



**Above:** Incoming Palmer Lake Board of Trustees members, from left, Nicole Currier, Jessica Farr, Sam Padgett, and Karen Stuth take their oaths of office. Photo by James Howald

Returning Trustee Glant Havenar gave Cressman a card from the trustees, and outgoing Trustee Susan Miner gave some words of advice to the new trustees: "Never lose sight of the fact that you have been given a very precious and very fragile gift—trust. . . . Your agenda should be all about them not you . . . Take your oath very seriously."

**New mayor and trustees sworn in; Cressman honored with proclamation**

Following the recess for dinner, Collins swore in Bill Bass as mayor, after which Bass took Cressman's seat at the table. Handing Bass the gavel, Cressman said "It's all yours!"

Bass and Collins then swore in new trustees Padgett, Farr, Stuth, and Currier, who replaced Banta, Schuler, Miner and Mettler at the table.

Bass then read a proclamation honoring Cressman for his steadfast leadership and for serving eight years as mayor and another eight years on the Planning Commission, for contributing to projects done by the Water Department and the Parks Department and for serving on the Pikes Peak Area Council of Governments (PPACG) and the Tri-Lakes Chamber of Commerce.

The newly seated board and the audience stood to applaud Cressman for his service to the town.

**Mayor pro tem elected**

Havenar and Padgett were both nominated to serve as mayor pro tem. Padgett won with four votes from Bass, Currier, Farr, and Padgett. Havenar received three votes from trustees Stuth, Mutu, and Havenar. The mayor pro tem acts in place of the mayor when the mayor is unavailable.

**2021 budget adopted and mill levies certified**

The board voted unanimously to pass Resolution 23-2020, which formally adopted the 2021 budget that had been discussed in previous meetings, and certified the town's total mill levy

to 21.238 mills, with 11.238 mills going to general operating expenses and 10.00 mills going to the town's Fire Department. The total revenue from the mill levies will be \$813,328.

**Highlights of staff reports**

Staff and trustee reports included these points:

- Plans have been received for the project to repair the Town Hall, and town administration is working on approving the plan and obtaining bids to do the work.
- Plans to build an Americans with Disabilities Act-compliant ramp for the town's library are under review and a timeline for the work is being developed.
- Radosevich will assist the town on the Town Hall repairs and the library ramp project.
- The U.S. Forest Service will partner with the town to police the trails north of the town's reservoirs where issues like abandoned campfires have been a problem.
- GMS, a civil engineering company, has helped the town with a grant application to obtain funds to address drainage issues.
- Interviews are planned with candidates for the town's open water technician position.
- Funds available to the town through the CARES Act will be used to build the library ramp.
- The Pikes Peak Library District and the town are finalizing a lease agreement for the district to pay the town \$1,000 a month and a portion of the utilities cost for use of the library building.
- Funding from PPACG for the town's Gap traffic project has been increased by 30 percent so that the project can be completed more quickly.

Following the staff and trustee reports, the board went into executive session. No action was taken in the session.

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The Board of Trustees is scheduled to hold two meetings in January 2021, on Jan. 14 and 28 at 6 p.m. at Town Hall, 42 Valley Crescent. Meetings are normally held on the second and fourth Thursdays of the month. Information: 481-2953.

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*Palmer Lake Board of Trustees Special Meeting, Dec. 15*

**Board struggles to alleviate impacts of Level Red restrictions on restaurants**

By James Howald and Jackie Burhans  
In a Special Meeting on Dec. 15, the Palmer Lake Board of Trustees met to address the impact that a recent decision by the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment (CDPHE) has had on the town's restaurants. On Nov. 23, the CDPHE notified El Paso County that the county would move to Level Red on the state's COVID-19 dial framework. Indoor dining is prohibited in counties so classified. On Nov. 27, the CD-

PHE's decision went into effect. Incoming Mayor Bill Bass, incoming Trustees Nicole Currier, Jessica Farr, Sam Padgett, and Karen Stuth, and returning Trustees Glant Havenar and Bob Mutu strategized how to reduce the impact of the CDPHE's decision on the town's restaurants. Town Attorney Matt Krob and Town Administrator and Clerk Dawn Collins also took part in the discussion. Two issues took center stage: how to respond to the CDPHE's deci-

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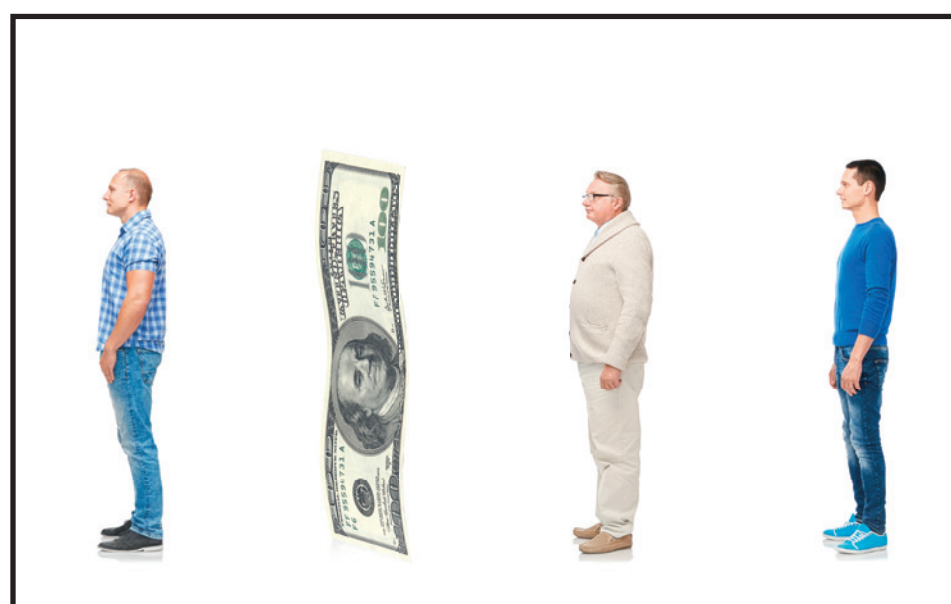
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