

PALMER LAKE (Cont. from 14)

place. She recommended that about 10 outstanding requests should move forward.

Bass said he felt the 10 requests deserved consideration, but since the town only has 37 water taps available, he did not want to remove the moratorium without further study.

Stuth sympathized with those who had followed the town's processes in good faith and said she wanted to do the honorable thing for those applicants. She asked for criteria to evaluate outstanding requests to be developed.

Bob Radosevich, who served previously as the Town Administrator and still assists the town's staff, said he believed there were three sets of building plans in house, and there were five or six more people who had contacted the staff to ask when the moratorium would end. He said the three applicants with a set of plans and a land use permit would be ready to proceed.

Nelson, who spoke at the water workshop, said he did not yet have plans because he was reluctant to pay for them without a guarantee that a water tap would be available.

Local realtor Trish Flake said she had sales under contract contingent on obtaining a water tap.

Stuth made a motion that town staff move the three applications with plans and permits forward and begin working on the next six or seven applications. The board voted unanimously to approve the motion.




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Radosevich told Nelson to pick up a land use permit and he would be considered part of the queue.

Policy on unused water taps debated

At the water workshop, Collins and others commented on a set of eight water taps that had been purchased years ago but never used. The town's municipal code specifies that a tap must be used within 12 months of purchase or it is considered abandoned.

At the Jan. 28 regular meeting, Collins said she recommended that the owners of those taps be given 60 or 90 days to begin using the taps, and if they cannot abide by that timeline, the council may or may not return their tap fee to them, but the monthly charge should not be refunded. In that case perhaps the tap should revert to the town, she said.

John Cressman, who previously served as the town's mayor, said that he purchased three of the taps in question after subdividing the property where he currently lives. He said he owns four more of the taps in question in partnership with Nikki McDonald, who also previously served as mayor. Cressman said that he was shocked to hear the board would consider taking \$50,000 from him. He insisted the taps were not abandoned. He said the four taps owned with McDonald were to be used for a planned development on Greeley Boulevard that was "pretty much ready to go."

In response to a question from Stuth, Cressman said he was mayor when he purchased the taps but was not aware of the deadline to use them.

McDonald said she was not aware of a 12-month limit when she purchased the two taps she owns.

Collins said this situation demonstrated the importance of getting the town's code in order.

Stuth moved to table this discussion until the next regular meeting. Stuth, Trustee Jamie Farr, Bass and Padgett voted to table the discussion; Trustee Nicole Currier voted no.

Attempt to rectify billing tabled

At the Jan. 28 meeting, Collins told the board that a new web-based water billing system was being implemented that would improve accuracy, accessibility, and save staff time. She suggested increasing some charges when the new system is implemented, in particular to



Above: At the Jan. 28 meeting of the Palmer Lake Board of Trustees, David Frisch of GMS Inc. Consulting Engineers discusses the town's water infrastructure. Photo by Jackie Burhans.

correct the billing for the different tap sizes. Increased tap fees had been approved by the previous board, but some customers are paying less than the rate mandated by the that board, she said. Collins said although a 3% increase on all rates was approved, she recommended a lower increase.

Collins clarified that the Resolution 4-2019 mandated a 3% annual increase to the monthly base rate, the tap rate, and the unit charge per 1,000 gallons. To date only one of these had been increased. These increases were required to service a loan and would affect everyone who pays a water bill, she said.

Stuth made a motion to table the discussion until the first regular meeting in February, and the board voted unanimously to approve the motion.

Future water supply discussion tabled

Collins touched briefly on some issues related to future water supply. She said the board had approved redrilling one of the town's wells and had begun planning for drilling an additional well. She recommended bringing in a geologist to advise the town on the best location to drill and formulating questions for the town's water attorney. Farr moved to table the discussion until the board's second regular meeting in February, and the board voted unanimously in favor.

Fire restriction and social media policies approved

The board voted unanimously to approve Ordinance 1-2021, which mandates the town to follow El Paso County in moving off Stage 2 fire restrictions.

The board also voted unanimously to implement Resolution 11-2021, which establishes social media policies for town employees and officials.

New businesses approved

The board voted unanimously to adopt Resolution 10-2021, providing a conditional use permit to Diacut for a hay distribution business, and approved a new business license for KaWellness Inc.

