

could be absent. "I strongly encourage you to take the time and don't give in to the pressure to do that," he said.

Note: Should Foreman become ill during this emergency, Public Works Director Tom Tharnish would take over as acting town manager, followed by Town Clerk Laura Hogan. Police Chief Sean Hemingway is third in the succession.

Stephens said he is concerned evacuations might cause the disease to spread outside a contained area if people are required to move out of their homes and seek shelter elsewhere. Foreman said his staff works together to make critical decisions.

The declaration will stay in place until the board votes to cancel it.

The resolution was unanimously approved.

Remote meeting approval

During this pandemic, the board agreed to hold virtual meetings to the extent necessary.

Trustee Jim Romanello said because the board has such sweeping authority, "if this Legislature is cut off and we can't meet, that's a problem."

The wording in the resolution reads: "To the extent possible, the meeting audio and video will be available so that all actions being taken can be heard, and where appropriate, commented upon by the public."

The town will be using the Cisco Webex Meeting application. For installation directions, go to the board packet for this meeting at <https://tinyurl.com/rwf4gp7>.

This request also passed 5-0.

Checks over \$5,000

The following checks were approved on consent:

- Plan Tools, land development code updates, \$7,997
- Tri-Lakes Silver Alliance, sponsorship, \$12,000
- Tri-Lakes Chamber of Commerce, quarterly sponsorship, \$12,500
- D2C Architects, Public Works facility, \$35,677
- Dell Marketing L.P., IT supplies, \$5,365
- Murray, Dahl, Beery and Renaud, 2019 legal services, \$21,440
- Lexipol LLC, law enforcement policy manual update, \$5,472
- TPX Communications, managed services, \$10,697
- Triview Metropolitan District, taxes, \$149,887

- Trax Construction, concrete repairs, \$24,357
- Automated Ballot Concepts, election services, \$6,225

The meeting adjourned at 6:30 pm

The Monument Board of Trustees normally meets at 6:30 p.m. on the first and third Mondays of each month at Monument Town Hall, 645 Beacon Lite Road. The public can watch the Mon., April 6 meeting via YouTube Channel <https://bit.ly/2N3a3Cw>. Call 719-884-8014 or see www.townofmonument.org for information. To see upcoming agendas and complete board packets for the BOT or to download audio recordings of past meetings, see <http://monumenttownco.minutesondemand.com> and click on Board of Trustees.

Allison Robenstein can be reached at allisonrobenstein@ocn.me.

Palmer Lake Town Council, March 12, 25, and 26

Town hires architects and an attorney

By James Howald and Jackie Burhans
The Palmer Lake Town Council met three times in March: Its monthly meeting was held on March 12, a special meeting was held on March 25 to pass a resolution allowing the council to meet online using Zoom to accommodate the corona virus pandemic, and the final meeting was held on March 26.

At the March 12 meeting, Shana Ball gave the council an update on progress made by the Fire Safety Committee, of which she is a member, in planning improvements to the Palmer Lake Volunteer Fire Department

(PLVFD). The council also passed a resolution defining who needs to be consulted when a business applies for a liquor license.

At the March 26 meeting, the council voted to hire Matthew Krob, the town's interim attorney, as permanent town attorney.

Architects for Fire and Police building chosen

At the March 12 meeting, Ball told the council that the Fire Safety Committee had selected John Cameron and Bill Fisher to design the proposed headquarters that will house both the Fire and Police Departments. Cameron and

Fisher have experience with the bond issues required by such projects, Ball said. She asked the council to approve \$5,000 so Cameron and Fisher can begin work.

Council member Mark Schuler made a motion to authorize Town Administrator Bob Radosevich to sign a contract with Cameron and Fisher.

At the same meeting, Ball asked the council to approve \$20,000 for her purchase of upgraded radios for PLVFD. A grant proposal for funds from FEMA to purchase radios was not successful, Ball said.

The council voted unanimously to approve the funds for the radios.

Council selects new town attorney

At the online meeting held on March 26, the council decided to hire Matthew Z. Krob, of Krob Law Office LLC, to serve as the town's temporary attorney before the decision was made. Council members Paul Banta, Patricia Mettler, Bob Mutu, Susan Miner, and Glant Havenar all spoke favorably about their experience with

Krob over the past several weeks.

The vote to hire Krob as the town attorney was unanimous.

Liquor license process updated

At the March 12 meeting, the council voted unanimously to define who needs to be asked for input when a business applies for a new liquor license. Everyone within a 1,000 foot radius will be asked their opinion under the ordinance.

The council is tentatively scheduled to hold two meetings in April, on April 9 and 23, at 6 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. Information: 481-2953. Please check the town website at www.townofpalmerlake.com for information on whether and how the meetings will be conducted.

James Howald can be reached at jameshowald@ocn.me.

Jackie Burhans can be reached at jackieburhans@ocn.me.

Donald Wescott Fire Protection District special meeting, March 17

Local emergency disaster preparations approved

By Allison Robenstein

The Donald Wescott Fire Protection District (DWFPD) held a special meeting March 17 to approve an emergency declaration. The board also approved virtual public meetings as an alternative to face-to-face meetings.

Assistant Battalion Chief Scott Ridings was excused.

Virtual public meetings

Chairman Mark Gunderman suggested the board approve the option to hold regular meetings online during the COVID-19 pandemic. Board Attorney Michelle Ferguson said as long as the district can post notices consistently to let the public know of meeting options, this is a viable solution.

The board unanimously approved the request.

Local Emergency Disaster Declaration

Chief Vinny Burns asked the board to approve a Local Emergency Disaster Declaration, which will allow the department to request federal and state

funding for unexpected expenses during the COVID-19 pandemic, including overtime or supplies.

Burns said, "Given the disaster emergency, the request doesn't mean we are currently in a disaster, but what it does for us as a district, puts us in line" for funds, though he stressed there is no guarantee they will receive the funding.

This declaration was also unanimously approved.

The meeting adjourned at 4:12 pm.

The next Donald Wescott fire district meeting is scheduled for April 21. During the COVID-19 pandemic, meetings will be either at Station 1, 15415 Gleneagle Dr. Meetings or virtual meetings. They are usually on the third Tuesday of each month at 7 p.m. For information, call Executive Administrator Stacey Popovich at 488-8680 or see www.wescottfire.org.

Allison Robenstein can be reached at allisonrobenstein@ocn.me.

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