

DONALA (Cont. from 14)

next board meeting is scheduled for 1:30 p.m. Sept. 17. The meeting may be held in person or as an online video meeting depending on the status of coronavi-

MONUMENT (Cont. from 1)

- The evaluations identified high liability policies, including the habit of having only a single officer on the road per shift. Hemingway said this deployment strategy is illegal in some states.
- Of the 19 officers in the department, 13 have been in Monument less than two years. Some were released from training early to get on the road as soon as possible without shift supervision. The practice creates vicarious liability. Hemingway has split the town into three districts or zones with an officer working in each one.
- Grant opportunities are limited because many require a substantial financial match.
- Based on calls for service, this is one of the safest communities in the state.
- Some tasks performed by officers may be "civilianized," meaning civilian workers will take them over, leaving more officers on the road.

If approved, the tax increase would pay for capital improvements and additional officers. A full list of all requests and the associated costs can be viewed at <https://tinyurl.com/y4uexfnq>. These include:

- Three new officers and one sergeant.
- Personal protective equipment including vests, firearms, and body cameras.
- Vehicles on a replacement schedule, plus new vehicles for new officers.
- Report-writing software and the associated records management system.
- Hand-held radios and in-car systems.
- Less lethal methods of arrest control, such as 40mm bean bag launchers and tasers that will also follow a replacement schedule.

Both Mayor Don Wilson and Trustee Jim Romanello asked to see the ongoing maintenance and replacement schedules for capital items, both saying they didn't know these items were on such a schedule. The Police Department has asked to replace vehicles and other personal protective equipment through the years, but these are often removed from the finalized budget. Town Manager Mike Foreman said that last year \$700,000 was cut from the final budget, most of which were police requests.

Wilson said he would have liked to see comparisons to other local agencies with regard to calls for service and the number of officers who work per shift. Hemingway explained he isn't thinking about comparisons to other agencies, just to national standards, noting he intends to "make this agency as good as it can be and be at or above the national standard."

During the Aug. 10 workshop, Trustee Laurie Clark read a lengthy statement saying she had performed an analysis on the Police Department's needs and found the requested tax increase should be .89 to .99% of one cent. "I've actually done a poll and the

rus restrictions; call (719)488-3603 or access www.donalawater.org to receive up-to-date meeting information. The district office is located at 15850 Holbein Drive, Colorado Springs, CO, 80921. When the board meets in person, meetings are held in the district of-

office conference room. See <https://www.donalawater.org/> to access prior meeting minutes and the 2020 meeting calendar.

Jennifer Kaylor may be reached at jenniferkaylor@ocn.me.

people are fine with a whole penny. They want safety very badly," she said and added "we don't feel safe right now."

Trustees Ron Stephens, Romanello and Mitch LaKind said they also polled their constituents, who were in favor of a smaller increase, perhaps up to half a penny at the most. Stephens said his constituents likened the continued requests for government money to "socialist creep."

Mayor Pro Tem Kelly Elliott said, "I feel very safe in Monument. I see a police presence and am pleased to see a police presence; I have no worries about the safety of the citizens." Romanello agreed.

When it came time to vote, all board members were in favor of asking for more than the original .25% increase. Elliott said, "I don't think we should settle for .25. I'm a proponent of .50." The board unanimously voted to ask voters for an increase in sales tax from 3% to 3.5%.

Water projects may be financed with \$20 million bond

During an Aug. 24 water workshop, members of the board were updated on the over \$26 million in water-related tasks the town needs to perform.

Foreman said numerous projects on hold for the past six to eight years need attention. Tom Tharnish, Public Works director, identified all the town's needs with regard to either bringing new water into the town or maintaining existing infrastructure. Water projects are typically funded through either the 2A Water Fund or the Water Enterprise Fund, which continue to bring in new revenue but not enough to complete all the projects.

Nate Eckloff, managing director of Piper Sandler, is doing an interest rate review for the board so that bonds can be issued before the November election. A second water workshop is scheduled for Tuesday, Sept. 8 at which time Tharnish will present a list of projects in order of necessity. Foreman asked the board to provide direction on these at the next meeting.

Home Place Ranch replat requested

The board heard a request for a replat of two lots on the Home Place Ranch property situated along Baptist Road, north of Promontory Point and west of Sanctuary Point. Brian Bahr, manager of Wooded Vistas LLC, the owner of the land, would like to build two homes for his family on the lots. See www.ocn.me/v19n12.htm#mbo.

The sketch plan for the development was approved in 2006, and final site plans for the southern portion of the land were approved by the board Nov. 18 for 300 single-family homes.