The Board of Trustees is scheduled to hold two meetings in February, on Feb.11 and 25 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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Woodmoor Water and Sanitation District, Jan. 11

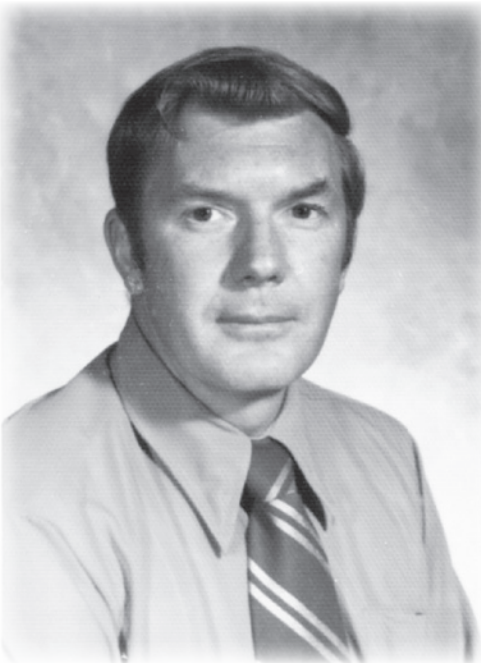
Board considers non-potable water strategy

By James Howald

At its Jan.11 meeting, the Woodmoor Water and Sanitation (WWSD) board discussed a potential reframing of its strategy for managing non-potable water. JVA Consulting, the company the district has hired to design and help manage several of their capital improvement projects, presented its analysis of pump capacity issues at the Lake Pump Station (LPS) and the Central Water Treatment Plant (CWTP).

The board also passed a resolution authorizing the purchase of a small piece of land adjacent to the northern edge of Lewis-Palmer Middle School (LPMS) from Lewis-Palmer School District 38. The board decided what to do with a dividend the district received from the Colorado Employer Benefit Trust (CEBT). Finally, the board heard operational reports.

Virgil Elias Watkins, 1931-2020



Virgil Elias Watkins passed into the loving arms of the Lord on December 4, 2020. Virgil was born in Cohasset, Minnesota on October 2, 1931. He was born the youngest of three children to Harry Aken and Edna Lynn Watkins. Virgil spent many years of his young life around northern Minnesota before the family moved to Port Orchard, Washington. In 1945, Virgil and his family moved to Ovid, Colorado, where Virgil graduated from Ovid High School in 1949. Virgil chose to go to school in Fort Collins, pursuing a degree in teaching. While he was in school, he joined the Army National Guard of Colorado and served his country while he pursued his degree, climbing the ranks until he reached Master Sergeant.

In 1952, Virgil Watkins moved to Sioux City, Iowa and it was there that he met the love of his life and bride-to-be, JoAnn Aschinger on a blind date set up by friends. Virgil and JoAnn married on Sept. 5, 1953 in Sioux City and returned to Ft. Collins, Colorado. Virgil continued to work on his teaching degree and maintain his commitment to the National Guard, while Jodie continued her career in nursing. In 1957, Virgil and Jodie were blessed with their first child, Timothy Virgil. In 1959, Virgil and his family moved to Stratton, Colorado where Virgil took his first job as a teacher at

Stratton High School. While there, Virgil spent a few summers as a trail guide at Cheeley Camps in Cheeley, Colorado. Virgil and Jodie were also blessed with two more children in Stratton: Bonnie Lynn and David George. Virgil continued to work at Stratton High School until 1963, when Virgil and Jodie moved their family to Palmer Lake, Colorado where they became fixtures of the community for decades to come. Virgil worked at Lewis Palmer High School until his retirement in 1992.

Virgil Watkins loved to teach. He was a natural born leader and had insight into any subject. Over his long career, he made many lifetime friends in Stratton, Monument, Palmer Lake, and across Colorado. Virgil was an avid lover of the outdoors from the time he was a boy in Northern Minnesota. He loved to fish, hike, camp, hunt, and revel in the natural world around him. Virgil had a vibrant love for life and love for his many friends. He was a dedicated servant of the town, acting as a polling official and working on the town board. Most of all, he was a deeply committed man of family. Virgil and Jodie raised their three children in the Little Log Church of Palmer Lake. They worked to instill in their children and grandchildren a sense of how to navigate and enjoy life in this world.

Virgil Watkins is preceded in death by his parents, brother and sister, as well as his son Timothy and wife, JoAnn. While he will be sorely missed, he has been reconnected with loved ones he held dear. Virgil leaves behind his daughter, Bonnie Gray, and his son, David Watkins, as well as six grandchildren: Caleb Gray, Zachary Gray, Arielle Watkins West, Jesse Gray, Isaac Watkins, and Aaron Gray. In addition, Virgil was lucky enough to be blessed with three great grandchildren: Elora West Watkins, Elias Emerson Gray, and Malcolm Timothy Watkins.

While the family and friends are devastated at the loss of a great man, restrictions and safety have to be considered at this time. There will be no gathering immediately to celebrate the life of Virgil and the family asks that you remember him in your own personal way until it is safe to gather together. Details regarding a possible gathering in the Springtime when things have improved can be provided by the family. In the meantime, if you would like to send cards, memories, pictures, or donations, please send them to P.O. Box 348, Palmer Lake, CO 80133.