this concern but not share the information with the town water employees.

Foreman said the town can use \$700,000 in the budget to remediate, and he will bring options to the board for review.

Oath of office for new police chief

Chief of Police Sean Hemingway took the oath of office, saying, "I am truly humbled and honored for this great opportunity. I'd just like to say as I get pinned, I reflect on my responsibility

to ensure the highest level of service to this community."

Rosa Ooms named employee of the month for January

Finance Director Rosa Ooms was named employee of the month for January by Foreman. He said Ooms arrived during a time of transition in the Finance Department, and in only five months has prepared the budget, saw it through to adoption and sent it to the state, calculated the property tax mill levy, completed year-end payroll, sent filings to the IRS and state, and continues to fix past accounting issues to make records as complete and correct as possible.

New Public Works facility is moving forward

Tharnish told the board the site for the proposed new Public Works facility requires soil testing in several locations. The building will be located along Synthes and Mitchell Avenues. Ground Engineering will perform geotechnical subsurface exploration for \$10,900, which is part of the approved budget. A total of 12 holes will be dug to determine the facility footprint as well as out structures including the sand/salt holding structure, cold storage, wash structure, fleet parking, and the detention pond.

Trustee Laurie Clark asked if the testing will affect existing utilities, but Tharnish said there are no utilities on the property yet.

Other items discussed and/or approved

The board discussed changing the time limit for public comments during hearings that now allows them to speak for only three minutes. Wilson said there has been confusion on the issue since a previous board approved a longer time period for people to speak but never codified the vote with a resolution.

Coopman said, "We don't want to limit public input for or against an ordinance" and asked if Foreman knew the board had instructed staff to create rules around this subject four years ago.

Bornstein supported continued public comments but suggested that repeated comments that might halt the forward process of the hearing should be managed by the mayor. Town Attorney Joseph Rivera told the board during a hearing that the mayor acts as judge and he can do what is necessary to keep things moving along. Wilson said, "We will not stick to a timeline unless it is being abused."

Trustee Ron Stephens was in favor of extending the time from three to five minutes but also didn't want to give the impression that someone can filibuster this meeting. "I'm in favor of using the

mayor's discretion to continue if the information is new and informative," he said.

Planning Director Larry Manning asked the board to approve a perpetual easement for Porchlight Properties LLC along Second Street and Beacon Lite Road where an existing commercial property now sits. The developer would like to develop more commercial property to the south and requires perpetual access for roadway that is owned by the town. Manning told the board, "Future development will provide additional property tax revenue, sales tax revenue, and impact fees."

Adam Fletcher, representing Porchlight, said they are looking at purchasing the property from Diversity, which owns the existing property that includes a paved driveway that has been crossing town property for about 15 years. The request passed unanimously.

Hemingway told the board the Police Department received a police training grant for \$7,400 through POST (Police Officer Standard Training) that will be used to purchase arrest control training materials, tables, chairs and computers in the training room, and Explorer uniforms.

During public comments, Haley Chapin, executive director of Tri-Lakes Cares, thanked the board, town manager and police, delivering certificates of support to the three.

On March 2, the Town of Monument put out the following statement regarding its drinking water: "The Town of Monument's drinking water is routinely tested and meets and exceeds all standards established by the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment (CDPHE). All Town of Monument water customers receive Consumer Confidence Reports (CCR) each year. These reports provide details on the quality of our drinking water, and they can be found on <https://townof-monument.org/> (or can be obtained at Town Hall). In the most recent CCR, all measured standards are compliant. Colorado's drinking water standards are higher than those established by the Environmental Protection Agency. Colorado is a "primacy" state, which allows the CDPHE to regulate drinking water standards statewide.

"The town is investing \$700,000 to work with the CDPHE to address increasing radium (an element that naturally occurs in well water) levels that have been detected in water tests done since 2017. Any questions or concerns can be directed to our Public Works Director Thomas Tharnish at 719-884-8039, or ttharnish@tomgov.org."

The Monument Board of Trustees usu-

The New Year is Here

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Start Time: 6:30 pm
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All films are FREE, but we do ask you to register online for planning purposes.

3190 Benet Lane, Colorado Springs, CO 80921
(719) 633-0655
www.benethillmonastery.org