The formal change request reads, "Although Petitioner desires to retain the entitlement of the approved Sketch Plan, realities of available infrastructure will likely prevent development of the 109 acres for 10 or 12 more years."

Monument Planner Debbie Flynn explained that this change doesn't respect numerous town ordinances requiring developers to conform to the town's planning process.

Planning Director Larry Manning agreed with Flynn saying the request is highly unusual. "The town is counting on a certain kind of development based upon the approved plan," he said.

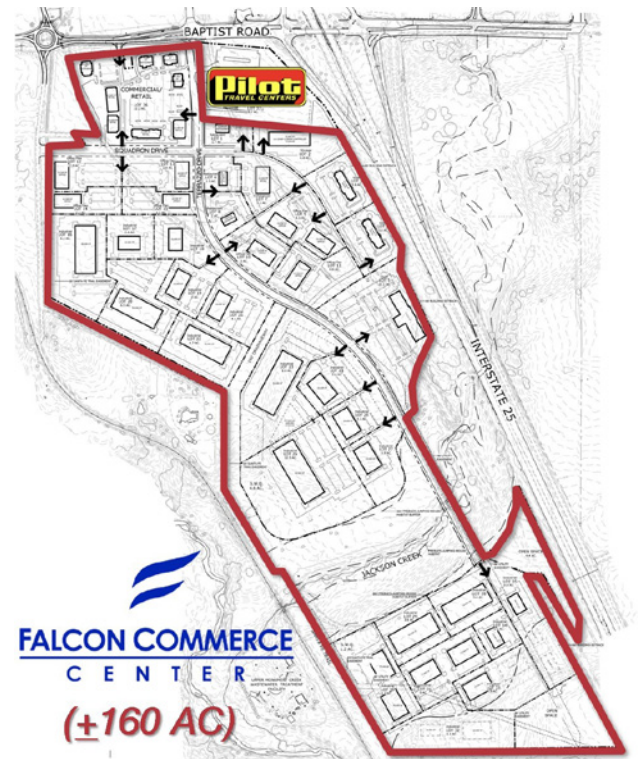
LaKind was concerned the board's decision could set a precedent for future changes to sketch plans af-

ter they have been approved, but Wilson seemed less concerned since this isn't a frequent request.

The board unanimously voted to grant an exemption to the ordinance and approve the request for the replat.

Falcon Commerce Center rezone and sketch plan

Andrea Barlow of NES Inc. and Flynn requested approval of the Falcon Commerce Center rezone and sketch plan. The 214-acre project is south of Baptist Road, west of I-25 and north of the U.S. Air Force Academy, just west of Pilot Flying J. In 1989, the land was zoned Planned Industrial Development, but this zoning is no longer recognized by the town, so the request is for a rezone to Planned Development.



Above: A 214-acre parcel of land has been approved for mostly commercial development along the west side of I-25, just east of the Forest Lakes development. Map courtesy of Town of Monument.

In general, the majority of the property will be commercial development, but there might be one 43-acre residential area that includes 15 dwelling units per acre with a maximum of 640 housing units.

The land is part of Pinon Pines Metropolitan District 3 (PPMD3), a commercial district operated by board members President George Lenz, executive vice president of finance of Classic Homes; Secretary James Boulton, vice president/project manager of Classic Homes; Assistant Secretary and Treasurer Doug Stimple, CEO of Classic Homes; and Assistant Secretary Joe Loidolt, president of Classic Homes. This development, including Pilot Flying J, pays a public infrastructure fee to PPMD3 and sales tax to the town. See www.ocn.me/v17n6.htm#flmd.

The Planning Commission approved the request at its July 22 meeting. See <https://www.ocn.me/v20n8.htm#mpc>.

The Pinon Pines Metropolitan District 3 service plan, organized on July 24, 2003, notes that maintenance for common areas including all paved surfaces, snow removal, sweeping, and repairing roads is the responsibility of the district.

The board unanimously approved the rezone and sketch plans.

New special events permitting process

Deputy Clerk Erica Romero asked the board to approve a new special events permitting process. Currently, anyone can use the bandshell in Limbach Park at any time unless there is alcohol or over 100 people in attendance. Town staff didn't think they needed to know about smaller events, but this has been problematic when additional resources such as electricity are requested as an event is in progress.

Romero asked the board to require a reservation for any bandshell event.

Stephens asked that the number of attendees just be reduced to 50 people, rather than making the requirement for all bandshell needs. Wilson appeared to disagree with the request as it might infringe upon people's right to assemble. In the end, the request passed 4-2 with Stephens and Wilson voting against.

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